



# LOVE THE CHASE

DAM OF  
HIGH-PROFILE  
CALIFORNIA  
CHROME  
NAMED TOP  
BROODMARE



BY EMILY SHIELDS

**B**y now the juggernaut that is California Chrome has made an impression on many, becoming a household name last spring. The popular chestnut colt earned a wealth of year-end awards, both on the national stage with an Eclipse Award for Horse of the Year and champion 3-year-old male, and at home as California's Horse of the Year, champion turf horse, and champion 3-year-old male.

As added recognition, his dam, Love the Chase, was named California's 2014 Broodmare of the Year. The 9-year-old daughter of Not For Love—Chase It Down, by Polish Numbers, not only earned her title with only one runner on the track but did it with her very first foal.

Steve Coburn and Perry Martin bought into a Blinkers On Racing Stable partnership that through trainer Greg Gilchrist had purchased Love the Chase for \$30,000 at the 2008 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2-year-old sale. With Gilchrist



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at the helm, the chestnut filly debuted as the favorite in a \$32,000 maiden claiming event Dec. 4, 2008. She finished fourth and followed with a sixth for the same tag.

The filly was dropped in for an \$8,000 tag Jan. 23, 2009, and finished sixth again despite being favored once more. She put

it all together one start later, winning by  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lengths in driving fashion at the \$8,000 level. She wasn't claimed, and as the partnership on her was being dissolved, Martin and Perry bought her for \$8,000.

Love the Chase ran twice more, finishing last both times, and once a breathing





problem was discovered, she was retired. An initial mating with Redatorre (Brz) didn't take, but the following season Love the Chase was in foal to Lucky Pulpit, who stood for \$2,500.

The son of Pulpit led the California first-crop sire list in 2010 despite only 10 runners.

Coburn and Perry took heat for purchasing and breeding the filly. Because of the criticism, Coburn and Perry named their partnership DAP Racing, which stands for Dumb Ass Partners. In the end their gamble proved to be a wise one after all.

Love the Chase's success in the breeding shed might not have been a total surprise. Her sire, Not For Love, is a full brother to 1989 Eclipse champion 2-year-old male Rhythm. Not For Love's dam, grade I winner Dance Number, is out of champion Numbered Account, the dam of stakes-placed Polish Numbers, who, in turn, is the sire of Love the Chase's dam, Chase It Down. That makes Love the Chase 3x3 to the great producer Numbered Account, but the influential bloodlines don't end there.

Winner Chase It Down is out of New York stakes winner Chase the Dream, a royally bred mare in her own right. Her sire, Sir Ivor, famously won many of the United Kingdom's biggest races and went on to be a top sire and broodmare sire. This combination of speed and stamina in Love the Chase's pedigree enabled her to



California Chrome was the first foal from Love the Chase and her only runner

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**California Chrome has two full sisters from Love the Chase. One, a 2-year-old in training and the other a yearling who is almost as big as the 2-year-old**

produce a precocious juvenile and classic sophomore such as California Chrome.

The flashy chestnut colt was born Feb. 18, 2011, and was brought up at Harris Farms in Coalinga, where Love the Chase still resides. California Chrome looked good enough in early training that Love the Chase was bred back to Lucky Pulpit after being barren in 2012.

After breaking his maiden in his second start, California Chrome added the \$100,250 Graduation Stakes and the

\$200,500 King Glorious Stakes as a 2-year-old. He turned heads when winning the latter by 6¼ lengths, stamping himself as a possible contender on the Triple Crown trail.

The King Glorious kicked off a six-race win streak that saw California Chrome rise to the head of the class. He won the \$250,750 California Cup Derby by 5½ lengths over grade I winner Tamarando, then cruised to a 7¼-length romp in the \$300,500 San Felipe Stakes (gr. II). Distance questions surrounded Coburn and Martin's colt, but a 5¼-length score in the \$1,000,750 Santa Anita Derby (gr. I) made him the clear favorite for the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (gr. I).

The Kentucky Derby is supposed to be one of the most difficult races of the year to win, but California Chrome made it look almost easy with a 1¼-length score. He followed that classic victory with another, a win in the Preakness Stakes (gr. I). He missed out on the Triple Crown after injuring a hoof at the start of the Belmont Stakes (gr. I) and finished fourth.

After a summer break California Chrome finished a disappointing sixth in the Pennsylvania Derby (gr. II) and third, beaten just a nose and a neck, in the Breeders' Cup Classic (gr. I). In an unusual twist, trainer Art Sherman wheeled him back in the \$300,250 Hollywood Derby (gr. IT) on the grass, and California Chrome responded with a two-length victory.

Love the Chase has a 2-year-old filly named Hope's Love in training at Harris Ranch, as well as a strapping yearling filly. Both are full sisters to California Chrome.

"They love what the 2-year-old is doing," Coburn said, "and the yearling is just out being a horse. But she's almost as big as the 2-year-old already. She's just really well put together and in great shape."

Coburn joked about Love the Chase now being "married" to Lucky Pulpit, as she is due to give birth to another foal by him in April. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it, you know?" Coburn said.

Because of the success of California Chrome, Lucky Pulpit's fee has since been raised to \$10,000. And while he certainly added plenty to California Chrome, much of California Chrome's stamina and prowess can also be attributed to his dam, Love the Chase, the Broodmare of the Year. **CTB**



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Love the Chase with her 2014 filly by Lucky Pulpit