



From the **EXECUTIVE CORNER**



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GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES AT DEL MAR

The Golden State Stakes Series, with total annual purses of more than \$5 million, is featured prominently during the summer meet at Del Mar. Eight restricted stakes are offered over the 36-day meet with opportunities for 2-year-olds, straight 3-year-olds, and older horses.

The four 2-year-old stakes have been offered for many years and help kick off the black-type opportunities for young horses. The California Thoroughbred Breeders Association has been adamant in protecting these 2-year-old races in order to offer a quick reward to the owners/breeders of young horses that have broken their maiden in the spring or summer. Many people have inquired as to why two of the races at the end of the meet include a non-winners of a sweepstake of \$50,000 clause.

This provision was added at the request of the racing officials at Del Mar as an experiment to determine whether there would be positive effects on field size. At the conclusion

of the meet, Del Mar and CTBA will evaluate and discuss the results in order to determine whether such a provision will be included in the future.

The Fleet Treat and Real Good Deal stakes, each with a purse of \$150,000, are the last restricted stakes opportunities of the year for straight 3-year-olds. As such, these races continue to be extremely popular with the horsemen.

Also, the two turf races offered at \$150,000 each for 3-year-olds and up consistently provide good, competitive fields. The Solana Beach had a field of nine, and the California Dreamin' had a full field of 11. Each of these winners is featured on both the cover and pages 24-29 of this publication.

Congratulations to the breeders, owners, and all the connections. Thanks to the joint cooperation and support of breeders, racetracks, and the Thoroughbred Owners of California, there are many lucrative Golden State Stakes to look forward to in the remainder of this year and into the future. **CTB**