



COURTESY OF VINMAR FARMS

Ashley's Folly, dam of champion Ashleyuvssugar, wins her second Broodmare of the Year title

ASHLEY'S FOLLY

BY EMILY SHIELDS

Just one year after Love the Chase became the first to be named California's Broodmare of the Year twice, Ashley's Folly has become the second. The 18-year-old daughter of Urgent Request—Cozzene's Kiss, by Cozzene, was first honored in 2015 and has taken the title once again. With five winners and two stakes horses from seven starters, Ashley's Folly has progeny earnings of more than \$1.7 million.

Much of that is due to the efforts of Ashleyuvssugar, who, like his dam, is also owned by the partnership of Sharon Alesia, Mike Mellen's BranJam Stables, and Joe Ciaglia. Trained by Peter Eurton, Ashley-

luvssugar has earned \$1,339,349 with 10 wins in 24 starts. He broke his maiden via disqualification first out at 39-1, then added a pair of grade 2 stakes races as a 4-year-old, the \$200,750 San Luis Rey Stakes and the \$200,000 Charles Whittingham Stakes. Although he lost the title of champion turf horse that year to grade 1 heroine Spanish Queen, Ashleyuvssugar had more in store.

In 2016, he won another pair of grade 2 races, the \$252,415 Del Mar Handicap Presented by The Japan Racing Association and the \$201,725 John Henry Turf Championship Stakes. He then finished fifth of 12 in the \$3,680,000 Longines Breeders' Cup Turf (G1T), defeated by four horses shipped in from Europe, including globe-trotting superstar Highland Reel. Those efforts earned Ashleyuvssugar his first California champion turf horse award,

a feat he duplicated in 2017 with wins in the California Cup Turf Classic Stakes and the Whittingham. He was also named champion older male.

Other runners out of Ashley's Folly include three-time stakes-placed winner Ashley's Sassy and winners Ashley's Cutie, Ashley's Bambino, and Ashley's Charms. The mare has others waiting in the wings, with Ashley's Big Guy, her sophomore gelding by Coil, having made two starts in January to kick off his career and a Vronsky foal due in February. Ashley's Folly was briefly in Kentucky to be bred to Hard Spun in 2016, but the foal died in utero and Ashley's Folly returned to California.

She originally spent time at EA Ranches, then lived at the former Magali Farms before moving to her current location, Rancho San Miguel in San Miguel, Calif. Ciaglia noted that Ashley's Folly might be bred back to Vronsky this season.

"I want to see how her baby this year looks," he said.

Ciaglia didn't originally intend to be a part of Ashley's Folly. He was interested in another horse owned by the late Frank Alesia, Sharon's husband, who turned around and offered him a package deal instead. The partnership of Alesia, Mellen, and Ciaglia has campaigned its share of stakes horses, but although winless in four starts, Ashley's Folly has proved best in the breeding shed.

Mellen had nothing but praise for the exceptional broodmare. "The mare has been great," he said. "You can't ask for more." **CTB**