



The Pamplemousse wins well clear of foes in Sham Stakes

by Rommy Favershaw

For a pacesetting classics hopeful with the pedigree of a sprinter-miler, The Pamplemousse looked like a horse who could run all day as he notched an overpowering six-length victory in the \$200,000 Sham Stakes (G3), a 1½-mile race on February 28 at Santa Anita Park.



Benoit & Associates photo

The heavily favored three-year-old Kafwain colt drew off to win in a stakes-record 1:47.86 on the synthetic Pro-Ride surface.

THE PAMPLEMOUSSE

The Pamplemousse has won three in a row since being stretched out to two turns. The strapping gray or roan colt held off Grade 1 winner Square Eddie by two lengths in the San Rafael Stakes (G3) at one mile on January 17 in his start prior to the Sham.

The Pamplemousse, which means "grapefruit" in French, is scheduled to make his final prep for the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands! (G1) on April 4 in the 1½-mile Santa Anita Derby (G1).

If he does earn a trip to Churchill Downs, The Pamplemousse will be competing on dirt for the first time. There will also be the much greater issue as to whether he can succeed at the Derby's 1¼-mile distance.

Bred in Kentucky by Fred and Nancy Mitchell's Clarkland Farm in Lexington, The Pamplemousse is one of four winners from as many

The Pamplemousse, gr. or ro. c., 2006				
Kafwain 00 208 fls, 7 SWs SI 1.39 DI=3.00	Cherokee Run 90 13 wins, \$1,531,818 Champion 687 fls, 38 SWs SI 1.74 DI=3.00	Runaway Groom 79 1111 fls, 74 SWs SI 1.40 DI=2.33	Blushing Groom (Fr) 74	Red God 54 Runaway Bride (GB) 62
		Cherokee Dame 80 7 fls, 1 SW DI=4.09	Yonnie Girl 66	Call the Witness 56 Po'chille 58
	Swazi's Moment 90 4 wins, \$176,255, SW 9 fls, 1 SW DI=3.80	Moment of Hope 83 263 fls, 11 SWs SI 0.84 DI=4.00	Silver Saber 72	Drone 66 Happy Flirt 58
		Swazi Girl 80 6 fls, 1 SW DI=2.38	Dame Francesca 66	Francis S. 57 Maid to Rule 57
Comfort Zone 95 4 fls, 1 SW DI=2.17	Rubiano 87 13 wins, \$1,252,817 Champion 503 fls, 33 SWs SI 1.36 DI=2.61	Damascus 64 Hour of Parting 63 Baffle 65 Ten Ahead 68	Damascus 64 Hour of Parting 63 Baffle 65 Ten Ahead 68	
		Fappiano 77 410 fls, 48 SWs SI 4.79 DI=4.78	Mr. Prospector 70	Raise a Native 61 Gold Digger 62
	Ruby Slippers 82 13 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.42	Killaloe 70	Dr. Fager 64 Grand Splendor 62	
	So Cozy 80 2 wins, \$32,262, SW 14 fls, 4 SWs DI=2.27	Lyphard 69 830 fls, 115 SWs SI 3.69 DI=4.33	Nijinsky II 67	Northern Dancer 61 Flaming Page 59
		Special Warmth 74 16 fls, 2 SWs DI=5.00	Moon Glitter 72	In Reality 64 Foggy Note 65
			Northern Dancer 61	Nearctic 54 Natalma 57
		Goofed 60	*Court Martial 42 *Barra II 50	
		Lucky Mike 70	Lucky Mel 54 Betty's Fortune 58	
		Piece of Pie 64	*The Pie King 51 Solidity 57	

starters out of the Rubiano mare Comfort Zone, winner of a pair of sprint races as a two-year-old.

The Pamplemousse's grandam, So Cozy, won two of her four lifetime starts as a juvenile, including a six-furlong stakes at Suffolk Downs. The overwhelming majority of her descendants, including 14 stakes winners, have been sprinter-milers as well.

Comfort Zone's half sister, Wilshewed, by Carson City, is the dam of Stormello, by Stormy Atlantic, a Grade 1-winning juvenile who finished 19th of 20 in the 2007 Kentucky Derby.

Anchoring his immediate family is The Pamplemousse's third dam, Special Warmth, a four-time stakes winner at two, including the 1976 Arlington-Washington Lassie Stakes (G2) at six furlongs. Bred by Old English Rancho, Special Warmth has a pedigree that typified California's long-term emphasis on speed. Her swift tribe includes brilliant fillies Fleet Treat and Impressive Style.

In the few cases when this clan has issued a quality individual who could go a route of ground, the individuals could attest to stamina from their sire and/or grandsires.

Not so with The Pamplemousse. Virtually all of the demonstrable influences from his key male ancestors are those of a sprinter-miler. In this regard, the Cherokee Run sire line is yet to generate the winner of an important race run at a classic distance.

The Pamplemousse hails from the second crop of Kafwain, one of his generation's best two-year-olds, but another who went on to find the Derby beyond his reach.

Conventional pedigree analysis suggests The Pamplemousse would be similarly vulnerable.

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

OFF TO A GREAT START AT STUD

Blazed through his first five starts:

June: Set NTR at Hollywood at 5f

July: Won G3 Hollywood Juvenile

Aug: Won G2 Best Pal S. by daylight

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Sept: 2nd G1 Norfolk S. by 1 1/4 lengths

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