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The CTBA Sales' Northern California Yearling and Horses of Racing Age Sale is growing annually, and this year's auction is coming on the heels of a successful 2015 edition. The 2016 sale will be held Tuesday, Aug. 16, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton.

In 2015 the sale's gross jumped 28% from the previous year, to \$1,349,800, with an average of \$11,537 and a median of \$7,000. Buyers are getting good value for their money too, as evidenced by the likes of Stars Aligned (ex Snow Proof) and a daughter of Lucky Pulpit—Mulberry Lane, by Cee's Tizzy.

Stars Aligned, a Cal-bred son of Idiot Proof—Reine des Neiges, by Smart Strike, topped the 2015 Northern California sale at \$72,000. Less than a year later Stars Aligned previewed well at the Barretts March 2-year-old sale and sold for \$150,000.

Timothy O'Leary bred Stars Aligned, Ellen Jackson prepped him at Victory Rose Thoroughbreds, and Sue Greene's Woodbridge Farm consigned him to the Northern sale. John Brocklebank bought Stars Aligned there for Vern Dickman's Dickman Legacy Ranch, and trainer Bob Baffert purchased him at Barretts.

John Harris bred the Lucky Pulpit

Cal-bred opportunities abound: Last year this Lucky Pulpit—Mulberry Lane filly sold at CTBA's Northern California August sale for \$20,000 and brought \$150,000 at Barretts May this year

filly and sold her to Sean McCarthy for \$20,000 at the 2015 Northern California sale. McCarthy's wife, Kim, consigned her to this year's Barretts May 2-year-old sale through her McCarthy Bloodstock, and the youngster brought a final bid of \$150,000 from George Bolton.

Graduates of the 2015 sale are just now starting to reach the races, and already they are winning. Tchula Sunset, a \$17,500 purchase, won at Golden Gate Fields June 3. Premier Thoroughbreds bred the 2-year-old son of Sierra Sunset—Tchula Miss, by Pentelicus. Woodbridge Farm sold Tchula Sunset to Curt and Lila Lanning, for whom he now races.

Woodbridge also sold Candy Pink, a \$4,500 purchase who won June 16 at Pleasanton. Woodbridge bred the daughter of Tannersmyman—Smoke Over Water, by Stormy Atlantic, in partnership with Jim Eaton. Martin Kenney bought Candy Pink, and she races for Sylvia Kenney.

Lobo, bred by Cole Ranch, which sold him for \$34,000, captured a race at Golden Gate June 12. Lloyd Mason and Robert Jones purchased the son of Tribal Rule—Serena's Echo, by Swiss Yodeler.

Two by Run Brother Ron went through the 2015 sale as 2-year-olds and have won this year at 3. Renegade Run, bred

and owned by George and Mary Clare Schmitt, has won three times at Golden Gate Fields, on Feb. 27, May 6 and 28. The Schmitts also bred and own Lexi's Run in partnership, and that filly scored in her first attempt, also at Golden Gate.

Earlier sales graduates have gone on to win stakes, such as Cal-bred Deb's Wildcard, last year's Seattle Handicap victress. She has earned more than \$125,000 and was a \$17,500 purchase in 2013.

Sire power for the 216 yearlings looks to be especially strong in this year's catalog. Many top California and Eastern-based sires are represented. The perennial leading sire Unusual Heat, who has total progeny earnings exceeding \$50 million, is among them.

Please visit www.ctba.com when the catalog is available, on or before July 6, to view the complete list of sires. The catalogs will be mailed on or before July 18.

Anyone wishing to attend the sale and stay nearby can get a special hotel rate of \$99 at the host hotel, the Holiday Inn Dublin-Pleasanton. Use the code CTB to get the group rate. The cutoff date for the group rate is July 27. The hotel is located at 6680 Regional Street, Dublin, Calif. 94568. Please call 800-465-4329 or visit www.HolidayInn.com/Dublin to make your reservations. **CTB**