



PEDIGREE PROFILE

by Rommy Favershams

Spinaway winner carries valuable cross of full brothers

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In her second lifetime start, Grace Hall again was much the best as the two-year-old Empire Maker filly drew off late to take the seven-furlong Spinaway Stakes (G1) by 1¼ lengths on September 4 at Saratoga Race Course.

Trainer Tony Dutrow signed the ticket for \$95,000 to purchase the bay filly at the 2010 Keeneland September yearling sale.

Bred by Darley, she is one of three winners from four starters out of the Ezzoud (Ire) mare Season's Greetings (Ire), a stakes winner in France at two and multiple group stakes-placed in France at two and three.

An indifferent stallion, Ezzoud is not the typical broodmare sire of a Spinaway winner. As a racehorse, he captured back-to-back runnings of the about 1½-mile Juddmonte International Stakes (Eng-G1) at York.

Grace Hall's unraced grandam, Dream Season, is a full sister to French group 3 winner Elizabeth Bay. The latter also is the dam of graded stakes winner Bayeux and second dam of 2010 Prix Ganay (Fr-G1) winner Cutlass Bay.

The immediate family is anchored by Grace Hall's celebrated third dam, multiple Grade 1 winner Life At the Top, clearly one of her generation's best fillies.

Further back, Grace Hall's extended American family flourished at Warren Wright's legendary Calumet Farm.

In 1931, Wright bought our subject's eighth dam, 1924 Preakness Stakes winner Nellie Morse, for \$6,100 while in foal to the Man o' War stallion American Flag. The subsequent foal, Calumet's first stakes-winning homebred Nellie Flag, was consensus champion two-year old filly for 1934. Her daughter Nellie



GRACE HALL

Grace Hall b. f., 2009				
Empire Maker 00 459 fls, 24 SWs SI 2.68 DI=3.16	Unbridled 87 8 wins, \$5,086,255 Champion 566 fls, 49 SWs SI 3.72 DI=1.70	Fappiano 77 410 fls, 48 SWs SI 4.79 DI=4.78	Mr. Prospector 70	Raise a Native 61 Gold Digger 62
		Gana Facil 81 7 fls, 2 SWs DI=0.50	Killaloe 70	Dr. Fager 64 Grand Splendor 62 =Wild Risk (Fr) 40 =Anguar (Fr) 50
	Toussaud 89 7 wins, \$551,536, SW 10 fls, 5 SWs DI=3.25	El Gran Senor 81 398 fls, 55 SWs SI 3.18 DI=2.43	*Le Fabuleux 61	In Reality 64 Magic 69
Season's Greetings (Ire) 98 4 fls, 1 SW DI=2.47	Ezzoud (Ire) 89 6 wins, \$1,171,885 Champion 124 fls, 8 SWs SI 1.15 DI=1.10	Image of Reality 76 8 fls, 3 SWs DI=4.71	Charedi 76	Northern Dancer 61
		Last Tycoon (Ire) 83 1565 fls, 87 SWs SI 1.44 DI=1.77	Sex Appeal 70	Buckpasser 63 Best in Show 65
	Dream Season 89 Unraced 4 fls, 1 SW DI=4.11	=Royal Sister II (Ire) 77 10 fls, 3 SWs DI=0.94	In Reality 64	Eddie's Image 69
		Life At the Top 83 8 fls, 1 SW DI=2.16	Try My Best 75	Northern Dancer 61 Sex Appeal 70
			=Mill Princess (Ire) 77	Mill Reef 68 *Irish Lass II 62
			=Claude (Ity) 64	=Hornbeam (GB) 53 =Aigue-Vive (Fr) 52
			Ribasha 67	*Ribot 52 Natasha 52
			Raise a Native 61	Native Dancer 50 Raise You 46
			Gold Digger 62	Nashua 52 Sequence 46
			Seattle Slew 74	Bold Reasoning 68 My Charmer 69
			See You At the Top 78	Riva Ridge 69 Comely Nell 62

L. followed with wins in the 1943 Kentucky Oaks and Acorn Stakes.

In turn, Nellie L.'s daughter, the foundation mare Comely Nell, appears as Grace Hall's fifth dam. She is best known as the dam of 1976 champion three-year-old male Bold Forbes and the second dam of unbeaten Saratoga Six.

Grace Hall hails from the fifth American crop of Empire Maker, the leading third-crop sire by 2009 earnings, who was sold in November 2010 to the Japan Bloodhorse Breeders' Association.

The former Juddmonte homebred now stands at the Shizunai Stallion Station on the northern island of Hokkaido.

So far, six of Empire Maker's seven Grade 1 winners have been fillies.

Grace Hall's pedigree is highlighted by a 3x4 cross of El Gran Senor and his older full brother Try My Best, a pair of English/Irish champions who shared their prominent connections having been bred by E. P. Taylor, conditioned by Vincent O'Brien, and campaigned by Robert Sangster.

The reverse of this relatively uncommon cross (Try My Best over El Gran Senor 4x2) appeared in the pedigree of globe-trekking Ramonti, a five-time Group 1 winner in 2006 and 2007.

A more recent example of inbreeding to full siblings from this family is Chinchon (Ire), who is inbred 3x3 to Try My Best and his full sister Northern Prancer. Chinchon captured last year's Betfair/TVG United Nations Stakes (G1) at Monmouth Park and came back with a runner-up effort in the same race this season.

Look for more of these superior individuals whose pedigrees demonstrate inbreeding to the family of 1982 Broodmare of the Year Best in Show.

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

Adam Coglianesse/NYRA photo