



DOUG BURGE

CTBA PRESIDENT

A BIG DAY FOR CALIFORNIA RACING

The tremendous successes of 2014 continue to be both recognized and realized this year as classic winner California-bred California Chrome was recently honored as Eclipse Award Champion 3-Year-Old Male and Horse of the Year. He is the first Cal-bred to be named national Horse of the Year since Tiznow in 2000.

Chrome's accomplishments continue to fuel optimism within the state's breeding industry. This is evident in both the quality and quantity of mares and grade I-winning stallions residing in California.

The March issue of *California Thoroughbred*, which historically features the Cal-bred Champions of the previous year, will include extensive coverage of "Team Chrome's" achievements. Also detailed will be the divisional winners, leading sires, top broodmare, leading breeder, trainer of the year, and the annual Hall of Fame inductions.

The XXV Cal Cup, run on Jan. 24, once again truly showcased the California breeding industry. With large competitive fields (albeit a few scratches), and more than \$1 million in purses, the day continues to be both a horseplayer and owner/breeder's dream. The event was well attended and included a tribute to the owners/breeders of California Chrome at the CTBA industry party. The purple and green Chrome colors draped the packed party area, highlighted by videos of his races and pictures of him from a foal to a champion.

The handle on the day was also very good, as more than \$13 million was wagered nationwide, \$8.4 million of which was bet out-of-state, proving the popularity of the event across the country and an appreciation of California-bred racing in other jurisdictions.



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The Cal Cup continues to draw large crowds and showcase top Cal-bred races

For the second consecutive year Cal Cup was merged with Sunshine Millions and hosted in late January. This shift once again proved successful, as it is a better placement on the restricted stakes calendar. Also, hosting the event on the weekend prior to the Super Bowl allows for this showcase to have little competition from other major sports.

The races offered on this day continue to provide opportunities for various

horses. Besides the five stakes races that feature races for 3-year-olds, fillies and mares, and older horses both on dirt and turf, the day also offers races for Cal-bred maidens and first-condition allowance horses.

The results experienced the past two years indicates that Cal Cup has found its home in January at Santa Anita, and we will continue to work to make this California-bred showcase even better. After all, it was a year ago in the California Cup Derby that sparked the championship season for California Chrome.

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