

Glimpses of Citibank California Gold Rush V



California Gold Rush

S
P
E
A
C
T
I
U
A
R
L
E

by **DEBRA GINSBURG &**
Photos by **KATEY BARRETT**

A healthy crowd of more than 14,000 turned out in summer-like weather at Hollywood Park on April 24 to witness Citibank California Gold Rush V, while nearly \$8.5 million was wagered statewide. The races were formful and the racing strip played incredibly fast, yielding four stakes records.

One of these was set by Cheiron in the title event, the \$250,000 Citibank Snow Chief Stakes. Bred by the late Prince Ahmed bin Salman's The Thoroughbred Corp., the gray Maria's Mon colt became the first 3-year-old in 2004 to run nine furlongs faster than 1:49, stopping the timer in 1:48.78 to score the first stakes win of his career. Cheiron also launched a memorable week for 21-year-old trainer Kristin Mulhall, who saddled Imperialism to a third-place finish in the Kentucky Derby on May 1.

Once considered a candidate for the Preakness, Cheiron's main objective is now the grade II, \$400,000 Swaps Breeders' Cup Stakes on July 10.

Golden Eagle Farm's duo of Yearly Report and Western Hemisphere also

Western Hemisphere scored an impressive victory in a \$50,000 allowance race at Hollywood the same afternoon.

Moscow Burning and Royally Chosen, two winners from 2003's California Cup XIV, captured the Fran's Valentine and the B. Thoughtful

Stakes, respectively. Black Bart, a minor stakes winner at Turf Paradise, returned home to capture the Khaled Stakes over dead-heating Continental Red and Lennyfromalibu. Beau Soleil became the second stakes winner of the afternoon for General Meeting as he scored his initial stakes victory in the Tiznow Stakes. Harris Farms' Alphabet Kisses, an Alphabet Soup filly whose second dam is California Champion A Kiss for

Luck, broke her maiden in the Magali Farms Stakes and then scored an allowance victory in her next outing.

The following pages chronicle these and other stories that made Gold Rush V such a memorable event.



used their stakes record-setting one-two performance in the Melair Stakes as a springboard for bigger and better things. Yearly Report went on to capture the grade II Black Eyed Susans Stakes at Pimlico on May 14, while



