

# Worth Their Weight In Gold



*From the Executive Corner*

by DOUG BURGE

It was only fitting that the Eclipse Awards honoring last year's national champions was recently held in Beverly Hills, California, as two California-breds took center stage. For the second time in the last 10 years, multiple Cal-breds took home Eclipse Awards.

As shown on the cover, Acclamation was voted Champion Older Male and Amazombie was voted Champion Male Sprinter. Both Tiznow and Gourmet Girl were honored in 2001, as Champion Older Male and Champion Older Female, respectively. These accomplishments are well deserved and highlight the quality of horses produced and developed in the Golden State. With multiple grade I victories, these two Eclipse winners will make it difficult for CTBA members to decide who should be honored as the California Horse of the Year at the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association (CTBA) Annual Awards Dinner in Pasadena, California on Feb. 13. Both are indeed deserving champions.

In regards to this year's awards dinner, recognizing all Cal-bred divisional winners, leading sires, breeder and trainer, we will also induct three new members into the California Hall of Fame. They include Old English Rancho owner and long time breeder Bud Johnston, and Cal-bred greats Brown Bess and Quicken Tree; each were featured extensively in the January edition of *California Thoroughbred* and have all been very important contributors to the successes of the Cal-bred industry.

With all the perseverance and hardships that are associ-

ated in racing, such a celebration of successes and dedication is not only deserving but needed. As the industry continues to consolidate and strive to fix its economic woes, we should also not forget to acknowledge our accomplishments of today and years past.

## A Need To Work Together

On another note, the industry continues to work in a unified effort in Sacramento with the proposed internet gaming legislation. Horse racing in California currently has exclusivity as it pertains to legal internet wagering in the state through Advanced Deposit Wagering (ADW), and any removal of this exclusivity has to protect and include racing.

This message continues to be delivered to the various legislators on behalf of all Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse racetracks, horse owners and breeders. The CTBA and our lobbying firm, Platinum Advisors, has been extremely active with farm and racetrack visits for legislators. This grass roots approach helps to further depict the importance of our multi-billion dollar agribusiness in the state of California, and the nearly 55,000 total jobs generated.

We appreciate all the efforts from farm owners and managers who have offered their time and facilities to assist with the tours and visits. As we get further into the legislative session, we will be calling on the membership to help relay racing's message. We all believe this could be a tremendous opportunity to help grow our business and allow us to compete with various racing states as well as other in-state gaming interests. 🐾



Tiznow—2001 Eclipse Champion Older Male



Acclamation—2011 Eclipse Champion Older Male



Gourmet Girl—2001 Eclipse Champion Older Female



Amazombie—2011 Eclipse Champion Male Sprinter

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