



Final Mesa rises to the occasion in Old Hat Stakes

by Rommy Faversham

Taking the lead at the quarter pole, Final Mesa edged clear through the stretch to lay claim to her first graded stakes victory by 1 3/4 widening lengths in the \$100,000 Old Hat Stakes (G3) on January 5, opening day of Gulfstream Park's winter-spring meeting.



Bob Coglianese/Gulfstream photo

The three-year-old Sky Mesa filly covered six furlongs in 1:09.75 on a track rated as fast.

The win was the bay filly's fourth from five career starts, all run at different tracks. Last year,

FINAL MESA

she captured the 4 1/2-furlong Polly Drummond Stakes at Delaware Park in May followed by the My Dear Stakes at five furlongs in June at Woodbine. Her bankroll currently stands at \$202,377.

Bred in New York by Carmine Telesca and John Guerrero, Final Mesa was sold at the 2009 Fasig-Tipton New York-bred preferred yearling sale for \$72,000 to her current owner and trainer Wesley Ward.

She is one of six winners from seven starters out of the unraced Smart Style mare Final Style, who also produced Uncle Camie, by Abaginire. He won the 2005 Bold Ruler Handicap (G3) and, more recently, he is a stallion in New York at Silvernails Farm.

Final Mesa, b. f., 2008				
Sky Mesa 00 347 fis, 18 SWs SI 2.02 DI=0.00	Pulpit 94 4 wins, \$728,200, SW 658 fis, 53 SWs SI 2.38 DI=3.16	A.P. Indy 89 1076 fis, 136 SWs SI 3.87 DI=2.54	Seattle Slew 74	Bold Reasoning 68 My Chamer 69
		Preach 89 12 fis, 1 SW DI=3.52	Weekend Surprise 80	Secretariat 70 Lassie Dear 74
Caress 91 13 wins, \$666,076, SW 11 fis, 2 SWs DI=1.67	Storm Cat 83 1409 fis, 178 SWs SI 3.87 DI=4.00	Mr. Prospector 70	Mr. Prospector 70	Raise a Native 61 Gold Digger 62
		Narrate 80	Narrate 80	Honest Pleasure 73 State 74
Final Style 93 8 fis, 2 SWs DI=4.14	Smart Style 80 4 wins, \$104,658, SW 66 fis, 2 SWs SI 0.97 DI=4.09	Storm Bird 78	Storm Bird 78	Northern Dancer 61 South Ocean 67
		Terlingua 76	Terlingua 76	Secretariat 70 Crimson Saint 69
Whose Account 83 Unplaced 5 fis, 0 SWs DI=3.00	Foolish Pleasure 72 471 fis, 43 SWs SI 1.92 DI=3.70	La Affirmed 83 15 fis, 4 SWs DI=1.24	Affirmed 75	Exclusive Native 65 Won't Tell You 62
		Set the Style 71 13 fis, 3 SWs DI=1.36	La Mesa 70	Round Table 54 Finance 55
Marry Me 75 6 fis, 0 SWs DI=3.00	Private Account 76 589 fis, 61 SWs SI 4.00 DI=3.00	What a Pleasure 65	What a Pleasure 65	Bold Ruler 54 Grey Flight 45
		Fool-Me-Not 58	Fool-Me-Not 58	Tom Fool 49 *Cuadrilla 43
The Bride 69	Buckpasser 63 Intriguing 64	Quadrangle 61	Quadrangle 61	Cohoes 54 Tap Day 47
		Style 65	Style 65	Traffic Judge 52 Capelet 54
Damasus 64	Numbered Account 69	Sword Dancer 56 Kerala 58	Damasus 64	Sword Dancer 56 Kerala 58
		Buckpasser 63 Intriguing 64	Bold Reason 68	Buckpasser 63 Intriguing 64
Hail to Reason 58 Lalun 52	Hail to Reason 58 Lalun 52	Hail to Reason 58 Lalun 52	Hail to Reason 58 Lalun 52	Hail to Reason 58 Lalun 52
		The Bride 69	The Bride 69	Bold Ruler 54 Somethingroyal 52

Members of an otherwise small and quiet branch, Final Mesa and Uncle Camie are the only two individuals with black type to appear under their first three dams.

The overall racing class of this tail-female line is particularly meager given Final Mesa's second, third, fourth, and fifth dams all were unplaced with 14 combined unproductive starts.

Final Mesa hails from the fourth crop of Three Chimneys Farm denizen Sky Mesa, a Grade 1 winner who stands for a 2011 fee of \$30,000.

Final Mesa's family tree may reflect that of a five-generation out-cross, but her extended pedigree demonstrates a particularly valuable series of inbreeding patterns.

Her fourth dam, The Bride, never hit the board in four lifetime starts. It may be recalled that The Bride was Secretariat's older full sister, a dark bay or brown filly who became the property of Ogden Phipps as a result of the providential coin toss that sent "Big Red" to Meadow Stud and Penny Tweedy Chenery.

The great Secretariat—whose maternal influence continues to abound—appears twice, 4x4, within Sky Mesa's pedigree, generating an auspicious cross of this legendary runner and progenitor with his exceedingly less-celebrated full sister.

For good measure, Final Mesa's pedigree is reinforced by a rich network of complementary strains (eight, in all) tracing back to foundation matriarch *La Troienne, Sky Mesa's seventh dam.

The accumulation of this elite family's strains has, indeed, become a successful method of linebreeding for representatives of the A.P. Indy sire line.

Rommy Faversham is a pedigree specialist and author living in Los Angeles. More of his work is available at <http://www.equicross.com>.

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