



PEDIGREE PROFILE

by Rommy Faversham

Cleverly bred Natalma winner looks Breeders' Cup bound

Taking full advantage of free passage along the rail, Northern Passion rallied from last to first to score a 1¼-length victory in the Natalma Stakes (Can-G3) on September 17 at Woodbine.

The filly by Claiborne Farm resident stallion First Samurai was



NORTHERN PASSION
Michael Burns/WEG photo

making her first start on turf and earned a guaranteed starting berth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf (G2) on November 4 at Churchill Downs as part of the Breeders' Cup Challenge "Win and You're In" series.

It certainly is appropriate and hardly coincidental that the

namesake of the one-mile Natalma, the dam of the breed-shaping sire Northern Dancer, appears within the family trees of the last 12 winners of the race.

With the Natalma victory, Northern Passion improved to two wins and a second from three lifetime starts and earnings of \$235,707.

The chestnut filly was purchased for \$220,000 earlier this year at the Ocala Breeders' Sale Co. March sale of selected two-year-olds in training.

She was bred in Ontario by Mel P. Lawson, also the breeder of her dam, the winning Golden Gear mare A Touch of Glory, a runner-up

Northern Passion, ch. f., 2009				
First Samurai 03 146 fls, 5 SWs SI 1.70 DI=1.67	Giant's Causeway 97 9 wins, \$3,078,989 Champion 1380 fls, 107 SWs SI 2.44 DI=2.38	Storm Cat 83 1412 fls, 180 SWs SI 3.82 DI=4.00	Storm Bird 78	Northern Dancer 61 South Ocean 67 Secretariat 70 Crimson Saint 69
	Freddie Frisson 93 7 wins, \$263,037, SW 4 fls, 1 SW DI=3.24	Mariah's Storm 91 9 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.71	Rahy 85	Blushing Groom (Fr) 74 Glorious Song 76 Roberto 69 Imsoodae 67
		Dixieland Band 80 1303 fls, 117 SWs SI 2.27 DI=3.50	Northern Dancer 61	Nearctic 54 Natalma 57
	A Touch of Glory 03 1 fl, 1 SW DI=3.57	Golden Gear 91 12 wins, \$634,009, SW 322 fls, 11 SWs SI 0.85 DI=4.45	Frison 88 6 fls, 2 SWs DI=3.14	Mississippi Mud 73
Vigors 73 516 fls, 45 SWs SI 1.68 DI=1.48			Fappiano 77	Reviewer 66 Miz Spock 72
Gleaming Glory 88 14 wins, \$194,843 10 fls, 2 SWs DI=2.08		Von Der Sonne 81 9 fls, 1 SW DI=6.00	Mr. Prospector 70	Raise a Native 61 Gold Digger 62 Rambunctious 60 Asbury Mary 69
		Fineza 85 13 fls, 2 SWs DI=5.33	Jedina 76	Lypheor (GB) 75 What a Pleasure 65 Killaloe 70
			*Grey Dawn II 62	*Herbager 56 Polamia 55
			*Reliefordie 61	=El Relicario (Fr) 53 =Crafordie (Fr) 53 Bold Commander 60 Dust Storm 56 Personality 67 Class Is Out 66
			Dust Commander 67	
			Student Leader 73	

in five of her 23 lifetime starts, including the 2006 Ontario Damsel Stakes at Woodbine.

Northern Passion represents the first graded stakes winner out of a daughter of Golden Gear.

She is her dam's first foal and is followed by yearling and weanling full sisters.

A Touch of Glory is a younger full sister to Canada's 2001 champion two-year old filly Ginger Gold, whose bounty included a win in that year's Natalma Stakes.

Another good juvenile, A Touch of Glory's half brother Kesagami, by Carson City, won the 2007 Coronation Futurity Stakes at Woodbine.

Northern Passion's grandam, the Vigors mare Gleaming Glory, was far more sturdy than brilliant with 14 wins from 60 starts over five seasons. Her half brother Take Note of Me, by Notebook, was a talented Midwest Grade 3 winner.

Further back, this tail-female line gets a little thin in its issue of important runners. The closest significant rung of extended family success would be Northern Passion's sixth dam, 1954 Astoria Stakes winner Trying, who also went on to become the grandam of Southern California's premier three-year old filly of 1974, Miss Musket.

Northern Passion hails from the second crop of the Giant's Causeway stallion First Samurai, a two-time Grade 1 winner as a juvenile.

It is interesting to note, so far, all three of his graded stakes winners demonstrate inbreeding to Fappiano or his family.

These include 2010 Schuylerville Stakes (G3) winner Le Mi Geaux and this year's Woody Stephens Stakes (G2) winner Justin Phillip. Both are out of daughters of the Fappiano stallion Cryptoclearance.

In Northern Passion's case, her broodmare sire, sprinter/miler Golden Gear, is a close relative of Fappiano, creating inbreeding to the latter's dam, the Dr. Fager mare Killaloe.

This uncommon but auspicious cross of Fappiano with his half sister Jedina also appears in the pedigree of last year's Comely Stakes (G3) winner Touching Beauty.

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

ABSORBINE

Presents

Hoofprints through History

A look back at historical events on this day in Thoroughbred racing

September 22, 1988—Prominent owner, breeder, and horseman Stuart Symington Janney Jr., owner of ill-fated champion filly Ruffian, was killed in an automobile accident at age 81 while driving to his home at Locust Hill Farm in Glyndon, Maryland.

September 22, 1996—Larry Ross trained the top four finishers in a seven-horse field for the Washington HBPA Stakes at Emerald Downs.

Source: NTRA

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