

PEDIGREE INSIGHTS

BY ANDREW CAULFIELD

Saturday, Aqueduct

WOOD MEMORIAL S.-GI, \$750,000, AQU, 4-5, 3yo,
1 1/8m, 1:52 1/5, ft.

1--▲TALE OF EKATI, 123, c, 3, by [Tale of the Cat](#)

1st Dam: Silence Beauty (Jpn), by Sunday Silence

2nd Dam: Maplejinsky, by Nijinsky II

3rd Dam: Gold Beauty, by Mr. Prospector

O/B-Charles Fipke (KY); T-Barclay Tagg; J-Edgar S Prado; \$450,000. Lifetime Record: 6-3-1-0, \$769,200. Werk Nick Rating: B. [Click for the eNicks report and 5-cross pedigree.](#)

[Click for the brisnet.com chart](#), the [brisnet.com PPs](#) or the [free brisnet.com catalogue-style pedigree](#). [Video](#), sponsored by [Taylor Made](#).

“Horses like Tale of the Cat are just a little too fast for their own good” was how trainer John Forbes assessed the situation after his colt had suffered a career-ending injury in 1998. The four-year-old had been injured in the process of working five furlongs in :59.4 in preparation for the GI Meadowlands Cup—a race which offered the son of Storm Cat a chance of gaining a long-overdue Grade I victory.

Tale of the Cat had been a little too fast for his own good throughout his career, but not too fast for his original owners, who had acquired him for \$375,000 as a yearling. Tale of the Cat showed spectacular speed in winning the GII King's Bishop S. over seven furlongs in 1997, when he set fractions of :21.69 and :43.58 on his way to a clear-cut victory. Tale of the Cat was so impressive that the bids



Tale of the Cat at Saratoga
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started to flow in. The competition was so strong that the price, reportedly, was \$7.1 million for a 50-percent interest. The remaining half-interest was priced at \$4.5 million, or \$7.1 million if he were to win a Grade I.

The King's Bishop represented the colt's third win from his first four starts. A pair of easy successes at around 1 1/16 miles at Monmouth had encouraged his connections to consider tackling longer routes in the Haskell Invitational or even the Travers. However, a fourth-place finish in the Haskell led to Tale of the Cat dropping down the distance scale, rather than moving up it, and he stuck to seven furlongs when third in the GI Vosburgh S. His next target was to be the GI Breeders' Cup Sprint, until inflammation in a joint put him on the sidelines, and he didn't race again until July 1998.

Caulfield cont.

A "SUPER SUNDAY"



Magadan WON Prix Juigne at Longchamp on his career debut. Owned by Ecurie Wildenstein and trained by Elie Lellouche.

“her trainer revealed she had been working well at home and had, like her sire High Chaparral, improved from two to three.”

RACING POST,
APRIL 7, 2008



Beach Bunny WON Maiden at Leopardstown on her seasonal debut. Owned by Lady O'Reilly and trained by Kevin Prendergast.

Senlis 2ND Premio Gardone-L.R. at Milan.

And on Friday last...

Maidin Moch WON at Dundalk for Jim Bolger.

Another to watch...

Aidan O'Brien's William Hogarth worked impressively after racing at the Curragh last Sunday week.

HIGH CHAPARRAL

Dual Derby winner by **SADLER'S WELLS** - just like sire sensations **GALILEO** and **MONTJEU**

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Perhaps because top-level opportunities for sprinters were harder to find in 1998, or perhaps because his price meant he had to pursue more prestigious prizes over longer distances, Tale of the Cat started out at a mile on his return. Two allowance wins earned him a shot at Awesome Again in the GI Whitney H. over 1 1/8 miles and he was far from disgraced in finishing second, but it was back to seven furlongs for what turned out to be his final effort, another third in the Vosburgh.

I think it is fair to say that speed rather than stamina was his strong suit, judging by his subsequent exploits as a stallion. None of his best winners thus far has succeeded in winning a graded race over a distance



Tale of Ekati
Adam Coglianesse

longer than 1 1/8 miles, and only three had managed to score over that distance prior to Tale of Ekati's victory over the game War Pass in the GI Wood Memorial. One of Tale of Ekati's predecessors, Lion Heart, stayed 1 1/4 miles well enough to finish second to Smarty Jones in the GI Kentucky Derby. If any son of Tale of the Cat is going to be suited by the Derby distance, you would have to think that it is going to be the Wood winner,

even though he is inbred 4x3 to Mr Prospector. His first two dams are by Sunday Silence and Nijinsky, winners of six classics between them, and he is also inbred 4x4 to Northern Dancer and 5x3 to Nijinsky.

Sunday Silence may have failed in the GI Belmont S., but that didn't stop him siring some outstanding stayers, such as Deep Impact, in Japan. Tale of Ekati's dam Silence Beauty hardly had a chance to display how well she stayed, following her purchase for \$1 million as a Keeneland July yearling. She raced only as a two-year-old, her best effort being a third over a mile in Ireland.

However, we know that her dam Maplejinsky stayed well enough to win the GI Alabama S. over 1 1/4 miles, even though she was a daughter of the champion sprinter Gold Beauty and a half-sister to the flying Dayjur.

Maplejinsky proved an outstanding buy at the \$750,000 she cost as a yearling. In addition to becoming a dual Grade I winner, she produced four foals--all fillies--for Georgia Hofmann before being sold to Japan, in foal to A.P. Indy, for \$2.7 million as a nine-year-old in 1994.



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Her first foal, by Blushing Groom, was that outstanding performer Sky Beauty, who recorded nine Grade I victories between the ages of two and four (when she was voted champion older female). Sky Beauty, who sold for \$2.85 million as a nine-year-old, stayed well enough to win the GI CCA Oaks and Alabama S., but her Group 3-winning Storm Cat colt, Hurricane Cat, seemed best at around a mile.

Coincidentally, the family has produced yet another Alabama winner in the luckless 2006 winner Pine Island. This daughter of Arch was out of Maplejinsky's granddaughter Matlacha Pass, a sister to the excellent Pleasant Home and the Grade II winner Country Hideaway (these three Seeking the Gold fillies being inbred 2x4 to Mr

Prospector). Pleasant Home triumphed in the GI Breeders' Cup Distaff in 2005, a year after Silence Beauty had been acquired by Charles Fipke for \$525,000. Fipke's investment has already produced one major dividend in Tale of Ekati, the foal Silence Beauty was carrying at the time

of her purchase, and there could be other gems in store. The mare has been a regular visitor to Fipke's stallion Perfect Soul and her first foal by him realised \$280,000 as a weanling, before reselling for \$775,000 as a yearling.

That price of \$775,000 dollars for a yearling by a \$15,000 stallion provides an excellent insight into how successful this female line has been, and Tale of Ekati is bred well enough for anything. But is he good enough to cope with the likes of Big Brown and Pyro? I'm not yet convinced that he is, especially as we are still awaiting the first Kentucky Derby winner from the Storm Cat male line.



Pleasant Home *Horsephotos*

TALE OF EKATI, c, 2005

Tale of the Cat	Storm Cat	Storm Bird	Northern Dancer
		Terlingua	South Ocean
	Yarn	Mr. Prospector	Secretariat
		Narrate	Crimson Saint
Silence Beauty (Jpn) 3-0-01 4FIs, 1GISW	Sunday Silence	Halo	Raise a Native
		Wishing Well	Gold Digger
	Maplejinsky GISW, \$293,196 10FIs, 1Ch, 1GISW	Nijinsky II	Honest Pleasure
		Gold Beauty 5FIs, 2GISW	State
			Hail to Reason
			Cosmah
		Understanding	
		Mountain Flower	
		Northern Dancer	
		Flaming Page	
		Mr. Prospector	
		Stick to Beauty	