



PILGRIM S.-GIII result cont.

Backing off what looked like a potential duel early, the bay pounced when called upon and exploded home to win with ease. Fellow Chad Brown trainee Shadow Banking completed the exacta and Brown followed up with Testa Rossi (Fr) winning the GIII Miss Grillo S. one race later. Brown also doubled up in the Pilgrim and Miss Grillo a year ago, with Noble Tune (Unbridled's Song) and Watsdachances (Ire) (Diamond Green {Fr}), respectively. "Second time out, we learned [Bobby's Kitten] was capable of leaving early and finishing," Brown said. "He has speed and can carry it, which makes him dangerous. Javier [Castellano] came out and worked him the other day and really liked the horse and accepted the mount on him. He said, 'I want to go out. I'm not going to worry what anybody else is doing. I'm going to ride my race. I'm real confident.' He rode that way." Brown added both of his Pilgrim runners could be headed to California. "I'm taking them both if they are healthy," he said.



Sunday, Belmont

MISS GRILLO S.-GIII, \$200,000, BEL, 10-6, 2yo, f, 1 1/16mT, 1:41 3/5, fm.

1—**#TESTA ROSSI (FR)**, 119, f, 2, by Dr Fong

1st Dam: Peggy Lane (Fr), by Dancing Spree

2nd Dam: Sunday April (Fr), by Olantengy (Fr)

3rd Dam: Belle Volga (Fr), by Hauban (Fr)

O-James Covello, Thomas Coleman & DMZ Racing Stable; B-Barbara Moser (FR); T-Chad C Brown;

J-Jose Lezcano. \$120,000. Lifetime Record: 6-4-1-0, \$175,422. Werk Nick Rating: A.

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2—**Sky Painter**, 117, f, 2, **Street Cry (Ire)**--Skylighter, by Sky Mesa. O/B-Darley (KY); T-K McLaughlin. \$40,000.

3—**Dancing House**, 117, f, 2, **Tapit**--Tout Charmant, by Slewvescent. O-Godolphin Racing LLC; B-Darley (KY); T-Kiaran P McLaughlin. \$20,000.

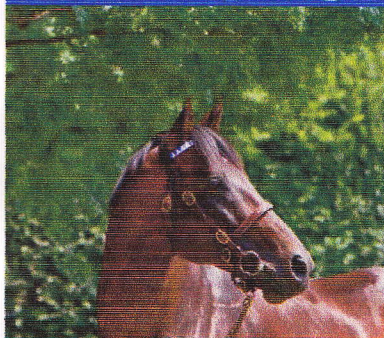
Margins: NO, 4, HF. Odds: 5.30, 2.50, 2.50.

Also Ran: Granny Mc's Kitten, Duff One, Morethanawarning, Echale Salsita, Miss Frost, Bikini Beauty, Selenite, Sea Bubble. Scratched: Candy Kitty.

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Trainer Chad Brown's success with this type of runner is well documented and, following on the heels of her stablemate Bobby's Kitten's victory in the GIII Pilgrim S. a half hour earlier, Testa Rossi's backers were surely thrilled to get 5-1 on the French import receiving first time Lasix. Allowed to bide her time early under a patient Jose Lezcano, the chestnut spotted the field about 10 lengths early, with longshot Echale Salsita (Two Step Salsa) setting a tepid pace and Testa Rossi's favored stablemate, Granny Mc's Kitten (Kitten's Joy), sitting in a stalking position. Testa Rossi began to wind up rounding the turn, chasing the Kiaran McLaughlin entry of Sky Painter and Dancing House as they circled the field in tandem. It was the winner who was traveling best at that juncture, however, and after putting the entry behind her, she overtook her stablemate while four wide at the top of the stretch. Sky Painter re-rallied to give the chestnut a scare in the final strides, but it was in vain as Testa Rossi kept her nose in front. Narrowly beaten in her first two outings going five furlongs at Lyon-Parilly in France in the spring, Testa Rossi graduated when upped to six panels at that course June 2, and added a pair of conditions scores at Lyon-Parilly and Maisons-Laffitte June 15 and July 7. She had not been seen publicly since the latter seven furlong victory, and prepared for this reappearance with a Belmont work tab that was steady without being spectacular. "You never know until you run them," Brown mused after the race. "Her works were good--they weren't great. She's a good-looking horse, she's got good form and every week she seems to be improving. The idea was to go ahead and enter her, knowing she's on the improve. I wasn't concerned about the extra distance. I have a bunch of these fillies and I picked the two I thought would give me the best chance to win, and she was one of them." Of eventual fourth-place finisher Granny Mc's Kitten, who won the P G Johnson S. at Saratoga Aug. 28, Brown added: "Granny Mc's Kitten missed her last work. She had a great two days of training this week. In hindsight, it might have compromised her a bit. If she has the credentials to get into the Breeders' Cup, I sure would like to take her. Maybe she'll have smoother training going into that race."

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