Magical Feeling conjures up Barbara Fritchie shocker

Making her graded stakes debut at the age of six, Magical Feeling proved to be up to the challenge, overtaking 7-to-10 favorite Nicole H in the final strides to score a game head victory in the 58th running of the \$200,000 Barbara Fritchie Handicap (G2) at Laurel Park on February 18.

Relegated as the 27.40-to-1 sixth betting choice in a field of seven, the dark bay or brown Empire Maker mare completed seven furlongs in 1:22.36 on a track rated as fast.



MAGICAL FEELING Jim McCue/MJC photo

Magical Feeling now has captured five of her last six starts, including the Regret Stakes at Monmouth Park last July.

The Kentucky-bred's overall lifetime mark shows 11 wins from 19 starts, all at seven furlongs or less, with a bankroll of \$401,520.

Magical Feeling is owned and was bred by Peter E. Blum, who also is responsible for the development of her often-talented immediate family.

The improving distaffer is one of three winners from four starters out of the unraced Forestry mare Magical Mood (GB).

Magical Feeling's grandam, Good Mood, won the 1991 Miss Grillo Stakes (G3) on the grass at Belmont Park as a two-year old.

Blum originally purchased the clan's anchor, Magical Feeling's fourth dam Mono, in 1974. Under his watch, the Better Self mare has become the ancestress of a notable collection of individuals that includes Irish highweight Tomahawk and 1998 Ashland Stakes (G1) winner Well Chosen, subsequent

WORKOUTS

WEDNESDAY						
Horse	Track	Dist.	Time	Rank		
Al Khali, 6, r.	Payson Park	4f	:49.30b	2/6		
Animal Spirits, 3, c.	Fair Grounds	3f	:38.00b	10/13		
Arena Elvira, 5, m.	Payson Park	5f	1:01.00b	1/5		
Bay to Bay, 5, m.	Palm Meadows	5fT	1:02.55b	1/8		
Camp Victory, 5, g.	Hollywood	5fAW	1:00.80h	12/27		
Dixie Band, 5, g.	Palm Meadows	3f	:37.69b	8/9		
Free Fighter, 7, g.	Hawthorne	6f	1:18.00b	1/2		
Go Forth North, 5, m.	Santa Anita	4f	:50.80h	26/29		
Jackson Bend, 5, h.	Palm Meadows	4f	:47.60b	1/19		
Jenny's So Great, 5, m.	Palm Meadows	3f	:36.80b	1/9		
Liaison, 3, c.	Santa Anita	1m	1:43.00h	1/2		
Midnight Interlude, 4, c.	Santa Anita	6f	1:13.00h	2/9		
Northern Passion, 3, f.	Palm Meadows	5f	1:01.36b	1/10		
Not for Silver, 6, h.	Laurel	4f	:49.00b	1/10		
Surfrider (Ire), 4, c.	Palm Meadows	4fT	:52.03b	4/14		
Unbridled Humor, 5, m.	Palm Meadows	5fT	1:04.88b	4/8		
Watch Me Go, 4, c.	Tampa Bay Downs	6f	1:16.40b	1/3		
Winning Machine, 6, g.	Emerald Downs	3f	:35.60b	1/1		

List of workouts is for all graded stakes winners at tracks and training centers in the United States and Canada, plus some selected horses.

AW—denotes all-weather surface

EQUIBASE

Note: b-breezing, h-handily; Rank lists horse's workout time compared with all others who worked that distance at the track that day.

Magical Feeling, dk b. or br., m., 2006								
Empire Maker 00 498 fls, 27 SWs SI 2.95 DI=3.16	Unbridled 87	Fappiano 77 410 fls, 48 SWs	Mr. Prospector 70	Raise a Native 61 Gold Digger 62				
	8 wins, \$5,086,255	SI 4.79 DI=4.78	Killaloe 70	Dr. Fager 64 Grand Splendor 62				
	Champion 566 fls, 49 SWs	Gana Facil 81 7 fls, 2 SWs	*Le Fabuleux 61	=Wild Risk (Fr) 40 =Anguar (Fr) 50				
	SI 3.72 DI=1.70	DI=0.50	Charedi 76	In Reality 64 Magic 69				
	Toussaud 89	El Gran Senor 81 398 fls, 55 SWs	Northern Dancer 61	Nearctic 54 Natalma 57				
	7 wins, \$551,536, SW	SI 3.18 DI=2.43	Sex Appeal 70	Buckpasser 63 Best in Show 65				
	10 fls, 5 SWs DI=3.25	Image of Reality 76 8 fls, 3 SWs	In Reality 64	Intentionally 56 My Dear Girl 57				
		DI=4.71	Edee's Image 69	Cornish Prince 62 Ortalan 60				
Magical Mood (GB) 01 4 fls, 1 SW DI=3.00	Forestry 00	Storm Cat 83 1413 fls. 180 SWs	Storm Bird 78	Northern Dancer 61 South Ocean 67				
	Forestry 96 7 wins, \$591,225, SW	SI 3.80 DI=4.00	Terlingua 76	Secretariat 70 Crimson Saint 69				
	777 fls, 42 SWs SI 1.71 DI=4.33	Shared Interest 88 7 fls, 2 SWs	Pleasant Colony 78	His Majesty 68 Sun Colony 68				
		DI=4.20	Surgery 76	Dr. Fager 64 Bold Sequence 61				
	Good Mood 89	Devil's Bag 81 956 fls, 46 SWs	Halo 69	Hail to Reason 58 Cosmah 53				
	2 wins, \$95,760, SW	SI 1.94 DI=1.42	Ballade 72	*Herbager 56 Miss Swapsco 65				
	12 fls, 1 SW DI=2.00	Mine Only 81 12 fls, 3 SWs	Mr. Prospector 70	Raise a Native 61 Gold Digger 62				
		DI=4.18	Mono 63	Better Self 45 Sin Igual 52				

dam of two-time Sword Dancer Invitational Stakes (G1) winner Telling.

Further back, Magical Feeling's extended tail-female line indeed reflects the blood of legends.

Magical Feeling's fifth dam, Sin Igual, is a full sister to 1946 Triple Crown winner Assault while eighth dam, Masda, is a full sister to Man o' War, perhaps the greatest of them all.

Magical Feeling hails from the second of Empire Maker's six American crops.

The classic-winning son of Unbridled now is in his second year standing at the Shizunai Stallion Station on Japan's northern island of Hokkaido.

So far, eight of his 12 U.S. graded stakes winners have been female, including last year's champion three-year-old filly Royal Delta.

Magical Feeling's pedigree demonstrates duplications of Mr. Prospector, Northern Dancer, and Dr. Fager—and yet, a closer look within the fifth generation reveals the presence of three of their closer elatives: Bold Sequence (Forestry's third dam), Cosmah (Halo's dam), and Magic (Unbridled's third dam), respectively.

Which, instead, makes this avery clever network of inbreeding to the families of the aforementioned breed shapers.

The reversible cross of Unbridled and Forestry always figured, at least theoretically, to be an effective one. And yet, it got off to a rather unceremonious start, as exemplified by The Green Monkey, who sold for \$16-million at auction but was winless in three starts.

As of late however, this combination is starting to produce with representatives such as 2011 Preakness Stakes (G1) winner Shackleford and, most recently, Magical Feeling.

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