



## *The 2012/2013 California Broodmare Of The Year*

by **EMILY SHIELDS**

Twenty-three different mares received support during the contentious voting for the 2012/2013 California Broodmare of the Year award, and all were deserving of the honor in their own way. Amongst those to finish towards the top of the rankings were Miss Alphie, dam of stakes winners Alphie's Bet and Unusual Heatwave, and Wilshe Amaze, dam of the 2011 Eclipse Champion Sprinter, Amazombie, but it was Miami Margie who took home the trophy.

With eight winners from 10 foals to race, including three stakes victors, Miami Margie was a deserved choice, but the New York-bred daughter of Shadeed is no longer even in California. The 18-year-old was purchased by Canadian Vern Hryciuk and relocated to Alberta early in 2011, just before her best runner to date, Ain't No Other, really got going.

On the racetrack, Miami Margie was somewhat mediocre. She made 15 starts in New York, all but one of them at Finger Lakes, winning three and finishing on the board six times in total. Her pedigree suggested she would be more useful in the shed; she was the first foal from her dam, the 1988 Persian Bold (Ire) mare Puzla (Ire), who was stakes-placed at two and three. Later, Puzla would produce three black-type winners, starting with the American stakes winner Persian Silver, and followed by Indian stakes winners Giacosa (Ind) and Misschevious Trot (Ind).

The ability to produce stakes horses would go on to run in the family, but Tom and Debi Stull of Tommy Town Thoroughbreds were only hoping for that when they purchased Miami Margie for \$45,000 at the Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale in 2000. She was part of the farm's initial influx of broodmares; the Stulls had purchased the freshman sire Valid Wager and 33 broodmares in Florida less than a month before they

# Miami Margie: A Deserved Choice

spent \$1,524,000 on 28 more mares in Kentucky. Tommy Town Thoroughbreds went on to become the leading breeders in California during 2009 and 2012.

Miami Margie was in foal to Tale of the Cat when she was purchased by Tommy Town; the resulting foal became the multiple stakes-winning gelding Go Kitty Go. He started his career at Canada's Woodbine Racecourse in 2003, but didn't win until he was transferred to Sunland Park in New Mexico. Go Kitty Go ended up breaking his maiden in the \$105,450 Borderland Derby, stunning at 24-1 odds over the favorite Rocky Gulch in February of 2004.

He continued to pick up stakes checks on that state's circuit, winning the \$33,400 Inaugural Handicap and \$51,600 Ruidoso Thoroughbred Championship Handicap in 2006. Go Kitty Go eventually placed in six other stakes races during his career and earned \$318,896 with seven wins, 10 seconds and nine thirds in 57 starts.

Miami Margie's next three foals were all multiple winners, starting with Royal Tiny Wager, born in 2002. The daughter of Valid Wager won twice in Texas, earning \$16,889. The gutsy and consistent Strikinout N Miami, a 2003 gelding by Smart Strike, has made a whopping 87 starts, breaking his maiden at Hollywood Park and winning nine more times since to earn \$153,153 while finishing on the board 59 times. Miami Bay, a 2004 gelding by Lord Carson, started 55 times with eight wins, 10 seconds and four thirds, earning \$78,323.

Topper Shopper, foaled in 2005, was Miami Margie's next stakes winner. The flashy chestnut son of Tommy Town's Old Topper broke his maiden at the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club by 3 1/2 lengths over future world



*Miami Margie with her 2013 filly by Kiridashi at Vern and Debbie Hrychik's Farm in Alberta, Canada, during August of this year.*

### The Results Of The Ballot For The 2012/2013 California Broodmare Of The Year

As Voted By  
The CTBA Membership

- 1st—Miami Margie
- 2nd—Miss Alphie
- 3rd—Wilshe Amaze
- 4th—Til A Mistress
- 5th—Spanish Halo

record holder and grade I winner Bob Black Jack. In his subsequent start, Topper Shopper defeated a field of nine rivals, including future grade I winner Golden Doc A, in Del Mar's \$113,400 I'm Smokin Stakes. As a three-year-old in 2008, Topper Shopper won the \$63,050 Foothill Stakes at Fairplex Park, crushing the field by 4 1/2 lengths. His career ended with seven wins, five seconds and two thirds in 19 starts for earnings of \$345,476.

After producing three-time winner Ministerfrommiami, a 2007 son of Tommy Town's Ministers Wild Cat, Miami Margie foaled a full brother to Topper Shopper named Ain't No Other in 2008. Tommy Town retains ownership in the now five-year-old gelding, who is both a multiple stakes winner and multiple graded stakes-placed. He won five starts in a row as a two- and three-year-old, including the \$85,900 Harry Henson Stakes at Hollywood Park, to cap off that streak. At three, Ain't No Other finished third in a pair of grade III events, the Lazaro Barrera Memorial Stakes and Morvich Stakes, in-between which he won the \$63,250 Livermore Valley Wines Stakes.

Ain't No Other proved to be as efficient in Southern California as Northern California, and has rarely finished off the board no matter the surface. This year, he has won the \$100,750 Sensational Star Stakes down the hillside turf course at Santa Anita Park and the \$66,350 Jess Jackson Owners' Handicap on Santa Rosa's grass course. He has

earned \$495,985 with nine wins, six seconds and eight thirds in 28 starts.

In February of 2011, a year after Miami Margie had foaled her last winner to date, an Old Topper colt named Light of My Life, she was sold privately to Hryciuk. "I had bought two mares for my partner and myself, but I thought, 'What if I lose one?'" Hryciuk recalled. "I called Mike Allen at Tommy Town and he sent me a list of four mares they had for sale. Miami Margie was one of them. I did some research and thought she was a pretty nice mare for the money."

Hryciuk is the breeder of record on Miami Margie's 2011 son of Old Topper, Old Top Hat. He was sold for \$70,040 at last year's Alberta Thoroughbred Sale in October, the highest price paid at that auction in more than 10 years. Although he has not won, Old Top Hat is stakes-placed at Northlands Park and has never been off the board. Miami Margie has a weanling filly by graded stakes winner Kiridashi, whom Hryciuk says is going to be a "big, really tall horse. She's beautiful and as correct as can be."

Miami Margie, who is in foal to graded stakes winner Stephanotis, is still "a little bull," according to Hryciuk. "The person who looked after her when she was in Vancouver had to let her out of the barn first, and put her in last," he said. "She needs a little extra attention." With her produce record, Miami Margie has certainly earned it. 🐾

## Miami Margie

**Miami Margie, b. f.  
Foaled 1995  
In New York**

Shadeed, 1982	Nijinsky II, 1967
Puzla (Ire), 1988	Continual, 1976
	Persian Bold (Ire), 1975
	Madame Du Barry (Fr), 1980

### Total Produce Record:

Named Foals	Runners	Winners	SWs (graded)	Stakes-Placed
10	9	8	3(0)	1

### California Foals (Named):

- 2001 **GO KITTY GO**, dk. b. or br. g., by Tale of the Cat. In NA, 2 wins at 3, \$142,265 (NA SSI = 3.02): 16. In US, 5 wins, 4 to 8, \$176,631 (US SSI = 1.93): 41. 1st Borderland Derby [L] (\$63,270, SUN) \$105,450, 1st Ruidoso Thoroughbred Championship H. (\$30,960, RUI) \$51,600, 1st Inaugural H. [N] (\$20,040, SRP) \$33,400, 2nd Kachina Mile H. (\$14,476, ZIA) \$65,800, 2nd Thoroughbred Overnight S. [N] (\$3,150, RUI) \$15,000, 3rd Premiere Breeders' Cup S. [L] (\$16,080, ZIA) \$160,800, 3rd Zia Park Express S. (\$6,880, ZIA) \$68,800, 3rd Premier S. (\$5,670, ZIA) \$56,700, 3rd Curriobot H. (\$5,000, SUN) \$50,000. (Total: \$318,896)
- 2002 Royal Tiny Wager, dk. b. or br. f., by Valid Wager. In NA, Winner at 2, \$4,200 (NA SSI = 0.41): 3. In US, Winner at 4, \$12,689 (US SSI = 0.22): 21. (Total: \$16,889)
- 2003 Strikinout N Miami, b. g., by Smart Strike. In US, 10 wins, 2 to 10, 2013, \$153,153 (US SSI = 0.80): 84.

- 2004 Miami Bay, b. g., by Lord Carson. In US, 8 wins, 2 to 6, \$78,323 (US SSI = 0.60): 54. Ntr Albuquerque 4 1/2f 00:50.08 2010.
- 2005 **TOPPER SHOPPER**, ch. g., by Old Topper. In US, 7 wins, 2 to 4, \$345,476 (US SSI = 5.64): 19. 1st I'm Smokin S.-R (\$68,040, DMR) \$113,400, 1st Foothill S. (\$35,750, FPX) \$63,050, 2nd Sophomore Sprint S. (\$14,300, BM) \$59,530, 3rd Barretts Juvenile S.-R (\$17,790, FPX) \$148,250.
- 2007 Ministerfrommiami, dk. b. or br. g., by Ministers Wild Cat. In US, 3 wins at 4 and 5, placed at 6, 2013, \$63,078 (US SSI = 0.49): 42.
- 2008 **AIN'T NO OTHER**, b. g., by Old Topper. In US, 9 wins, 2 to 5, 2013, \$495,985 (US SSI = 5.68): 26. 1st Sensational Star S.-R (\$60,000, SA) \$100,750, 1st Harry Henson S. [L] (\$56,100, HOL) \$85,900, 1st Jess Jackson Owners' H. (\$42,400, SR) \$66,350, 1st Livermore Valley Wines S. (\$40,950, PLN) \$63,250, 2nd Donald Valpredo California Cup Sprint S.-R (\$20,000, SA) \$100,000, 2nd Joe Hernandez H. (\$19,000, SA) \$79,880, 2nd Sam J. Whiting Memorial H. [L] (\$15,000, PLN) \$75,000, 2nd Jess Jackson Owners' H. (\$13,050, SR) \$66,850, 2nd Governor's Cup H. (\$9,250, FPX) \$50,000, 3rd Pirate's Bounty S. [N] (\$13,933, DMR) \$104,375, 3rd Morvich S. [G3] (\$100,000, SA), 3rd Lazaro Barrera Memorial S. [G3] (\$100,000, HOL), 3rd Daytona S. [G3] (\$100,000, SA), 3rd Cool Frenchy S. (\$11,262, BHP) \$80,740, 3rd Jess Jackson Owners' H. (\$7,900, SR) \$68,640, 3rd Oakland S. (\$7,800, GG) \$53,000.
- 2009 Paperrockscissors, b. g., by Old Topper. In US, Unplaced at 3 (US SSI = 0.48): 2.
- 2010 Light of My Life, b. c., by Old Topper. In US, Winner at 3, 2013, \$43,133 (US SSI = 0.57): 9.



**Go Kitty Go**  
\$105,450 Borderland Derby  
February 29, 2004



**Topper Shopper**  
\$113,400 I'm Smokin Stakes  
September 3, 2007



**Ain't No Other**  
\$100,750 Sensational Star Stakes  
February 24, 2013