



From the Executive Corner

See You At The Sale!

by DOUG BURGE

On Tuesday, Aug. 17, the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association (CTBA) will once again host the Northern California Yearling Sale in Pleasanton. For seven consecutive years now, CTBA Sales has been committed to providing a yearling marketplace for breeders in the northern and central part of the state, which we believe is a vital service to our membership.

This venture, however, has proven to be more than just a service to California breeders. By providing significant racing inventory for the state, the sale has proven to also offer an important service to the entire California racing industry.

To put that into perspective, the Northern California Yearling Sales from 2004 to 2008 (current three-year-olds and older) have provided more than 400 winners and 22 stakes winners; including such Northern and Southern California stars as Sierra Sunset, Autism Awareness, Bai and Bai and Leesider (see cover). But what is even more impressive than the number of winners and stakes winners, is the number of sales graduates who have made it to the races. From these five sales, 1,045 yearlings went through the ring with 797 eventually starting and 413 winning. Therefore, 76 percent of the horses sold started, with 52 percent of those racing becoming winners.

The most recent sale from 2009 has already produced five two-year-old winners, with one stakes winner and another stakes-placed. Also, three of the five winners broke their maidens in maiden special weight races, rewarding their owners with an additional \$10,000 or



\$20,000 bonus through the new maiden bonus program.

With the bulk of the graduates racing in the north, one can see the importance this sale has had on the Northern California racing program. Golden Gate Fields, and the numerous racing fairs, have become somewhat dependent on a successful Northern California yearling sale to provide not only needed inventory, but quality racing stock as well. Although many graduates have ventured to Southern California, and even out of state to compete, most are based with Northern California trainers.

CTBA Sales Northern California Yearling Sale: 2004 – 2008

Number of horses sold = 1,045
 Number of horses raced = 797
 Number of Winners from horses raced = 413

76.3% of horses sold have raced
51.8% of horses raced have become winners

The high percentage of winners to starters has yielded great dividends for the purchasers, as well as significant breeder awards to the consignors. More than two dozen sales graduates have earned more than six figures for their connections. In certain cases, those yearlings were purchased for a fraction of what they have now earned, and others who were purchased at the

higher end of the sale have also done extremely well. For this year's renewal, 155 yearlings have been catalogued. Although this is an open sale, with the overall success dependent on the quality of yearlings offered, there is reason for optimism. The catalogue provides more overall sire power than years past, the recent maiden bonus program has fueled demand for California-breds and, as mentioned above, the sale has rewarded buyers with the strong probability of making it to the races and reaping financial rewards.

See you at the sale!

