



The Grade California-Breds

by MARCIE HEACOX

California-bred Compari stretched his win streak to six in the grade II, \$150,000 Budweiser Arcadia Handicap at Santa Anita Park on April 3.

"These were real, real horses today. Those are some of the best turfers on the grounds," winning trainer Marty Jones said. "They came to him, but he wouldn't let them by."

Jones is enjoying a banner Santa Anita meet. He also trains Unzip Me, a Cal-bred filly who has won two stakes in her four-race win streak.

Sent off as the slight 2-1 favorite, Compari went straight to his customary position on the lead. He pricked his ears as jockey Garrett Gomez piloted him through a comfortable first quarter of :23.44. He then clicked off a half-mile in :47.44 and six furlongs in 1:11.28 as Aitcho inched closer down the backstretch and briefly challenged for the lead on the final turn.

Grade I winner Fluke (Brz) closed ground down the middle of the stretch and millionaire Battle of Hastings (GB) charged through a late opening on the rail, but neither could pass Compari. The four-year-old gelding dug in under urging to win by a half-length, completing the turf mile in 1:34.03.

"He's improved so much, he's just a cool dude now. I mean, we went the half in :47 and two and it felt like :50. He's like a sprinter slowing 'em down," Gomez said. "When we turned for home he just dropped his head and went."

Compari paid an even \$6 to win. Fluke was second and Battle of Hastings was third, both at 2-1 odds. Golden Balls (Ire) completed the superfecta, followed by Swift Winds, Aitcho and Blue Chagall (Fr).

Compari became the first Cal-bred winner in the 23-year history of the Arcadia Handicap. Of the 22 different winners to date, nine were bred in the U.S., 10 were bred in Europe, two were bred in the Southern Hemisphere (Argentina and Chile) and one was bred in Japan.

Compari: A Unique Cal-Bred

Harris Farms, John Nicoletti and Don Valpredo are the winning owners and breeders. Compari pushed his career earnings to \$422,640 with his \$90,000 winner's share of the purse. He has won on turf and the all-weather, from six furlongs to 1 1/8 miles.

The source of Compari's versatility may be his sire, Harris Farms' Redattore (Brz), a grade I winner on turf and dirt. Redattore has been shuttling between California and his native Brazil since he entered stud in 2004, but he will permanently relocate to Haras Old Friends in Brazil when the 2010 Southern Hemisphere breeding season begins.

Compari's dam is Southern Charm, an unraced mare by the recently deceased Dixieland Band and out of a half-sister to multiple grade I winner Bien Bien. Of her three progeny to race, all have won. In addition to Compari, she has also produced South Coast, an earner of \$113,508.

Compari began his career with a third-placed finish at Santa Anita on Feb. 20, 2009. He broke his maiden the following month and, 27 days later, won the \$250,000 Snow Chief Stakes at Hollywood Park's California Gold Rush X day.

Foot problems kept Compari out of commission until December, when he returned victorious in a grassy six-furlong allowance race at Hollywood Park.

Moving to Santa Anita's 2009-2010 winter/spring meet, Compari sent his streak into full gear, winning two \$100,000 Cal-bred stakes, the Sensational Star and Crystal Water Handicaps, before winning the Arcadia. He was also scheduled to run in the \$500,000 Sunshine Millions Classic in late January, but was scratched the day of the race with a cough.

Jones said Compari's next race will be the grade I, \$250,000 Shoemaker Mile at Hollywood Park on May 31.

Grade II Budweiser Arcadia Handicap Santa Anita Park—Saturday, April 3, 2010



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