



PEDIGREE PROFILE

by Rommy Faversham

Mother-to-be My Baby Baby finally makes the grade

In her 30th and perhaps final career start, My Baby Baby earned that elusive first graded stakes victory, gamely holding off a couple of late challenges to score a neck victory in the \$113,900 Early Times Mint Julep Handicap (G3) on June 11 at Churchill Downs.

Saving her best for last, the six-year old Bernstein mare prevailed in the 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ -mile turf event while in foal to two-time Horse of the Year Curlin on a February 12 cover.



MY BABY BABY

Reed Palmer/Churchill Downs photo

Bred in Kentucky by E. H. Beau Lane III, also breeder of her dam, My Baby Baby was purchased at the 2006 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky fall yearling sale for \$50,000.

She is one of three winners from as many starters out of the unranked Wavering Monarch mare Sarah Darling, a half sister to Italian two-year-old high-

weight and 2006 Oaks d'Italia (Ity-G1) winner Dionisia, by Tejano Run.

Further back, our subject's female family contains little of note. In fact, My Baby Baby and Dionisia are, by far, the most celebrated members of their tail-female line since the former's seventh dam, On Hand, produced 1943 handicap co-champion Market Wise and 1943 Coaching Club American Oaks winner Too Timely.

My Baby Baby hails from the fourth North American crop of the versatile Storm Cat sire Bernstein, flagship stallion for Castleton Lyons in Lexington.

A smartly bred multiple Irish Group 3 winner, Bernstein spent his first seven years at stud shuttling to Argentina, where he was the country's leading sire in 2006 and 2007. His son, Storm Mayor, became the first back-to-back winner of South America's most prestigious race, the Gran Premio Carlos Pellegrini (Arg-G1) in 60 years and was named Argentina's 2006 Horse of the Year.

My Baby Baby's pedigree represents another textbook example of the virtues of inbreeding to the family of the sire. In this case, Bernstein traces back to his fourth dam, the outstanding racemare and matron Busanda, a key granddaughter of the premier American matriarch *La Troienne.

My Baby Baby, b. m., 2005

Bernstein 97 1056 fis, 62 SWs SI 1.56 DI=1.67	Storm Cat 83 4 wins, \$570,610, SW 1412 fis, 178 SWs SI 3.83 DI=4.00	Storm Bird 78 681 fis, 63 SWs SI 3.10 DI=3.25	Northern Dancer 61	Nearctic 54 Natalma 57	
		Terlingua 76 11 fis, 2 SWs DI=3.63	Secretariat 70	New Providence 56 Shining Sun 62	
	La Affirmed 83 1 win, \$20,875 15 fis, 4 SWs DI=1.24	Affirmed 75 840 fis, 86 SWs SI 2.64 DI=2.08	Exclusive Native 65	Round Table 54	Bold Ruler 54 Somethingroyal 52
		La Mesa 70 11 fis, 2 SWs DI=0.90	Won't Tell You 62	Crimson Satan 59 Bolero Rose 58	Crimson Saint 69
Sarah Darling 00 4 fis, 1 SW DI=2.64	Wavering Monarch 79 6 wins, \$466,773, SW 672 fis, 41 SWs SI 1.17 DI=1.95	Majestic Light 73 854 fis, 72 SWs SI 2.22 DI=2.20	Majestic Prince 66	Raise a Native 61 Exclusive 53	
		Uncommitted 74 10 fis, 2 SWs DI=1.59	Irradiate 66	Crafty Admiral 48 Scarlet Ribbon 57	
	Essie's Maid 88 5 wins, \$44,445 9 fis, 2 SWs DI=3.00	Linkage 79 350 fis, 10 SWs SI 1.17 DI=2.03	Buckpasser 63	Round Table 54	*Princequillo 40 *Knight's Daughter 41
		Essie Bs Venture 68 10 fis, 3 SWs DI=3.27	Lady Be Good 56	Finance 55	*Nasrullah 40 Busanda 47
		Hoist the Flag 68	Majestic Prince 66	Raise a Native 61 Gay Hostess 57	
		Unity Hall 68	Irradiate 66	*Ribot 52 High Voltage 52	
		Intentionally 56	Buckpasser 63	Tom Fool 49 Busanda 47	
		Choke Point 63	Lady Be Good 56	Better Self 45 Past Eight 45	
			Hoist the Flag 68	Tom Rolfe 62 Wavy Navy 54	
			Unity Hall 68	Cyane 59 Rum Bottle Bay 59	
			Intentionally 56	Intent 48 My Recipe 47	
			Choke Point 63	Irish Lancer 57 Esoteric 50	

Victress in the 1950 Alabama Stakes, the 1951 Suburban Handicap as well as consecutive runnings of the grueling Saratoga Cup in 1951 and 1952, Busanda, by War Admiral, is best known as the dam of the great runner and sire Buckpasser, who appears in our subject's pedigree as the broodmare sire of Wavering Monarch.

Inbreeding to Busanda is, indeed, a recurrent pattern among Bernstein's best offspring. So far, five of his 11 North American graded stakes winners have been out of broodmares carrying Buckpasser blood.

Bernstein, similarly, enjoyed a disproportionate level of success with his Argentine-bred runners when he was crossed with the daughters and granddaughters of the Buckpasser stallion Egg Toss.

Just playing to one's strengths, complements of *La Troienne's long and influential reach.

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