

Acclamation: The View From The Top



The Grade California-Breds

by EMILY SHIELDS

Don't look now, but a California-bred is one of the leading contenders for Horse of the Year.

Eleven years after state-bred Tiznow captured the Eclipse Award as the nation's best horse, Acclamation is on a warpath to do the same. After his heart-stopping victory in the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club's \$1 million TVG Pacific Classic Stakes, Acclamation became the only three-time grade I winner in the country this year. He also became the state's 56th millionaire, boosting his earnings to \$1,538,048 with the \$600,000 winner's share of the purse.

After two seasons of winning at the highest level, Acclamation is finally starting to garner respect from those outside of California. In 2010, the five-year-old son of Harris Farms' Unusual Heat won the grade II, \$150,000 Jim Murray Handicap and the grade I, \$250,000 Charles Whittingham Memorial Handicap, then repeated in both of those races this year. Following his second Whittingham score, Acclamation added Del Mar's grade I, \$300,000 Eddie Read Stakes on July 23. The 1 1/8-mile turf contest would be an unusual prep race for the 1 1/4-mile main track Pacific Classic, but trainer Donald Warren and owners Peter and Mary Hilvers and E. W. "Bud" and Judy Johnston felt their star runner deserved a shot.

"We've always had confidence he could run with these horses," Bud Johnston said. "The only thing we were concerned about was the track itself." As a five-time stakes winner on the grass, Acclamation had never found the winner's circle in a dirt or all-weather surface stakes event. While training, however, Acclamation showed an affinity for Del Mar's Polytrack. "He worked well and cooled out fast," Johnston said. "You don't have a chance at a million dollar purse every day, so we said, 'Let's take a shot.'"

Acclamation went to the post as the 4-1 third wagering choice in a field of nine runners. On his back sat replacement jockey Patrick Valenzuela, who won the inaugural

Pacific Classic in 1991 with Cal-bred Best Pal. Joel Rosario, who rode Acclamation to victory in the Eddie Read, was already committed to the 2-1 race favorite Twirling Candy.

By now, all of Acclamation's rivals are familiar with his race-running tactics. The strapping bay goes to the lead and plays a rousing game of "catch me if you can" every time. When Canadian invader Don Cavallo and grade I winner Game On Dude let Acclamation slip ahead, the victory seemed ensured. Acclamation got away with a half mile in :48.65.

"I loved the fractions," Johnston said, and trainer Warren echoed the sentiment. "He was off the bridle, pricking his ears and looking around, and I was happy with that while watching the fractions," Warren said. "You don't want them to slow it down too much because then you get riders who try to take a shot at you early."

It wasn't until the eighth pole that anyone was in reach to take a shot at Acclamation. Twirling Candy ranged up on his outside, but Acclamation fought to win by a head at the wire, stopping the clock in 2:00.61, a new Del Mar track record. Kentucky shipper Stately Victor finished third.

Acclamation became the sixth Cal-bred to win the Pacific Classic, following in the hoofprints of Best Pal, Bertrando, Free House, General Challenge and Lava Man. Johnston, who bred Acclamation in the name of his Old English Rancho, attributed the horse's record to two things. "We've been blessed with a sound horse as well as a horse with talent."

Acclamation, who is out of the unraced Silveyville mare Winning in Style, has eight wins, two seconds and six thirds in 27 starts. This year, he has won four graded stakes at three different distances on two surfaces. Although Acclamation is not nominated to Breeders' Cup, Johnston mentioned that they would look at supplementing to the \$3 million Breeders' Cup Turf, with a possible prep in Woodbine's \$1,500,000 Canadian International on Oct. 16. 🐾

Grade I TVG Pacific Classic Stakes Del Mar Thoroughbred Club—August 28, 2011



©Benot photos





The Grade California-Breds

Caracortado: Finally On The Winning End

by **MARCIE HEACOX**

The California-bred gelding Caracortado avenged two near misses earlier this year in Santa Anita Park's Frank E. Kilroe Mile Stakes and Hollywood Park's Shoemaker Mile Stakes, both grade I, \$300,000 events, when he came out a nose the best in the grade II, \$200,000 Del Mar Mile Handicap on Aug. 27.

It was his second career graded stakes win and the second straight year a Cal-bred has won the 25-year-old race, following Enriched in 2010. Joey Franco, the 2003 California Horse of the Year, is the only other Cal-bred to win this event.

Caracortado, California's 2009 Champion Two-Year-Old Male and 2010 Champion Three-Year-Old Male, broke fast as the 7-5 favorite but dropped back to be second-last in the field of six, though never more than five lengths behind.

When the field straightened out in the final stretch, jockey Joe Talamo gave him a strong ride to nip Mr. Commons at the wire. Caracortado's winning time for the turf mile was 1:34.24, with a rapid final quarter-mile of 22 seconds flat.

"We had talked before (the race), and Mike (trainer/breeder/co-owner Mike Machowsky) and I both said we had to get him more in the race. He's been coming from too far back and not getting there," Talamo said. "But today he was up closer and I was very confident. I could feel I had a lot of horse under me."

Caracortado was originally under consideration for three races the same weekend—the Mile, the grade I, \$250,000 Pat O'Brien Stakes at seven furlongs and the grade I, \$1 million TVG Pacific Classic Stakes at 1 1/4 miles, the latter two on Polytrack, an all-weather surface on which he has never run. In the end, co-owners and California Thoroughbred Breeders Association (CTBA) members

Machowsky of Lo Hi Racing and Don Blahut of Blahut Racing LLC stuck with a familiar surface.

"I felt like he needed to get a win for himself more than anything," Machowsky said. "Even though I thought he'd have a heck of a shot in the (Pat O'Brien), I looked at the field for this race and thought that if he ran his race he would be awful tough. We need a win. We all needed a win."

With the win, Caracortado added \$120,000 to his earnings, bringing his career total to \$774,105. It was the four-year-old chestnut's eighth win in 17 starts. He commenced in his career in September of 2009, with a five-race win streak; taking a maiden claiming race at Fairplex Park, two allowance races at Hollywood Park and both the \$100,000 California Breeders' Champion Stakes and grade II, \$150,000 Robert B. Lewis Stakes at Santa Anita.

Since then, Caracortado has won only thrice more from 12 attempts—a November 2010 allowance optional claiming race at Hollywood, the \$300,000 Sunshine Millions Turf Stakes at Santa Anita in January and this most recent score.

Caracortado was foaled on May 7, 2007, at the now-defunct Pepper Oaks Farm in Santa Ynez. His sire, Cat Dreams, left California after the 2009 breeding season. Caracortado is the second foal and first starter out of unraced Mons Venus, a 10-year-old Maria's Mon half-sister to dual stakes winner Jaded Pleasure.

In 2009, Mons Venus had a filly by Machowsky's former star trainee, three-time grade I winner Southern Image. The filly, named My Southern Diva, sold for \$60,000 during last year's California Cup Yearling Sale at Barretts. Mons Venus also has a 2011 colt by Giant's Causeway.

Caracortado will likely stay local for the remainder of this year with the 2012 Breeders' Cup World Championships at Santa Anita as his long-term goal. 🐾

Grade II Del Mar Mile Handicap Del Mar Thoroughbred Club—August 27, 2011



**INTRODUCING
FOR 2012**

INFORMED

—Multiple Graded Stakes
Winner Of \$521,349
Including The **GI \$250,000
San Diego Handicap**
And The **GI Californian.**

—Defeated Multiple
Graded Stakes Winner
AUTISM AWARENESS.

—By *Horse Of The Year*
And *Champion Sire*

TIZNOW

*Only Two Time Winner
Of The GI Breeders'
Cup Classic.*

—Out Of The
TABASCO CAT mare
CAJUN TWO STEP.

**"This is a horse
with a big HEART"**

—*Russel Baze*

©Benoit Photos

RIDGELEY FARM

3901 W. ESPLANADE AVE., HEMET, CA 92545 • 951-654-7728 • FAX: 951-654-9780 • RIDGELEYFARM@YAHOO.COM • CONTACT PAT THOMPSON



Excellent start. Strong finish.

Let City National's wealth management experts help you manage your success. With more than \$54 billion in client assets under management or administration, world-class trust, estate and financial planning services and investment strategies that consistently outperform industry benchmarks, City National and its investment affiliates have the resources to help make your hard-earned dollars work harder for you.

Experience the Difference.

Call (866) 792-9408 or visit us at cnb.com.



City National Wealth Management

Member FDIC

Non-deposit Investment Products: ■ are not FDIC insured ■ are not Bank guaranteed ■ may lose value

Past performance is not an indication of future results.

©2011 City National Bank

Something Old, Something New At Cal Cup XXII



California Cup



by EMILY SHIELDS

Photos by Benoit & Associates

Although California Cup will look somewhat different from previous years, its original intentions are still in place for this year's 22nd edition. On Saturday, Oct. 29, contentious fields of California-breds and California-sired runners will gather to compete for \$800,000-plus in prize money.

After a one-year detour to Hollywood Park in Inglewood, the Cal Cup returns to at Santa Anita Park in Arcadia. This year it is the card of races that has changed; the \$100,000 Mile and the \$100,000 Matron have been cut, leaving five black-type races. The highlight of the day, the \$175,000 Cal Cup Classic Stakes, has been moved to the turf course for the first time. The grassy, \$125,000 Distaff Stakes is the feature for older fillies and mares, while three \$100,000 contests, the Sprint, Juvenile and Juvenile Fillies Stakes, will be run on

Santa Anita's new dirt track. Two maiden special weight races and two allowance races will flesh out the balance of the card.

The annual party hosted by the California Thoroughbred Breeders' Association (CTBA) will take place on the front side in Club Court, located just past the finish line. The theme is "The Art of Racing," and will feature artwork from renowned equine artists. Individual tickets are being sold for \$85, while the price of a 10-seat table is \$850 and includes the buffet, beverages, parking and a program. For reservations and other Cal Cup information, call (626) 445-7800 and ask for Cookie Hackworth (extension 243) or Rosemary Stringer (extension 244).

The following pages will review Cal Cup XII, which took place on Nov. 3, 2001, in front of a crowd of 37,184. 🏇

Cal Cup XII



Then & Now

Five-year-old Irisheyesareflying entered the 2001 Wells Fargo Bank California Cup Classic Handicap fresh off a resounding victory in the grade III, \$250,000 Longacres Mile Handicap. Fit and in good form, Irisheyesareflying parlayed one win into another and took home the \$150,000 winner's share of the \$250,000 Classic purse.


Sent off as the 5-2 second choice against nine rivals in the 1 1/8-mile event, Irisheyesareflying and jockey Kent Desormeaux stalked a solid early pace. The pair rallied four-wide into the stretch and drew off to defeat Figlio Mio by 2 1/2 lengths in 1:49.14.

Trainer John Dolan campaigned Irisheyesareflying with co-owners Lloyd Graham and Alice Taylor. CTBA

President Wes Fitzpatrick, who served that post from 2000 to 2002, bred the gelded son of Cal-bred millionaire Flying Continental along with his wife, Sharon. Irisheyesareflying went on to win the grade III, \$100,000 Berkeley Handicap in March of 2002, then retired two years later with earnings of \$715,036. His record stands at eight wins, seven seconds and five thirds in 39 starts.


Irisheyesareflying, who resides west of San Antonio in Texas, has produced five small foal crops but has not seen mares since the end of the 2009 breeding season. Owner David Thompson, a member of the original syndicate that purchased Irisheyesareflying for stallion duty in 2004, plans to breed to him again in 2012. 🏇

IRISHEYESAREFLYING



**\$250,000
California
Cup
Classic
Handicap**

**November 3,
2001**



Continued on next page



California Cup Cont'd.

Cal Cup XII: Then & Now

The immensely popular eight-year-old gelding Native Desert made his fifth consecutive California Cup appearance a winning one when he took the \$175,000 TVG Mile Handicap under jockey Eddie Delahoussaye. In a driving, blanket finish, the top six finishers in a nine-horse field crossed the wire within a length of each other, with Spinelessjellyfish second and Ringaskiddy third. The victory ran Native Desert's record in the grassy Cal Cup Mile to two wins, a second and a third in four tries. His first Cal Cup win for owner Miguel Rubio and trainer Juan Garcia came in the 1999 Mile.

The win also secured Native Desert's third title as Cal-

ifornia Champion Turf Horse, which he also won in 1998 and 1999. In addition to the Mile, Native Desert won the \$100,000 California Turf Championship Handicap and finished second in the grade I, \$400,000 Eddie Read Handicap during 2001. The Cal Cup was his 13th of 15 career stakes wins.

Fred Watarida, who lost Native Desert to Rubio in a \$32,000 maiden claiming race in 1996, bred the son of Desert Classic out of the unraced Princely Native mare Miss C. Native. Native Desert retired to Mexico the following year with 21 wins, 13 seconds, 17 thirds and \$1,828,177 in earnings from 74 starts. 🏆



NATIVE DESERT
 \$175,000 TVG California Cup Mile Handicap
 November 3, 2001



In a strong field consisting of grade I winner Notable Career, grade II victor Feverish and future grade I winner Favorite Funtime, it might have been easy to overlook Cee Dreams in the \$150,000 CTT & TOC Gary Burke California Cup Matron Handicap. Savvy handicappers gave the five-year-old daughter of Cee's Tizzy a shot at 7-2 based off of her recent strong win in the \$49,000 E. B. Johnston Stakes at Fairplex Park, and Cee Dreams delivered with a flashy two-length victory.

Under jockey Laffit Pincay Jr., Cee Dreams raced eighth in a nine-horse field before bidding four-wide and drawing off in the lane, stopping the clock in 1:43.48 for the 1 1/16-mile

distance. Favorite Funtime finished second, while Elaine's Angel rounded out the trifecta.

Peter Eurton conditioned Cee Dreams for Frank Alesia, Mike Ciaglia and Michael Mellen's Bran Jan Stable. The group had claimed Cee Dreams for \$20,000 in December of 1999. Ron Gomez bred Cee Dreams, who ultimately earned \$439,336 while winning 11 of her 40 starts with five wins and nine thirds.

Cee Dreams suffered an injury while training in 2002. To try and save her for breeding purposes, her right foreleg was amputated at the knee and fitted with a prosthetic, but she was euthanized in March after foundering in her left foreleg. 🏆



CEE DREAMS
 \$150,000 California Cup Matron Handicap
 November 3, 2001



Continued on page 24





California Cup Cont'd.

Cal Cup XII: Then & Now

Under normal circumstances, the \$636,265-earner and \$150,000 Donald Valpredo California Cup Sprint Handicap winner Ceeband would be the highlight of any farm's foal crop. Unfortunately for him, he was born as part of Harris Ranch's 1997 crop, the same one that produced two-time Breeders' Cup Classic winner and 2000 Eclipse Horse of the Year, Tiznow. Cecilia Straub-Rubens bred both colts, who spent their early years together in the barn of trainer Jay Robbins. Although Ceeband, a son of Chimes Band, showed promise early in this career, including a stakes-placed effort, he didn't blossom until trainer John Sadler claimed him for \$62,500 on behalf of Lee and Susan Searing's CRK Stable.

Four months later, Ceeband defeated future Breeders' Cup



Sprint winner Squirtle Squirt in the grade II, \$266,000 Triple Bend Breeders' Cup Invitational Handicap at Hollywood Park. He prepped for the Cal Cup by winning the \$100,000 California Sprint Championship Handicap.

The six-furlong Sprint garnered a short but strong field of six, which included stakes winners Stormy Jack, Gibson County, Men's Exclusive and Trailthefox. Ceeband rallied from fifth to win by two lengths under jockey Matt Garcia in 1:08.82 as the 6-5 favorite. Ironically, the more heralded Tiznow paraded between races on the Cal Cup XII card.

Ceeband, out of the group-placed, stakes-winning Domineau mare Miss Sonrisa (Chi), won seven of 32 starts with six seconds and nine thirds. 🐾



CEEBAND

**\$150,000
California
Cup
Sprint
Handicap**

**November 3,
2001**



An overflow field of 18 fillies and mares were entered in the \$150,000 Louis R. Rowan California Cup Distaff Handicap, a 6 1/2-furlong contest on Santa Anita Park's downhill turf course. Only 14 were allowed to start, and the 9-5 favorite Jeweled Pirate threaded her way through the field to score by 1 1/2 lengths under jockey Chris McCarron. Jeweled Pirate, a daughter of Pirate's Bounty, outlasted the late running Warren's Whistle with Storm Kisu finishing third.

The Distaff was the second stakes win of the year for Jeweled Pirate, following a victory in Santa Anita's \$150,000 Pro Or Con Handicap on Feb. 3. She proved her

class by defeating subsequent dual grade I winner Lazy Slusan that day, but injury forced her to the sidelines for the next eight months. Jeweled Pirate returned to the races with a lone prep for the Cal Cup in an allowance optional claiming race at Santa Anita. She finished fourth while grade I winner Notable Career finished eighth. Nashoba (Ire), who finished second, became the dam of the 2007 California Horse of the Year, Nashoba's Key.

As a homebred for owners Robert and Betty Irvin (C-Punch Ranch Inc.), Jeweled Pirate earned \$332,610 with five wins and four seconds in 13 starts. 🐾



**JWELED
PIRATE**

**\$150,000
California
Cup
Distaff
Handicap**

**November 3,
2001**



Continued on page 26





California Cup Cont'd.

Cal Cup XII: Then & Now



It's hard to say what was more shocking: that grade I winner Officer, widely considered to be the best two-year-old in the nation, was entered for the California Cup Juvenile Stakes only one week after a stunning defeat in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (grade I), or the fact that Yougottawanna beat him.

Yougottawanna's breeder and owner Ted Aroney (Halo Farms) and trainer Jerry Hollendorfer were just as surprised as the rest of the racing world when Officer's name turned up in the entries for the \$125,000 Juvenile. Following a victory in the Oct. 6 Champagne Stakes (grade I), the Bob Baffert-trainee finished fifth as the favorite in the Breeders' Cup at Belmont Park in New York on Oct. 27.

He went favored again in the 1 1/16-mile Cal Cup, but couldn't outrun Yougottawanna, a 17-hand high son of Candi's Gold, who finished 1 1/2 lengths ahead of Officer.

Yougottawanna had prepped for the Juvenile with a victory in the \$63,450 Pinjara Stakes on the grass under Laffit Pincay Jr., who also piloted the strapping chestnut in the Juvenile. Yougottawanna, out of the winning Midway Circle mare Chapel's Sister, lost the California Champion Two-Year-Old Male title to Officer, but while Officer made only two more career starts, Yougottawanna raced until 2007, recording 12 wins, eight seconds, nine thirds and \$729,127 in earnings from 44 starts. 🏆



YUOGOTTAWANNA

**\$125,000
California
Cup
Juvenile
Stakes**

**November 3,
2001**



From starting as a \$2,500 yearling purchase to being crowned the 2001 California Champion Two-Year-Old Female, Lady George took her connections on a thrilling ride. Owner Gordon Severson, who tended to only spend up to \$7,000 on a horse, picked out Lady George at the 2000 Barretts October Yearling Sale because of her athleticism, not because of her pedigree. Bedford Stables and Stonehenge Stables bred Lady George, who is one of only two foals out of the winning Kennedy Road mare Metro Link and was sired by stakes winner Lake George.

Lady George was turned over to trainer Tony Locke, who guided her through a strong juvenile season. She

finished second in the \$100,000 Generous Portion Stakes at the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club two starts prior to the \$125,000 Cal Cup Juvenile Fillies Stakes, which she won by a head under jockey Jose Silva. Favored Fragrant Cloud, who ran second, finished eight lengths ahead of third-place finisher Believe in Slew. The 1 1/16-mile race was timed in a humble 1:45.84.

Two starts later, Lady George also won the \$150,000 California Breeders' Champion Stakes, earning her the award as the state's champion juvenile filly. She raced partial seasons in both 2002 and 2003, then retired with a record of 16-4-1-1 and earnings of \$311,683. 🏆



**LADY
GEORGE**

**\$125,000
California
Cup
Juvenile Fillies
Stakes**

**November 3,
2001**



Continued on page 28

The Last Son of SEATTLE SLEW to Stand at Stud!

Seattle Slew-Zoe Montana, by Seeking The Gold
2011 Fee: \$4,000



First Foals
will be
yearlings
of 2011

- \$800,000 weanling purchase.
- Stakes-placed winner at 2 in England.
- Placed in the Grade II July Stakes at Newmarket and Grade II Coventry Stakes at Ascot.
- Stakes winner at 3 in England in the King Charles II Stakes defeating Grade I ARAGORN-(IRE).
 - Graded stakes-placed winner in the United States.
- Son of Triple Crown winner SEATTLE SLEW, out of SEEKING THE GOLD mare.
 - From the female family of HALF A YEAR (Hwt. colt at 3 in England), Grade II EVENT OF THE YEAR (\$1,095,200), Grade II WINNING PACT and Grade III CAT'S CAREER.

35325 De Portola Road, Temecula, CA 92592
951-303-0313 Fax: 951-303-0613



E-mail: SpecTB@aol.com
www.specialTfarm.com



California Cup Cont'd.

Cal Cup XII: Then & Now



Five-year-old As We Know It denied White Cloud a repeat victory in the B. J. Ridder California Cup Starter Handicap, one of three \$50,000 starter handicaps on the 10-race program. This event's conditions were altered for the 2000 running; the distance was shortened from 1 1/2 miles to 1 1/4 miles and the surface changed from dirt to turf. White Cloud led in deep stretch, but As We Know It and Brice Blanc ran him

down to win by a half-length in 2:01.00 for trainer Nick Hines.

As We Know It was bred by Harris Farms Inc, but was claimed from them 10 months before his Cal Cup victory, which was his fourth consecutive win and seventh of 25 overall. The gelded son of Cutlass Reality and the grade I-placed graded stakes winner Giggling Girl never raced again, having earned \$159,505. 🏆



AS WE KNOW IT

**\$50,000
California Cup
Starter Handicap**

November 3, 2001



Gary and Marlene Howard's homebred Lil Sister Stich won her first of two California Cup events when taking the John Deere Distaff Starter Handicap by 1 1/2 lengths under Laffit Pincay, Jr. They completed the grassy 1 1/8-mile contest in 1:47.32.

Armando Lage trained the Seattle Bound mare, who had been laid up from November of 1999 until July of 2001. The

decision to bring her back paid off: Lil Sister Stich won three more stakes in her career, including both the \$150,000 John Deere Cal Cup Distaff Handicap and grade III, \$114,700, Monrovia Handicap in 2002. She retired with a record of 19-8-2-1 and earnings of \$329,835, then sold for \$500,000 at the 2003 Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale. All three of her foals to race are winners. 🏆



LIL SISTER STICH

**\$50,000
California Cup
Distaff Starter Handicap**

November 3, 2001



The hard-knocking gelding Rio Oro counted the Kenneth M. Schiffer California Cup Starter Sprint as the 14th and final win of his 32-race career. The son of Oraibi and the 2003/2004 California Broodmare of the Year, Rio Tejo, was coming off a track record-breaking performance at the now defunct Bay Meadows Racecourse, running 5 1/2 furlongs in 1:01.60. Jockey Kent Desoremaux held the six-year-old

to 1:02.45 at Cal Cup XII, winning by two lengths over 2-1 favorite Jersey Rebel at odds of 8-1.

Rick and Michael Arthur bred Rio Oro, who was claimed for \$10,000 by trainer Frank Monteleone in August of 2001. Unfortunately, as a graded stakes-placed multiple stakes winner of \$341,854, Rio Oro broke down fatally in the 2002 Cal Cup Sprint. 🏆



RIO ORO
**\$50,000
California Cup
Starter Sprint Handicap**

November 3, 2001





The California Thoroughbred
Breeders Association
& Santa Anita Park, present



Saturday, October 29, 2011
at Santa Anita Park

Featuring Nine Races for California Breds

2011 California Cup Races
Saturday, October 29

The \$175,000 California Cup Classic
3 year olds & up, 1 1/8 Mile (Turf)

The \$125,000 California Cup Distaff
Fillies & Mares, 3 years old & up, abt 6 1/2 Furlongs (Turf)

The \$100,000 California Cup Sprint
3 year olds & up, 6 Furlongs

The \$100,000 California Cup Juvenile
2 year olds, 1 1/16 Mile

The \$100,000 California Cup Juvenile Fillies
2 year old fillies, 1 1/16 Mile

Allowance 1X \$60,000*
3 year olds & up, 6 1/2 Furlongs

Allowance 1X \$60,000*
Fillies & Mares, 3 years old & up, 6 1/2 Furlongs

Maiden Special Weight \$50,000*
3 year olds & up, abt 6 1/2 Furlongs (Turf)

Maiden Special Weight \$50,000*
Fillies & Mares, 3 years old & up, abt 6 1/2 Furlongs (Turf)

*no nomination fee

Nominations **CLOSE**

Saturday, October 15, 2011

visit www.ctba.com or
www.santaanita.com
for more information



CTBA Member Profile

Carl Asadurian: Maintaining A Family Tradition

by EMILY SHIELDS

From 1968 to 2011, three generations of Asadurian men have found themselves in the winner's circle at the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club.

Sam Asadurian won his first race there in 1968, then returned 34 years later to capture his first important victory with his son, Carl, as the co-owners of Arbiter. Flash forward to Aug. 10, 2011, and Carl Asadurian stood in the Del Mar winner's circle again, this time with his son, Chad. Asadurian's Chiloquin had just won the \$100,000 Real Good Deal Stakes, the first of his two victories at the seaside oval this summer.

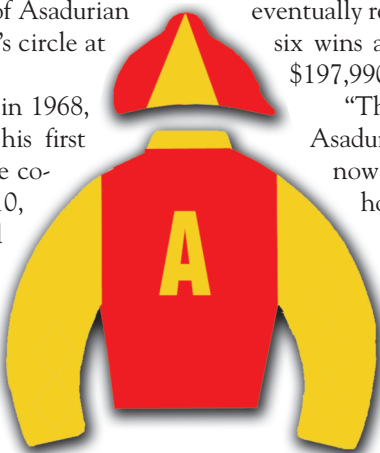
Asadurian, a California Thoroughbred Breeders' Association (CTBA) member since 2005, has struggled within the game for a long time. Despite years of dedication, he and his father managed only one stakes win together. On July 25, 2002, their five-year-old A. P. Indy gelding Arbiter won the \$65,050 Kobuk King Stakes by two lengths, setting a new track record of 2:12.32 for 1 3/8 miles on the grass. Arbiter was away from the races for nearly two years following that effort, and was claimed from the Asadurians for \$32,000 three starts later. He descended down the claiming ladder, but was

eventually returned to the Asadurians after retiring with six wins and six placings from 30 starts. He earned \$197,990.

"The racing business is a tough business," Carl Asadurian said. "I got into it for my dad's sake, and now my sons Chad and Jason love it, too." His horses continued to toil in the claiming ranks for years, but through it all, Asadurian stuck to a noble philosophy. "Yes, it's a business, but you have to do what's good for the horse every time. I don't have a problem running for a \$10,000 claiming tag if that's the horse's level."

That notion is enforced by Asadurian's racing manager Gary Rocks, who trained for Sam Asadurian's before Carl took over the operation. "My dad told me to stick with Rocks," Asadurian explained. "He runs horses where they belong."

Rocks trained Sam Asadurian's homebred Zzyzx Road, who placed once in two starts during 2000. The filly's unusual name is derived from the 4 1/2-mile stretch of road off of Interstate 15 in the Mojave Desert called Zzyzx Road. "My dad had raced a mare named Plum Drop (Ire), and when he bred her to Desert



Carl Asadurian with his sister Caren, son Jason, father Sam, son Chad and mother Alice (left to right).



©Benoit photos



Chiloquin—\$100,000 Real Good Deal Stakes—August 10, 2011

Mirage, he asked Rocks to name her," Asadurian explained. "Rocks thought of desert roads because of her sire's name."

Zzyzx Road looked as if she would be a disappointment as a broodmare. Her first foal, Hermione's Legend, did not hit the board in four starts and the second, Blazzen Jo B, couldn't find the winner's circle in 10 tries. Call Attendant, born in 2005, has won once in 26 starts, with a second and three thirds, but it wasn't until 2006 that Zzyzx Road produced a multiple winner. Her daughter Makit Till Midnite won twice in eight starts, earning \$30,260.

Shortly after Zzyzx Road foaled a dark bay colt by Tribal Rule in 2008, Asadurian sold the mare, and was strongly considering selling the colt, named Chiloquin. "I was offering him for \$10,000, but Rocks told me he really liked the horse. I couldn't believe it, was he trying to tell me that after all those bad foals, the mare finally had a good one?" Asadurian and Rocks made a deal with trainer Scott Hansen to purchase fifty percent of Chiloquin, which Asadurian does not regret in the slightest. "It's more fun to keep it all together and have everyone get involved. Hansen treats his horses so well, all the credit for this horse's performance goes to him."

Chiloquin debuted in a \$32,000 maiden claiming event at Del Mar on Aug. 5, 2010, finishing fourth. He broke his maiden next out for the same tag at Fairplex Park, but showed his class when winning an allowance optional claiming race at Santa Anita Park in January, as a newly turned three-year-old. It wasn't until he reached Del Mar again that he really flourished; after finishing second in back-to-back allowance races at Hollywood Park in June and July, Chiloquin was wheeled back in the Real Good Deal Stakes for California-breds and California-sired runners. Under regular jockey Martin Pedroza, Chiloquin led throughout the seven-furlong all-weather Polytrack contest, stopping the clock in 1:22.45. Grade III stakes winner

Bench Points finished third, which is notable because he was bred by Gary Rocks.

Although Sam Asadurian passed away in 2009, thus never getting to see Chiloquin run, Chad Asadurian, Carl's son, was on hand and particularly thrilled with the stakes win. He explained that owning and breeding three generations of Chiloquin's family made it feel "extra special." Chad is an important part of the family business; he operates the farm in Oregon where Asadurian sends his foals to be raised.

"We breed our mares in California at our ranch in Moorpark," Chad explained, "then send the foals up to Oregon. When it's time for them to be broken they go back to California to Legacy Ranch. My job is to raise them and take care of them for the first two years." Chad enlists the help of Arbiter, now living the life of a pensioner at the Oregon ranch. "He teaches the young horses important things like how to stand in the shade," Chad joked.

Chiloquin followed the Real Good Deal victory with an allowance optional claiming score at Del Mar on Sept. 7. He boasts earnings of \$237,484 with five wins, three seconds and three thirds in 13 starts.

In between those two victories, Asadurian's two-year-old full brother to Bench Points, Points Offthebench, broke his maiden at Del Mar. Rocks bred the Benchmark gelding, who scored by 1 1/4 lengths in a six-furlong maiden special weight race on Aug. 25. "It's taken forever, and there have been a lot of bad ones, but it's been a good year," Rocks said. "These are nice, honest people who love their horses. If anyone deserves to win, it's these people."

Asadurian also owns a winning Unbridled's Song mare named Tina's Love, who is in foal to Benchmark (Ballena Vista Farm), but it is Chiloquin who is the focal point of the stable. "He has been a complete surprise," Asadurian said. "All we wanted to do was break his maiden." Thanks to some Del Mar luck, he has gotten so much more. 🐾



Arbiter—Kobuk King Stakes—July 25, 2002



Points Offthebench—Maiden Special Weight—August 25, 2011

