



Born to Be His Baby...

Bon Jovi Girl (Malibu Moon--Chipeta Springs, by Alydar), a half-sister to likely turf champion Gio Ponti (Tale of the Cat), helped turn up the temperature at Keeneland midway through yesterday's noticeably livelier second session of the January sale, bringing a \$950,000 final bid from Denali Stud's Craig Bendoroff. Bidding on the Grade I-placed runner, consigned by Gainesway, ricocheted rapidly inside the sales pavilion and, for a brief moment, the auction seemed to have its first seven-figure mare as the board flashed \$1 million. But after a short discussion between Bendoroff and the bidding staff, the board reverted back to the \$950,000 mark, and it didn't move again. As Bendoroff signed the ticket on behalf of an undisclosed client, Gainesway's Antony Beck walked by and tapped him several times on the shoulder in congratulations. "We're going to send her to Bill Mott, put her back in training and see if she can put a Grade I or Grade II to her name," Bendoroff explained. "She was bought as a long-term broodmare prospect. We'd like to have her at Denali Stud soon, but let them go out and have some fun with her first." Racing for co-owners Chuck Zacney and trainer Tim Ritchey, Bon Jovi Girl has hit the board in 11 of 15 starts, with five wins and earnings of \$512,443. A three-time stakes winner, the four-year-old is coming off a third-place effort in the Nov. 28 GI Gazelle S. at Aqueduct. Bandaroff admitted the filly's race record combined with her pedigree made her an easy choice. "There were some other horses in here, but she had pedigree, and that's what attracted us to her," he explained. "We want pedigree. She is by Malibu Moon. I like young sires who are well-bred; he's by A.P. Indy out of a good mare. She's got Alydar on the bottom side. And you've got Gio Ponti still going for you." Of his unnamed client, Bendoroff said, "He's been in the business a long time. A couple of years ago, he stepped it up and bought a nice mare last year and a couple of nice mares this year. He has optimism and enthusiasm about the business. Like a lot of people, he is repositioning to have more quality. He's asked just to keep it quiet. He said, 'You take the notoriety, don't worry about me.'" Bon Jovi Girl's final price tag was in line with what Bendoroff expected to have to pay for the filly.



Photo by Z/Keeneland

"Everyone wants quality," Bendoroff said. "And she has quality. A couple of years ago, she brings \$1.5 million or \$1.6 million. At \$750,000 I was tickled to death--I thought that that was where we were going to get her. It's a lot of money. We'll see if Bill Mott can make her look like value. We'll put the pressure on him."

Also satisfied with the \$950,000 price tag was Gainesway's Michael Hernon. "That was way over the reserve, but as I told people, the filly was here to sell," Hernon said. "The reserve was very realistic, but with the auction situation, you never know until it's over. You don't try to get inside people's heads. Our business is selling horses and we're very pleased with this result." Bon Jovi Girl, purchased by Zacney and Ritchey for \$190,000 out of the 2007 Keeneland September yearling sale, was popular at the Gainesway barn before the sale. "The filly showed great class here under difficult conditions," Hernon said. "She showed extremely well. She drew a lot of attention from the major buyers here at the sale and rightly so. She has a lot of run left in her. She's Grade I-placed, she's a half to a likely Eclipse champion and she was very well-placed in the sale. Quality maintains its value in these tough markets, and she was all quality."



Craig Bendoroff
Photo by Z/Keeneland

a couple of nice mares this year. He has optimism and enthusiasm about the business. Like a lot of people, he is repositioning to have more quality. He's asked just to keep it quiet. He said, 'You take the notoriety, don't worry about me.'" Bon Jovi Girl's final price tag was in line with what Bendoroff expected to have to pay for the filly.