



Midships coasts to victory in San Juan Capistrano

by **Rommy Faversham**

Staying specialist Midships enjoyed a near perfect trip as he set an unpressured pace and remained full of run through the stretch to score a resounding three-quarter-length win in the \$196,000 San Juan Capistrano Invitational Handicap (G2) on April 19, closing day of the Santa Anita Park meet.



Benoit & Associates photo

The four-year-old Mizzen Mast colt completed the 1¼-mile test, America's longest graded stakes race, in 2:49.26 on firm turf.

MIDSHIPS

In his previous start on March 21, Midships won the 1½-mile San Luis Rey Handicap (G2) in similar wire-to-wire fashion. His most recent victory makes him the 14th horse to complete the San Luis Rey-San Juan Capistrano double in the same year (see adjoining chart).

Midships began his racing career in England, where he won two of his ten starts at ages two and three. Shipped to the United States, he finished third in the 2008 Hollywood Derby (G1) in November in his debut for trainer Bobby Frankel.

The gray or roan colt has a bankroll of \$345,475 with a career mark of four wins in 14 lifetime starts.

Ultra-rich in stamina influences, Midships's pedigree could, quite appropriately, be described as that of a contemporary American marathon runner.

Bred in Kentucky by Juddmonte Farms, who also bred his sire and dam, Midships is one of six winners from seven starters out of the Sadler's Wells mare Interim (GB).

Astake winner at three in England, Interim was sent to the U.S., where she improved at age four

Winners of San Luis Rey and San Juan Capistrano Handicaps in same season	
2009	Midships
2004	Meteor Storm (GB)
1999	Single Empire (Ire)
1997	Marlin
1994	Bien Bien
1993	Kotashaan (Fr.)
1992	Fly Till Dawn
1986	Dahar
1985	Prince True
1983	Erins Isle (Ire)
1980	John Henry
1974	Astray
1967	*Niarkos
1961	Don't Alibi

to annex a pair of graded stakes races, including the 1½-mile La Prevoyante Handicap (G2) at Calder Race Course.

A close relative to Interim is Short Pause, by Sadler's Wells out of

Midships, gr. or ro. c., 2005

Mizzen Mast 98 275 fls, 13 SWs SI 1.52 DI=1.18	Cozzene 80 10 wins, \$978,152 Champion 914 fls, 82 SWs SI 2.34 DI=1.82	Caro (Ire) 67 599 fls, 78 SWs SI 3.70 DI=1.26	=Fortino II (Fr) 59 =Chambord (GB) 55	=Grey Sovereign (GB) 48 =Ranavalu III (Fr) 54 =Chamosaire (GB) 42 =Life Hill (GB) 40 *Princequillo 40 Not Afraid 48 Sir Gaylord 59 Blue Canoe 58
	Kinema 83 1 win, \$14,450 10 fls, 1 SW DI=0.79	Ride the Trails 71 8 fls, 4 SWs DI=1.40	Prince John 53 Wildwook 65	*Tenerani (Ity) 44 =Romanella (Ity) 43 *Alibhai 38 Flower Bed 46 Menow 35 Gaga 42 *Challenger II 27 Lady Legend 30
Interim (GB) 91 7 fls, 1 SW DI=0.61	Sadler's Wells 81 6 wins, \$713,690 Champion 2112 fls, 304 SWs SI 4.05 DI=2.82	Graustark 63 614 fls, 52 SWs SI 2.98 DI=0.77	*Ribot 52 Flower Bowl 52 Tom Fool 49 Legendra 44	=Nearco (Ity) 35 *Lady Angela 44 Native Dancer 50 Almahoud 47 Hail to Reason 58 Lalun 52 *Forti 63 Thong 64 *Princequillo 40 Not Afraid 48 *Ballymoss 54 *Folie Douce 49
	=Intermission (GB) 73 3 wins, \$38,240, SW 14 fls, 3 SWs DI=0.43	Northern Dancer 61 635 fls, 147 SWs SI 5.82 DI=3.00	Fairy Bridge 75 9 fls, 4 SWs DI=2.29	Nearctic 54 Natalma 57 Bold Reason 68 Special 69 Prince John 53 Peroxide Blonde 60 *Klairon 52 *Sun Rose II 60

Interim's half sister Interval. Short Pause won the 2,400-meter (11.93-furlong) Prix d'Hedouville (Fr-G3) and was multiple group-stakes placed at the same distance.

Midship's older half brother Staging Post is multiple graded stakes-placed, including a runner-up finish in the 2002 San Juan Capistrano.

Further back, Midships's most distinguished family members are no less stout. This is the clan of champion turf female Wandesta and French Group 1 winner Zambezi Sun (GB).

Midships hails from the second crop of the Grade 1 winner Mizzen Mast, who stands at Juddmonte Farms in Lexington with an advertised 2009 fee of \$17,500.

Mizzen Mast's best runners have been effective on a wide range of racing surfaces—a particularly useful trait already attributed to the versatile Cozzene/Caro (Ire) sire line.

Midships inherited his gray coat from his fifth generation paternal sire Grey Sovereign. The dominant gray or roan gene passed from father to son along Midships's tail-male line.

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