

# Penpont (NZ): Beating The Odds



*The 2007/2008 California  
Broodmare of the Year*

by **LARRY BORTSTEIN**

When Penpont (NZ) retired to the breeding shed eight years ago, the odds were certainly against her becoming a successful broodmare.

"She's not real pretty to look at," said Craig Allen, the Farm Manager of Old English Rancho in Sanger, California, where the 14-year-old mare resides.

Penpont also didn't have the racing resumé to suggest she would achieve success as a broodmare.

Her only victory in 17 starts, including the first two in her homeland, came in her 16th race, a \$20,000 maiden claiming race going six furlongs at Fairplex Park on Sept. 24, 1999, with Martin Pedroza in the saddle. En route to \$23,152 in earnings, she brought back a check only six times.

"(Trainer) Roger Stein gave her to me because she had no value as a racemare or broodmare," recalled Barry Abrams.

Stein knew that Abrams, a longtime assistant and colleague, was in the process of trying to establish a newly-retired turf runner he had trained as a stallion.

The stallion was Unusual Heat. That he has become one of the predominant stallions in the Thoroughbred industry is borne out by his high national ranking in nearly every statistical category.

And Penpont has contributed a big part to that success story.

The chestnut daughter of Crested Wave—Imposing Star, by Imposing (Aus), has been bred exclusively to Unusual Heat, and what a beautiful partnership that has been!

To date, Penpont has delivered five Unusual Heat foals who have raced. Not only have they all won, but each has earned more than \$150,000 in purse money.

The prolific quintet includes stakes winners Unusual Suspect, a four-year-old colt, and Golden Doc A, a three-year-old filly, who were preceded by 2001 colt Master Heat, 2002 gelding Solid Fuel and 2003 mare Rushen Heat.

Golden Doc A gave her sire his first grade I victory when she won Santa Anita Park's \$250,000 Las Virgenes Stakes on Feb. 9 this year.

This impressive array of offspring has earned for Penpont the 2007/2008 California Broodmare of the Year award, as voted by members of the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association.

In winning the award, Penpont beat out: Nashoba (Ire), the dam of the late multiple grade I winner Nashoba's Key; the late Joni U. Bar, dam of eight-year-old millionaire McCann's Mojave; Andover the Money, the dam of dual stakes winner Spenditallbaby; and Romantic Fibs, the dam of grade I-winning filly Romance Is Diane.

Penpont, who is owned by David Abrams, Barry's brother, will officially be honored at the 12th annual Harris Ranch Seminar, co-hosted by the CTBA and Oak Tree Racing Association, at the Harris Ranch Inn & Restaurant in Coalinga, California, on Friday, Sept. 5.

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**The results of the  
ballot for the  
2007/2008  
California Broodmare  
of the Year, as voted  
by the  
CTBA membership, are:**

- 1st—Penpont (NZ)**
- 2nd—Nashoba (Ire)**
- 3rd—Joni U. Bar**
- 4th—Andover the Money**
- 5th—Romantic Fibs**



**Craig Allen, the Farm Manager of Old English Rancho, with the  
2007/2008 California Broodmare of the Year, Penpont (NZ).**





## The 2007/2008 California Broodmare of the Year Cont'd.

Penpont's sixth foal, a two-year-old filly named Mama Rosa, is in the early stages of training with Abrams. She also has a 2007 yearling who is unnamed at this point.

She had a stillborn foal in May and has not been bred for 2009. But both Old English Rancho's Allen and conditioner Abrams believe this could work to Penpont's future advantage.

"She's able to keep some of the weight off for a while and we hope to get her in foal again to Unusual Heat next year," said Allen, in his third year at Old English Rancho.

Abrams pointed out that Penpont's recent foals have been May deliveries. "By giving her this year off, she can be bred early next year and have a January foal in 2010," he said.

Unusual Heat's offspring have run well on all surfaces, but most have been especially talented on the turf.

Master Heat, the first Unusual Heat—Penpont foal in 2001, won four of her 44 starts and earned \$157,764. But three of her victories—and \$136,324 of her bankroll—came from her 12 turf starts

Solid Fuel, foaled in 2002, went to the starting gate 21 times, winning on four occasions and earning \$168,093. All his victories, as well as his three seconds and one third, came in his 17 grass races, as well as \$165,168 of the purse money he banked.

Rushen Heat, foaled in 2003 and still active in racing, has won three times, all on the grass, in 19 trips to post and has earned \$151,168.

Unusual Suspect, foaled in 2004, has six career victories,

all on the turf, and became Penpont's first foal to win a stakes race when he captured the 2007 California Cup Mile Handicap during the Oak Tree Racing Association meet at Santa Anita. He also won the Bay Meadows Derby and Hollywood Park's grade III Hollywood Turf Express Handicap last year, to become his dam's first graded stakes winner. In 27 career starts through July 12, he has earned \$504,866.

Ironically, \$496,189-earner Golden Doc A is the only one of the racing offspring of Unusual Heat and Penpont not to win on grass, though she is their first to win a grade I stakes.

Penpont was foaled in New Zealand on Nov. 5, 1994. Crozier, her paternal grandfather, was a major player in America's Triple Crown races in 1961, finishing second to Carry Back in the Kentucky Derby and then third to the same colt in the Preakness Stakes.

Stein has imported successful horses from New Zealand since his days in harness racing. He brought Penpont to California in 1998, after two starts in New Zealand and she made her U.S. debut at Santa Anita on Oct. 2, 1998, finishing seventh under jockey Victor Espinoza in a 6 1/2-furlong race down Santa Anita's hillside turf course.

Three races later, at the same track on Feb. 3, 1999, she hit the board for the first time. She finished third in a mile turf race under Emile Ramsammy, but was moved up to second via a disqualification.

She would record only one more placing, a third at Hollywood Park later that year on June 12, to go with her lone racing victory and appeared under silks for the last time on Oct. 27, 1999, with Pedroza getting her home seventh in a six-furlong race back at Santa Anita. Her last three races were on the dirt. ■

### Penpont (NZ), Ch, F Foaled November 05, 1994 In New Zealand

Crested Wave (1976)	Crozier 58
Imposing Star (NZ) (1981)	Fading Wave 64
	Imposing (Aus) 75
	Black Willow (NZ) 71

#### Total Produce Record:

Named Foals	Runners	Winners	SWs (graded)	Stakes-Placed
6	5	5	2 (2)	0

#### California Foals:

2001 Master Heat, Dkbbr, C, By Unusual Heat. In NA, 4 Wins at 2 to 4, Placed at 6, 2007, \$157,764 (Ssi=1.46):44.

2002 Solid Fuel, Dkbbr, G, By Unusual Heat. In NA, 4 Wins at 3 to 5, 2007, \$168,093 (Ssi=3.08):21.

2003 Rushen Heat, Ch, F, By Unusual Heat. In NA, 3 Wins at 4 and 5, 2008, \$151,168 (Ssi=1.83):16.

2004 **UNUSUAL SUSPECT**, Dkbbr, C, By Unusual Heat. In NA, 6 Wins at 2 to 4, 208, \$504,866 (Ssi=6.20):23, 1st California Cup Mile Handicap (R) (O) (\$105,000, Osa) \$175,000, 1st Hollywood Turf Express Handicap-**G3** (\$150,000, Hol), 1st Bay Meadows Derby (L) (\$45,000, Bm) \$75,000, 2nd Real Quiet S. (L) (\$20,000, Hol) \$100,000, 2nd Oceanside S. (R) (O) (Div 1) (\$16,760, Dmr) \$84,200, 2nd Generous S.-**G3** (Div 1) (\$75,000, Hol), 3rd Pinjara S. (R) (O) (\$9,660, Osa) \$65,020.

2005 **GOLDEN DOC A**, Ch, F, By Unusual Heat. In NA, 3 Wins at 2 and 3, 2008, \$496,189(Ssi=11.05):13, 1st Las Virgenes S.-**G1** (\$250,000, Sa), 1st Generous Portion S. (R) (O) (\$65,280, Dmr) \$108,800, 1st Anoakia S. (L) (\$62,712, Osa) \$98,220, 2nd Santa Anita Oaks-**G1** (\$300,000, Sa), 2nd Stonerside Beaumont S.-**G2** (\$250,000, Kee), 2nd Santa Ynez S.-**G2** (\$150,000, Sa), 2nd Blue Norther S. (L) (\$20,640, Sa) \$85,200, 3rd Miesque S.-**G3** (\$113,200, Hol).

2006 Mama Rosa, Ch, F, By Unusual Heat. Unraced.

2007 Unnamed, Ch, C, by Unusual Heat (application pending).



Golden Doc A



Unusual Suspect