



From the Executive Corner

Forward Advancements

by DOUG BURGE

California-breds have had another tremendous year, winning numerous graded stakes races at racetracks across the country. In fact, through the middle of November, Cal-breds had won 18 graded stakes with a third of those wins coming in grade I's.

The bulk of those victories can be attributed to Old English Rancho's Acclamation and Sanford and Spawr's Amazombie. Acclamation took three grade I's and was named the Horse of the Meet at Santa Anita Park's Autumn meeting; while Amazombie notched two grade I's, including the Breeders' Cup Sprint at Churchill Downs in Kentucky. The other 2011 grade I-winning Cal-bred was Ultra Blend.

In taking the Sprint, Amazombie became the fifth Cal-bred to win a Breeders' Cup race, joining Thor's Echo, Dancing in Silks, California Flag and, of course, Tiznow who is the only repeat winner of the Breeders' Cup Classic. Both Amazombie and Acclamation should receive numerous votes for year-end Eclipse Award honors.

The continued successes at the racetrack are not the only reasons for optimism as we approach the New Year. With recent enhancements to the Cal-bred program, we are experiencing stability in the production of foals, a migration of promising young stallions to California and increases at the yearling sales.

The Maiden Bonus Program and the recently announced Golden State Series, the later of which is scheduled to begin in January of 2012, has sparked tremendous

interest in breeding and owning Cal-breds. As reported by The Jockey Club in early September, the California live foal crop declined only 6.8 percent from the previous year, while other major racing states experienced declines of 14 percent to over 25 percent, thus placing California ahead of Florida and returning to second on the live foal list.

Since the Golden State Series was announced in late September, three young grade I winners have relocated from Kentucky: Giacomo, Heatseeker (Ire) and Aragorn (Ire). Giacomo is only the third Kentucky Derby winner to ever stand in the state, Heatseeker is a record-setting winner of the Santa Anita Handicap and Aragorn (Ire) is a multiple grade I-winning millionaire. There are also many other new sires who have been recently retired to stud in California.

The yearling prices at the Barretts October Yearling Sale were also very encouraging. With the sale made up primarily of Cal-breds, the opening night average was up 44 percent, while the two-day total average increased by nearly 20 percent. Both buyers and sales officials credited the changes to the Cal-bred racing and incentive programs as the chief reason for the increase in demand.

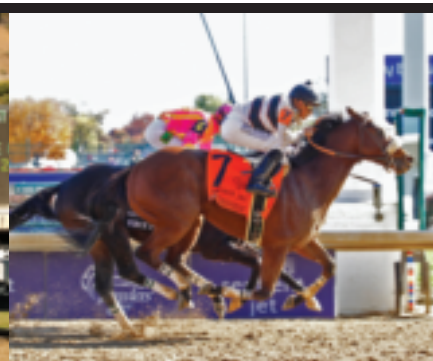
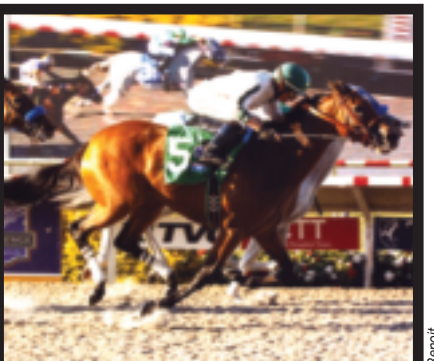
The California Thoroughbred Breeders Association (CTBA) will continue to discuss and explore even more modifications for the future while building on the recent successes. With the support of the entire racing industry in the state, the benefits of owning and breeding Cal-breds should only improve.

Happy Holidays! 🐾



Acclamation

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Ultra Blend

Amazombie

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