



From the EXECUTIVE CORNER



DOUG BURGE

CTBA PRESIDENT

RENEWAL AND COMMITMENT

July marks the beginning of major Thoroughbred racing at Los Alamitos Race Course in Cypress, Calif. The “Home of California Chrome” will conduct its first-ever daytime Thoroughbred meet with eight days of racing this month followed by a longer race meet in the fall.

Picking up the void left by Betfair Hollywood Park, the new one-mile oval will host many historic and new races, introducing the best of daytime live Thoroughbred racing to the Orange County market. Opening day will feature the \$100,000 Bertrando Stakes, one of our new Golden State Series races for California-bred/sired horses. This mile event will signify the first time in which the gates will open in front of the grandstand as a stakes race at the historic track.

The commitment from Los Alamitos to offer both year-round stabling and season-

al racing has been vital through the transition process with the recent closure of Hollywood. For breeders/owners and the industry as a whole, ample stabling and racing opportunities provide the stability and incentive necessary to justify investment in California racing. The breeding decisions made today are dependent on the long-term assurance of quality racing venues and opportunities in the future.

Besides the race surface itself, which continues to receive rave reviews from horsemen, the facility has also experienced many improvements and enhancements. With many California-breds training and running at Los Alamitos, the CTBA is very excited and appreciative of the track's commitment and efforts to Thoroughbred racing.

On the subject of racing facility enhancement and investment, the summer Northern California Fair season marks

the renewal of Oak Tree Racing Association and its involvement at the Alameda County Fairgrounds meet at Pleasanton. As a long-time supporter and advocate for breeding and racing in the state, Oak Tree through its participation will definitely help strengthen racing in the North. Purse enhancements, made available through sponsorship dollars from Oak Tree, will provide horsemen the opportunity for higher returns. The CTBA has worked in conjunction with Oak Tree to offer not only the new \$100,000 Oak Tree Distaff for California-bred/sired horses, but also restricted maiden opportunities rarely seen in the North.

With these new commitments to racing, both in the South and the North, breeders and owners should be confident in the opportunities that will exist when the current foals arrive at the racetracks in the next few years. **CTB**



SCOTT MARTINEZ/LOS ALAMITOS PUBLICITY PHOTOS

Los Alamitos picks up the void vacated by Betfair Hollywood Park