



*The 2011/2012 California
Broodmare of the Year*

by EMILY SHIELDS

E.W. "Bud" Johnston calls Winning in Style "a terrific mare," which is both true and a bit of an understatement.

Johnston's homebred mare was recently voted the 2012 California Broodmare of the Year. She is best known as the dam of 2011 Eclipse Champion Older Male, Acclamation, but she has also produced two other stakes horses among five winners from seven runners.

Johnston is enshrined in California's Racing Hall of Fame alongside his father, E. B. Johnston. The elder Johnston acquired Winning in Style's second dam, Solidity, in the early 1960s. She immediately repaid him by producing the five-time 1964 stakes winner Fleet Treat, who is honored every year with a race in her name at the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club. She also foaled grade III winner Impressive Style and stakes winner Chief Hawk Ear.

Lady With Style, a daughter of Fleet Discovery, was born in 1974. She produced five winners as a broodmare. Her best included the graded stakes winner and \$791,725-earner Stylish Winner, third in the \$1 million Santa Anita Handicap (grade I) in 1989, and Stylish Stud. That stakes winner was third in the inaugural \$300,000 California Cup Classic Handicap at Santa Anita Park in 1990.

Lady With Style's second to last foal was Winning in Style. The daughter of Silveyville never raced, but joined Johnston's impressive Old English Rancho broodmare band. Her first two foals, by Obratsovy, did not race either, but her fourth foal, Flying in Style by Flying Sensation, won once in two tries. Next came Do It in Style, by Bertrando, who earned \$89,385 with three wins.

Winning In Style: A Flair For Success

Judy's in Style, born in 1999 and named after Johnston's wife and business partner, did not win, but kicked off a series of stakes horses for Winning in Style. Strut Your Stuff, a filly by Bold Badgett, was third in the \$99,300 Cat's Cradle Handicap at Hollywood Park. She earned \$233,137.

Always in Style was foaled in 2005. The daughter of Lucayan Prince finished second in the \$125,000 California Cup Juvenile Fillies in 2007, and second in the \$50,000 Las Madrinas Handicap in 2011. She earned \$153,252 with 11 on-the-board finishes in 18 starts.

On May 16, 2006, Winning in Style's greatest legacy was born: her strapping bay son of Unusual Heat, Acclamation. Under the conditioning of trainer Don Warren, Acclamation broke his maiden in his third start on Dec. 21 of his juvenile season. At three, he won an allowance optional claiming race and finished third in the grade I, \$300,000 Hollywood Derby and a pair of grade II races, the \$350,000 Del Mar Derby and the \$150,000 San Gabriel Handicap.

In 2010, Acclamation surprised when he won the grade II, \$150,000 Jim Murray Handicap by 7 1/2 lengths. The runaway victor had led by as many as 10 lengths at one point, and was never truly challenged. He employed similar tactics to win his first grade I in the \$250,000 Charles Whittingham Memorial Handicap, covering the grassy 10-furlong distance in 1:59.45.

After poor performances in a pair of grade I races, the BetFair/TVG United Nations Stakes at New Jersey's Monmouth Park and the Eddie Read Stakes at the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, Acclamation was put away with a 2011 campaign in mind.

He returned at five to successfully defend his title in both



*Winning in Style with her 2012 Vronsky colt at
Old English Rancho in Sanger, California.*

The Results Of The Ballot For The 2011/2012 California Broodmare Of The Year

As Voted By
The CTBA Membership

- 1st—Winning in Style
- 2nd—Blending Element (Ire)
- 3rd—Cause I'm Tricky
- 4th—Wilshe Amaze
- 5th—Ankha

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the Jim Murray and the Charlie Whittingham. At that point, he looked merely like a front-running freak on the grass, but his legend grew exponentially with each passing race.

After winning the Whittingham for the second time, Acclamation wheeled back at Del Mar and shortened up to 1 1/8 miles for the grade I, \$300,000 Eddie Read Stakes. He defeated the like of grade I winner Jeranimo, then set his sights on the Pacific Classic Stakes.

To win this \$1 million event, Acclamation would have to prove he could win on Del Mar's all-weather Polytrack surface over top-class main track horses such as Game On Dude and Twirling Candy. At the wire, Acclamation prevailed by a head, edging favored Twirling Candy in a thrilling renewal of Del Mar's signature race.

After taking the grade II, \$150,000 Clement L. Hirsch Turf Championship, Acclamation went back to the sidelines to prepare for a 2012 campaign. While he was resting at Warren's Santa Anita barn, he was named the Eclipse Champion Older Male of 2011, as well as last year's California Horse of the Year, Champion Older Male and Champion Grass Horse.

Due to some minor setbacks, Acclamation's seasonal bow was delayed until the Whittingham, but he won the \$250,000 contest, becoming only the first horse since Hall of Fame legend John Henry to take the race three times, and the first to do it consecutively. He defended his Eddie Read title as well, running his win streak to seven, and was on target to try the Pacific Classic again before suffering a mild strain of a ligament in mid-August. Acclamation has

11 wins, two seconds and six thirds in 30 starts and has earned \$1,958,048.

"There are over thirty stakes horses descended from Winning in Style's second dam," Johnston said, referring to Solidity. "We kept most of the females in the family and bred them, which has turned out well for us. We've had a lot of good horses, Flying First Class among them."

Flying First Class, a foal of 2004, is out of Flying in Style. The Cal-bred son of Perfect Mandate won the Derby Trial Stakes at Churchill Downs in 2007, before contesting the grade I Preakness Stakes at Pimlico. He was campaigned by Hall of Famer D. Wayne Lukas while racing for Johnston.

With several of her other daughters retained as Old English Rancho broodmares, it is possible that Winning in Style will continue to influence the sport for generations to come. Do It in Style is the dam of \$80,260-earner Atta Boy Pete and \$107,980-earner He's So Stylish has Winning in Style as a third dam, while Madeoftherightstuff, an Aug. 16 maiden winner at Del Mar, is out of Strut Your Stuff.

Winning in Style had not delivered a foal since Acclamation, but produced a "good-sized" Vronksy colt this year, but is not in foal for 2013. It becomes increasingly difficult to get the 24-year-old mare in foal, but every attempt is made with Winning in Style.

"When blue hen mares come along, they are awfully nice to have. She has been a prolific mare," Johnston amended. That is more appropriate praise for a California Broodmare of the Year. 🐾

Winning in Style

**Winning in Style, b. f.
Foaled 1988
in California**

Silveyville, 1978

Petrone, 1964

Zurina, 1970

Lady With Style, 1974

Fleet Discovery, 1963

Solidity, 1957

Total Produce Record:

Named Foals	Runners	Winners	SWs (graded)	Stakes-Placed
9	7	5	1(1)	2

California Foals (Named):

1993 High Styled, b. f., by Obratzsoy. Unraced.
1995 Like Her Style, b. f., by Obratzsoy. Unraced.
1996 Panache, b. f., by Ruhlmann. In NA, Unplaced at 3 (NA SSI = 0.00): 1.
1997 Flying In Style, b. f., by Flying Sensation. In NA, Winner at 4, \$14,820 (NA SSI = 3.16): 2.
1998 Do It In Style, b. f., by Bertrando. In NA, 3 wins at 3 and 4, \$89,385 (NA SSI = 1.93): 18.

1999 Judy's In Style, ch. f., by River Flyer. In NA, Unplaced at 3 (NA SSI = 0.00): 4.

2001 **Strut Your Stuff**, b. f., by Bold Badgett. In NA, Winner at 3, \$36,645 (NA SSI = 4.45): 3. In US, 4 wins at 4 and 6, \$196,492 (US SSI = 5.44): 16. 3rd Cat's Cradle Handicap-R (\$11,400, HOL) \$99,300. (Total: \$233,137)

2002 Stylish Prince, b. g., by Lucayan Prince. Unraced.

2005 **Always In Style**, b. f., by Lucayan Prince. In US, Winner at 3 and 5, placed at 6, \$153,252 (US SSI = 3.26): 18. 2nd California Cup Juv. Fillies S.-R (\$25,000, OSA) \$125,000, 2nd Las Madrinhas H. (\$9,500, FPX) \$50,000.

2006 **ACCLAMATION**, b. c., by Unusual Heat. Champion Older Male 2011. In US, 9 wins, 2 to 5, \$1,628,048 (US SSI = 22.31): 28. 1st Tvq Pacific Classic S. [G1] (\$1,000,000, DMR), 1st Eddie Read S. [G1] (\$300,000, DMR), 1st Charles Whittingham Memorial H. [G1] (\$250,000, HOL), 1st Charles Whittingham Memorial H. [G1] (\$250,000, HOL), 1st Jim Murray H. [G2] (\$150,000, HOL), 1st Clement L. Hirsch Turf Championship S. [G2] (\$150,000, SA), 1st Jim Murray H. [G2] (\$150,000, HOL), 2nd Ralph M. Hinds Pomona Inv. H. [L] (\$18,000, FPX) \$99,000, 3rd Del Mar Derby [G2] (\$350,000, DMR), 3rd Hollywood Derby [G1] (\$300,000, HOL), 3rd Strub S. [G2] (\$200,000, SA), 3rd San Gabriel H. [G2] (\$150,000, SA). Ntr Del Mar 1 1/4m 02:00.61 (A) 2011.



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Acclamation—Grade I, \$1 million TVG Pacific Classic Stakes—August 28, 2011