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CTBA PRESIDENT

FASIG-TIPTON SALE AN IMPORTANT PART OF CALIFORNIA PICTURE

Just like California breeders, the Fasig-Tipton sales company continues to navigate the current environment with a determination again seen at the recent California Fall Yearling Sale at Fairplex.

After the closure of Barretts, Kentucky-based Fasig-Tipton stepped into the breach, expanding operations into California in 2019 with the introduction of a 2-year-olds in training sale at Santa Anita and a fall yearling sale. A horses of racing age section was added to the latter in 2022.

In that short time, graduates of its Fall Yearling Sale have included California-bred stakes winners Bus Buzz, Crazy Hot, Last Call London, Lite Ranchin Kid, Magic Spoon, Mici's Express, Pushiness, Roberta's Love, Tom's Regret, and graded winner Big City Lights, this year's catalog cover boy.

The catalog for the September sale was overwhelmingly filled with Cal-breds, and eight of them brought six-figure purchase prices.

The topper was a Stay Thirsty colt from the Lovacres Ranch consignment who is a full brother to state champion Finneus, selling for \$250,000. The colt was bred by CTBA board member Terry Lovingier and purchased by John Moroney.

"There were certainly some bright spots," Fasig-Tipton President Boyd



FASIG-TIPTON PHOTOS

California-bred yearlings made up the bulk of the Fasig-Tipton sale

Browning said of the sale. "It was similar and consistent to what we have seen in recent years in the California marketplace."

Breeders and consigners alike are fortunate to have an historic, professional auction house like Fasig-Tipton, founded in 1898, providing a marketplace in Southern California.

The Fasig-Tipton sale has underscored the importance to breeders that utilize the Cal-bred breed-back rule. That rule allows horses sired by Kentucky stallions to enjoy purses and bonuses available to Cal-breds if they are foaled in California and the mare is bred back to a California stallion.

After the Stay Thirsty sale topper, the next three highest-priced pur-

chases were sired by Kentucky stallions McKinzie, Yaupon, and City of Light.

The next auction to be held at Fairplex will be the 2025 CTBA Winter Mixed Sale on Tuesday, Jan. 21. Broodmares, racing prospects, yearlings, and 2-year-olds will be available in a sale that previously produced stakes winners like Lord Prancealot (2023 Graduation Stakes at Del Mar) and grade 1-producing broodmares like Expo Gold (dam of Preakness-winning filly Swiss Skydiver).

The CTBA's 2025 Northern California Yearling Sale is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 11 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. **CTB**