



PEDIGREE PROFILE

Acorn winner's pedigree features auspicious cross

by Rommy Faversham

Gabby's Golden Gal grabbed an early lead along the inside and maintained a clear advantage throughout as she powered to an impressive 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ -length victory in the prestigious Acorn Stakes (G1) on June 6 at Belmont Park.

Dismissed as 13.20-to-1 seventh wagering choice in a field of nine, the dark bay or brown three-year-old filly completed the one-turn mile in 1:34.79 on a track rated as fast.

Gabby's Golden Gal's previous start came in the Kentucky Oaks (G1) at Churchill Downs, where she faced another filly by Medaglia D'Oro, the sensational Rachel Alexandra. After stalking Gabby's Golden Gal to the top of the stretch, Rachel Alexandra stormed off to a record-setting 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ -length victory, while Gabby's Golden Gal faded to sixth, more than 29 lengths behind the winner.

Two races before the Acorn, Gabby's Golden Gal captured her first stakes race when she romped by 13 lengths in the Sunland Park Oaks. Bred in Kentucky by owner-breeder Arnold Zetcher, Gabby's Golden Gal improved to three wins from six lifetime starts and boosted her earnings to \$347,905.

Gabby Golden Gal is the second winner out of Gabriellina Giof (GB), an Italian stakes winner at two who was shipped at three to Southern California, where she won the Manhattan Beach Stakes on the Hollywood Park turf. She later finished second in the San Clemente Handicap (G2) at Del Mar.

Gabby's Golden Gal represents the first graded stakes winner out of a daughter of multiple French Group 1 winner Ashkalani.

The only other group or graded stakes winner within the first four generations of Gabby's Golden Gal's female family is her third dam, Italian Group 3 winner Retrousse, by Naskra.

Gabby's Golden Gal hails from the first crop of the El Prado (Ire) stallion Medaglia d'Oro, whose renown in recent weeks, especially as sire of Kentucky Oaks and BlackBerry Preakness Stakes (G1) heroine Rachel Alexandra, has led to his purchase and transfer to Darley's Central Kentucky stallion base in Lexington.

A Grade 1 winner at three, four, and five, Medaglia d'Oro currently ranks as the nation's leading second crop sire. Of note, his first seven stakes winners have all been fillies.

The most prominent pattern in Gabby's Golden Gal's pedigree is



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GABBY'S GOLDEN GAL

Gabby's Golden Gal, dk. b. or br. f., 2006

Medaglia d'Oro 99 214 fls, 7 SWs SI 3.03 DI=1.36	El Prado (Ire) 89 4 wins, \$236,987 Champion 876 fls, 73 SWs SI 2.07 DI=1.42	Sadler's Wells 81 2138 fls, 306 SWs SI 4.06 DI=2.82	Northern Dancer 61	Nearctic 54 Natalma 57
		Lady Capulet 74 13 fls, 2 SWs DI=3.17	Fairy Bridge 75	Bold Reason 68 Special 69
Gabriellina Giof (GB) 98 3 fls, 1 SW DI=2.11	Cappucino Bay 89 5 wins, \$164,433, SW 7 fls, 1 SW DI=1.77	Bailjumper 74 406 fls, 17 SWs SI 0.99 DI=5.00	Sir Ivor 65	Sir Gaylord 59 Attica 53
		Dubbed In 73 7 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.17	Cap and Bells 58	Tom Fool 49 Ghazni 42
	=Ashkalani (Ire) 93 5 wins, \$552,948 Champion 492 fls, 19 SWs SI 1.02 DI=1.43	Soviet Star 84 855 fls, 41 SWs SI 1.39 DI=1.12	Damascus 64	Sword Dancer 56 Kerala 58
		=Ashtarka (Ire) 87 10 fls, 1 SW DI=2.50	Court Circuit 64	*Royal Vale 48 Cycle 58
	=Paola Quatraro (Ire) 87 2 wins, \$16,748 12 fls, 1 SW DI=4.00	Cure the Blues 78 845 fls, 84 SWs SI 1.86 DI=4.43	Silent Screen 67	Prince John 53 Prayer Bell 54
		Retrousse 80 9 fls, 0 SWs DI=3.00	Society Singer 68	Restless Wind 56 Social Position 64
			Nureyev 77	Northern Dancer 61 Special 69
			*Veruschka 67	=Venture (Fr) 57 =Marie d'Anjou (Fr) 54
			=Dalsaan (GB) 77	Habitat 66
			=Asharaz (Fr) 67	=Dumka (Fr) 71 =Sicambre (Fr) 48 =Vareta (Fr) 53
			Stop the Music 70	Hail to Reason 58 Bebopper 62
			Quick Cure 71	Dr. Fager 64 Speedwell 60
			Naskra 67	Nasram 60 *Iskra 61
			*Cantadora III 70	=Cacique (Per) 61 =Boci (Arg) 61

the 3x4 cross of the breed-shaping close relatives Sadler's Wells and Nureyev, creating inbreeding to their common matriarch, the *Forli mare Special.

This is a pattern that usually presents itself in the pedigrees of successful turf runners, and it would not at all be surprising to see Gabby's Golden Gal perform similarly well on grass in the future.

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

Acorn Stakes winners in Racing Hall of Fame

Race Year	Winner	Race Year	Winner
1994	Inside Information	1968	Dark Mirage
1985	Mom's Command	1962	Cicada
1980	Bold 'n Determined	1961	Bowl of Flowers
1979	Davona Dale	1945	Gallorette
1975	Ruffian	1944	Twilight Tear
1972	Susan's Girl	1932	Top Flight
1969	Shuvee		