



PEDIGREE PROFILE

by Rommy Faversham

Grassy looks classy winning Bowling Green Handicap

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Opening day at Belmont Park's fall meet was highlighted by Grassy's return to graded stakes-winning form as the five-year-old El Prado (Ire) horse charged to the lead in midstretch en route to an impressive half-length victory in the Bowling Green Handicap (G2) on September 10.

Sent off as the 9-to-5 second choice in the field of seven, Grassy completed 1 1/2 miles in 2:19.69 on a turf course rated as good.

The Kentucky homebred's career mark improved to five wins from 15 lifetime starts while his bankroll grew to \$415,564. His victories include last year's Red Smith Handicap (G2) at Aqueduct, also at 1 1/2 miles.

Campaigned by breeders Claiborne Farm and Adele Dilschneider, Grassy is one of eight winners from 11 starters out of the Rousillon mare High Savannah (GB), who placed in six of her 11 starts during three racing seasons in England.

A significantly better broodmare than runner, High Savannah is the dam of a trio of group/graded stakes winners, all three, in fact, sired by different sons of Sadler's Wells.

These three-quarter siblings include English Group 2-winning filly Lady in Waiting, by Kylian, and French Group 3-winning gelding Savannah Bay, by In the Wings (GB).

The remarkable affinity between the lines of Sadler's Wells and Never Bend (creating inbreeding to key matron Lalun) continues to present itself in the pedigrees of superior individuals



Adam Coglianesse/NYRA photo

GRASSY

Grassy, gr. or ro. h., 2006				
El Prado (Ire) 89 957 fls, 85 SWs SI 2.11 DI=1.42	Sadler's Wells 81 6 wins, \$713,690 Champion 2191 fls, 326 SWs SI 3.85 DI=2.82	Northern Dancer 61 636 fls, 147 SWs SI 5.82 DI=3.00	Nearctic 54	=Nearco (Itly) 35 *Lady Angela 44
		Fairy Bridge 75 9 fls, 4 SWs DI=2.29	Natalma 57	Native Dancer 50 Almahmoud 47
	Lady Capulet 74 1 win, \$63,949, SW 13 fls, 2 SWs DI=3.17	Sir Ivor 65 804 fls, 94 SWs SI 3.18 DI=2.69	Bold Reason 68	Hail to Reason 58 Lalun 52
		Cap and Bells 58 7 fls, 2 SWs DI=2.11	Special 69	*Forli 63 Thong 64
High Savannah (GB) 88 12 fls, 3 SWs DI=3.00	Rousillon 81 7 wins, \$355,273 Champion 466 fls, 20 SWs SI 1.39 DI=4.41	Riverman 69 973 fls, 128 SWs SI 2.76 DI=3.87	Sir Gaylord 59	*Turn-to 51 Somethingroyal 52
		Belle Dorine 77 12 fls, 1 SW DI=7.00	Attica 53	Mr. Trouble 47 Athena 43
	=Stinging Nettle (GB) 81 1 win, \$9,009, SW 9 fls, 1 SW DI=2.13	Sharpen Up (GB) 69 620 fls, 82 SWs SI 2.76 DI=3.00	Tom Fool 49	Menow 35 Gaga 42
		=Nettlebed (GB) 67 8 fls, 3 SWs DI=0.76	Ghazni 42	*Mahmoud 33 Sun Miss 28
			Never Bend 60	*Nasrullah 40 Lalun 52
			River Lady 63	Prince John 53 Nile Lily 54
		Marshua's Dancer 68	Raise a Native 61 Marshua 62	
		Palsy Walsy 60	Sea O Erin 51 Allie's Pal 45	
		Atan 61	Native Dancer 50 *Mixed Marriage 52	
		=Rocchetta (GB) 61	*Rockefella (GB) 41 =Chambiges (Fr) 49	
		=Hethersett (GB) 59	=Hugh Lupus (Fr) 52 =Bride Elect (GB) 52	
		=Joyce Grove (GB) 46	=Bois Roussel (Fr) 35 =Samovar (GB) 40	

throughout the world.

Never Bend's grandson Rousillon, by Riverman, was a Group 1-winning miler in England and France. So far, his daughters have combined to produce a total of 14 group and graded stakes winners. Correspondingly, six of these have been sired by a son of Sadler's Wells or his full brother Fairy King.

High Savannah's half sister, English group-placed Maid for Walking (GB) is the dam of Claiborne Farm's Grade 1-winning homebred Stroll, by Pulpit

Grassy's immediate family also includes European group winners Lovelace (GB) and Gairloch.

Further back, this is an English tail-female line that gets rather thin when it comes to descendants worth remembering.

Grassy hails from the 13th crop of El Prado, who died in 2009 of an apparent heart attack at age 20. As such, his final crop of foals are now two-year olds.

Ireland's champion two-year-old of 1991, El Prado proved to be the spearhead in the introduction, if not return, of Sadler's Wells blood into North America. His growing list of successful sons at stud has been led by Medaglia d'Oro, a sensational sire of fillies.

Grassy inherited his gray or roan coat from *Mahmoud, sire of El Prado's third dam, Ghazni.

*Mahmoud's profound influence on the breed has indeed led to his permanence as primary mid-20th century conduit in the transmission of the Mendelian dominant gray or roan gene.

If only the genetics of speed, stamina and surface, preference were as straight forward.

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