

in sharper focus.

TELL A GREAT STORY

1st Dam: Roadtohanna, by Not For Love
2nd Dam: December Ember, by Lord Gaylord
3rd Dam: Gala de Oro, by Shelter Half

Click for the [free brisnet.com catalogue-style pedigree](http://free.brisnet.com/catalogue-style/pedigree).

When she was foaled at Kevin Plank's Sagamore Farm a little less than three years ago, it was hard to know if there was going to emerge a story of any variety to be told. With her smashing debut victory yesterday at Laurel, Tell a Great Story (Bluegrass Cat) did her part.

Plank bred the elegant chestnut filly from Roadtohanna (Not For Love), who he purchased for a modest \$70,000 out of the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Yearling Sale in the fall of 2006. But things didn't go exactly as planned early on.

"She had some issues with a tendon," explained Sagamore General Manager Tom Mullikin. "She was about to turn three and we could have given her a year off, but we decided to put her under lights and breed her as a 3-year-old."



Tell a Great Story Jim McCue/MJC

Roadtohanna was bred to After Market in her first year at stud, and the result was a now 4-year-old named Going to Market, a two-time winner last year and back in steady training with Ignacio Correas IV at Laurel. The Sagamore brass stuck with the Storm Cat theme and sent the mare to Bluegrass Cat in the spring of 2009.

"There's a very interesting nick or pedigree pattern there, and it was the 'Somethingroyal' factor that proved to be the key we were honing in on," Mullikin explained.

Indeed, Tell a Great Story is inbred 5x5 to that outstanding producer, the dam of Secretariat--who appears twice in the pedigree of Bluegrass Cat--and of Sir Gaylord on the female side of her family.

Tell a Great Story was foaled in April 2010, but her life was off to an ominous beginning.

"She was born as a 'dummy foal,'" Mullikin stated. "We had to resuscitate her, and she didn't have a suck reflex and wouldn't nurse. We had to insert a feeding tube through her nostril, but she eventually got tired of it, and like a little kid kept playing with it, so we had to go to plan B a couple days later."

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In Sharper Focus cont.

“We decided we needed to bottle feed her,” Mullikin continued. “We milked the mare out with milk mash, the equivalent of colostrum in humans, and then--actually I still have it in the barn--it’s a green Sprite bottle. We put the milk in there and put a nipple on the top of the bottle, and then her suck reflex started to come around and she was able to feed off the bottle. It can be frustrating at times when you’re in the midst of things, but we have really good people here with all our night-watch folks taking good care of her and then one morning, she woke up and she decided to start nursing from the mare.”



Tom Mullikin
sagamorereading.com

Tell a Great Story took some time to come along, but trained well over the synthetic track at Sagamore and over the Laurel main track, with bullet works Jan. 10 and Jan. 19. Bet down to 2-1 at first asking, she came calling for the lead in upper stretch and took the scenic route home, but proved the easiest of winners.

“First time out, you never know what’s going to happen, but she had some nice works at Laurel, so we knew there was some talent there,” Mullikin offered. “Sometimes you can get tricked in the mornings, but she certainly showed some ability. She obviously doesn’t have it figured out yet and she was pretty green in the stretch, but it looks like there’s something there.”

Mullikin indicated that they would not be in any hurry with the filly and that she’d likely make her next appearance in a first-level allowance. He’s also optimistic that she’ll handle much more than Wednesday’s 5 1/2 furlongs.

“With that pedigree, you would have to think she’s going to get two turns and that’s very exciting to us as well,” Mullikin commented.

Sagamore maintains a broodmare band of 15 on the farm, including GI Breeders’ Cup Filly and Mare Turf winner Shared Account (Pleasantly Perfect). Mullikin said that Roadtohanna has a newly turned yearling by Bernstein and is currently in foal to Stephen Got Even.

From a tortuous beginning, all’s well that ends well, from Mullikin’s perspective.

“We kind of gave her this name hoping that one day we’d be able to tell the story of her first couple days and then she makes the races and wins first time out. It’s really a cool story,” Mullikin said.--*Alan Carasso*

NTRA REPORT FROM CAPITOL HILL



IMMIGRATION REFORM FOCUS IN WASHINGTON

President Obama and a bipartisan group of U.S. Senators have begun to focus on immigration concerns at the start of the new Congress. This may signal a big year for a policy matter that Congress has historically avoided. Earlier this week, the president offered his plans for comprehensive immigration reform and the aforementioned group of senators also provided a framework that could lead to legislation later this year designed to overhaul the nation’s immigration laws.

Among the key principles guiding these discussions are improved border security, tougher enforcement of laws against hiring undocumented workers, a streamlined legal immigration process, creation of an earned path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who wish to stay in the United States and revamped temporary foreign worker programs.

The horse racing industry relies heavily on foreign help, especially those workers employed by trainers and horse farms through various temporary worker programs. The Department of Labor (DOL) has targeted the H-2B visa program with tough new rules that could negatively impact horse racing and breeding.

The NTRA looks out for our industry on immigration matters. We will be closely monitoring any developments in this area to ensure fair treatment of affected employers and employees.



For more information contact Joe Bacigalupo, director of membership development, (859) 422-2677 or visit www.SupportHorseRacing.org.

Eastern U.S.

Yesterday’s Results:

2nd-LRL, \$36,100, Msw, 3yo, f, 5 1/2f, 1:05 1/5, ft. + TELL A GREAT STORY (f, 3, [Bluegrass Cat--Roadtohanna, by Not for Love](#)), backed at 2-1 in her unveiling in this four-horse field, tipped her hand with several sharp works, including a five-furlong bullet in :59 2/5 at Laurel Jan. 10. Placed on the outside in third through the early stages, Tell a Great Story revved up while three wide entering the turn, took over when ready, and zig-zagged her way down the stretch while racing greenly to post an impressive 5 3/4-length victory. Bounty Pink (Speightstown), the 2-5 chalk, was second. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$21,660. [Click for the brisnet.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#).

O/B-Sagamore Farm (MD). T-Ignacio Correas IV.



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