by TERE ALBANESE

A close race is a good one and the race between Forumstar and Soviet Sojourn for Broodmare of the Year could not have been any closer. One vote separated the winner from the runner up.

No one would deny that Soviet Sojourn's son, Indian Charlie, is a star. But Forumstar has produced three stars-Distinguish Forum, Starry Ice and Champ's Star, and so the highest honors went to her. All three horses were bred by Barbara and Jerry Dutton and trained by Jerry Dutton.

Born in 1983, Forumstar is a daughter of Inherent Star (Pia Star), out of Distinguished Gal, by Forum. She was bred in California by Albert Kesheshian and James McCone.

During Forumstar's career as a racehorse she was trained by Dutton and earned just over \$40,000. She was bred to Hey Rob and dropped her first foal, Oriental Starlet, in 1990. Kesheshian and McCone took the filly and turned over ownership of Forumstar to the Duttons.

The following season the Duttons bred Forumstar to Candi's Gold (Yukon) and came up with another filly by the name of Candi's Star who earned \$74,050.

"She was at Ron Stolich's (Blooming Hills Thoroughbred Farm), so I bred her back to Shanekite (Hoist Bar)," said Dutton.

Distinguish Forum was the result of that breeding and she went on to win the Westchester Stakes earning a total of \$205,298.

The Duttons have since sold Distinguish Forum. She is presently in foal to Geri (Theatrical) who stands at Brookside Farm in Versailles, Kentucky.

After foaling Distinguish Forum, Forumstar was sent to Running Luck Ranch near Fresno. There she was bred to Ice Age (Icecapade) and produced Starry Ice.

"Starry Ice will always be my favorite," said Barbara Dutton. "She's the only one so far that's won the three filly stakes races at Hollywood Park. She won the Nursery Stakes, the Cinderella Stakes and the Landaluce (Grade 2). That's quite an accomplishment."

Starry Ice wound up winning \$209,300 and is now in foal to Hennessy (Storm Cat) who stands at Ashford Stud in Versailles, Kentucky.

"We've had quite a few calls on her," said Barbara. "So we're actually thinking about putting her in the November sale in Kentucky. We'll see if she brings enough money. If she doesn't she'll be mine."

If Starry Ice fails to bring enough money the Duttons' consolation will be a very nice foal and possibly the beginning of another very nice broodmare career.

After Starry Ice, Forumstar's next foal was Champ's Star, by Fabulous Champ (Something-fabulous).

"I had a little problem with Fabulous Champ and was going to make a sire out of him," said Dutton. "He was there at Running Luck Ranch, so I bred Forumstar back to him."

Champ's Star was one of only two foals in Fabulous Champ's test crop. Champ's Star is still running and looks like he might surpass both his half sisters in earnings. He finished third in the I'm Smokin' Stakes, the Grade 3 California Juvenile

Stakes and the California Sires Stakes. He ran second in the Harry Henson Stakes and won the Zany Tactics Stakes. So far he has pocketed \$176,998.

The Duttons bred Forumstar once more to Stage Colony (Pleasant Colony), who stands at Carl and Olivia Cannata's Lakeview Thoroughbred Farm. They have since sold her to David Greathouse of Glencrest Farm in Midway, Kentucky, and she is owned by the partnership of Glencrest Farm and J.R. Querbes III.

The union between Forumstar and Stage Colony produced Star Colony who made his first start for the Duttons in early June at Hollywood Park where he finished fifth.

"We like Star Colony," said Barbara. "But he's not bred to go short. I think the Stage Colonys are going to want to go long. So we haven't been in a rush to start him again."

Forumstar presently has a yearling on the ground by Bertrando.

"They're planning on breeding Forumstar to Wild Again this year," said Barbara. "She's just been a super mare. I'm really thrilled for her."

"David Greathouse can't be here to accept the trophy (in August)," continued Barbara. "So I said I'd accept the trophy for him. But he said that the trophy was ours anyway because we had developed the mare and we should have the trophy."

The legacy of a broodmare like Forumstar will go on and on traveling across all borders. As winner of Broodmare of the Year, Forumstar's legacy has already begun to travel, but it started right here and California will no doubt continue to reap the benefits of her influence.