

# THE WORLD IS WATCHING

## California Plays Host to Breeders' Cup

**I**n unprecedented fashion, the Breeders' Cup chose Oak Tree Racing Association at Santa Anita as the site for two consecutive World Thoroughbred Championships, 2008 and 2009. This year's event, to be held on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 24 and 25, will also be the first to be conducted on a synthetic racing surface – Santa Anita's newly-installed Pro-Ride track. Greater interest than ever before is expected for the two-day extravaganza.

California has played host to the Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships seven times since its inception. In fact, Hollywood Park hosted the inaugural event in 1984, followed by the 1987 and 1997 events. Oak Tree at Santa Anita is preparing to host its fourth Breeders' Cup this month –

having been the official site in 1986, 1993, and 2003. While most of the benefits of hosting the Cup are obvious – increases in attendance and handle in the market, as well as broader media interest and publicity about such an international day of racing – there are many other more subtle benefits that largely go unnoticed.

According to Allen Gutterman, Vice President of Marketing for Oak Tree, the Cup highlights California as the world-class player in Thoroughbred racing that it is. "We are bigger than just ourselves," he said. "We are a major player in the world of horse racing, and that is confirmed by our having been

chosen as a venue every few years. The Cup brings the world to California, and two years in a row reinforces our standing in the world of racing."





THE NEW PRO-RIDE RACING SURFACE WILL ALSO BE IN THE SPOTLIGHT. ACCORDING TO GUTTERMAN, “IF THE TRACK PERFORMS LIKE WE THINK IT WILL, CALIFORNIA WILL HAVE A REAL SHOWCASE, WITH THE WHOLE WORLD WATCHING. AS A RESULT, OUR HOPE IS TO ATTRACT MORE HORSES FROM THE EAST TO CALIFORNIA THIS WINTER.”

Gutterman also believes that the Cup galvanizes the community and racing’s place within the community. In fact, many Southern California political and community leaders are members of the Breeders’ Cup Host and Operating committees – including Governor Schwarzenegger, who serves as Honorary Chair of the Host Committee.

Sherwood Chillingworth, Executive Director of Oak Tree, has been immersed for months in preparations for the Cup. “Both racing fans and the local community will see immediate benefits from California hosting the Cup,” he said. “Among other enhancements, extensive work has been done to bring extra Metropolitan Transit Authority Goldline trains to the Sierra Madre Villa station in Pasadena, where shuttle buses will meet race fans every few minutes for transport to Santa Anita. In addition,” continued Chillingworth, “extra bus routes have been added from Union Station in downtown Los Angeles to

Santa Anita. All of these efforts will help alleviate parking problems and traffic congestion in Arcadia.”

Racing fans will also notice a general “spiffing” of the Santa Anita grounds and facility – from fresh paint, to newly black-topped driveways and parking lots, to a proliferation of Breeders’ Cup purple and gold flowers throughout.

The new Pro-Ride racing surface will also be in the spotlight. According to Gutterman, “If the track performs like we think it will, California will have a real showcase, with the whole world watching. As a result, our hope is to attract more horses from the East to California this winter.”

That may be one of the most important benefits to California horsemen and race fans. With so many good horses also competing on the East Coast, fans don’t often get to see the best run against the best.





# CALIFORNIA OWNERS HAVE A NOTABLE HISTORY OF BREEDERS' CUP SUCCESS

In the inaugural running of the Juvenile Fillies at Hollywood Park in 1984, California-bred and based filly Fran's Valentine hit the wire first but was disqualified for interference in the stretch. Since that notorious race, California horses and their owners have fared much better, in fact they have come back with a vengeance. The following are just a few of the many Breeders' Cup successes enjoyed by California connections over the past 24 years.

- At the end of 1984, a month after his 7th place finish in the inaugural Breeders' Cup Classic, Hall of Famer **Precisionist** began a run for the championship with a 2 ¾ length score in the Malibu Stakes (G2) at Santa Anita Park. He continued to dominate California graded stakes that year, with three graded stakes victories and two placings from five starts, including a new track record at Hollywood Park. Opting for the Sprint rather than the Classic, he completed the 6 furlongs of the 1985 Breeders' Cup Sprint in 1:08.4, just 1/5 off the Aqueduct track record, earning an Eclipse Award as Champion Sprinter.
- **Precisionist** proceeded to defeat California favorite and Santa Anita Derby (G1) winner and 6th place finisher in the Kentucky Derby **Skywalker** twice the following year. However, the latter came back to turn the table on Precisionist, capping his 4 year-old year with a career best effort in the 1986 Classic.
- California powerhouse businessman **Eugene Klein** established his Del Rayo Racing Stable in Rancho Santa Fe in 1982, and won his first Breeders' Cup races three years later with **Life's Magic** (Distaff) and **Twilight Ridge** (Juvenile Fillies). In '86, Klein saw success again with **Lady's Secret** in the Distaff and **Capote** in the Juvenile. Klein would then go on to run seven horses on the 1987 and 1988 Breeders' Cup cards, winning with **Success Express** (Juvenile) in '87, **Open Mind** (Juvenile Fillies), and **Is It True** (Juvenile) in '88. As his health declined and the 80's came to a close, Klein sold his ranch to **Sidney and Jenny Craig**, who found continued success in California racing, most notably with **Paseana**. The Argentinean-bred filly was brought to California in 1991, and immediately began dominating her division. She won ten Grade 1 races, seven of which were in California, and four California Grade 2's in her four years in the United States. She had to take the show on the road to Gulfstream Park, where she won the 1992 Distaff. The Craigs would later rename their farm Rancho Paseana, in honor of their great race mare.
- The 90's was a showcase of California speed. Beginning in 1992 with **Thirty Sews** and the duo of **Mike Pegram** and **Bob Baffert**, California-based horses won nine of the next 11 renewals of the Breeder's Cup Sprint. **Cardmania** won the 1993 running and the mare, **Desert Stormer**, would take the 1995 edition under the tutelage of on-air personality **Frank Lyons**.
- 1996 marked the first of four Sprint wins for California jockey **Corey Nakatani** when he won aboard **Lit De Justice** for trainer **Jenine Sahadi**. Sahadi and Nakatani would team up again the following year with **Elmhurst**, who won in stakes record time at Hollywood Park. In 2000, **Kona Gold** won at Churchill Downs, stopping the clock in a blistering 1:07.77.
- California-bred phenomenon **Tiznow** was also forging a path in history in 2000, when he won the Classic by a neck over European superstar **Giant's Causeway**. He returned to the Breeders' Cup a year later to become the first horse to win the Classic twice, again having to defeat a European superstar in **Sakhee**.
- Only a month after Tiznow's historic second Cup victory, a three-year-old filly named **Azeri** broke her maiden by six lengths at Santa Anita Park. She went on to dominate her division in stakes at all three major Southern California tracks. Her streak continued when she shipped to Arlington Park to romp to a five-length victory in the Distaff.
- The return of the Cup to Santa Anita in 2003 was the year of **Richard Mandella**. The Pasadena resident and Hall of Fame trainer won an unprecedented four races on the card, running 1-2 with **Action This Day** and **Minister Eric** in the Juvenile, and winning with **Halfbridled** in the Juvenile Fillies, **Johar** in a dead heat in the Turf, and **Pleasantly Perfect** in the Classic. All four winners ran for California-based stables: **B. Wayne Hughes**, **Wertheimer Farm, LLC.**, **Thoroughbred Corp.**, and **Diamond A Racing**, respectively.
- In more recent years, California's success can be measured by **Sweet Catomine** in the 2004 Juvenile Fillies for owners **Marty and Pam Wygod**, **Singletary** in the 2004 Mile for **Little Red Feather Racing**, **Stevie Wonderboy** in the 2005 Juvenile for **Merv Griffin**, **Folklore** in the 2005 Juvenile Fillies for owners **Bob and Beverly Lewis**, **Thor's Echo** in the 2006 Sprint for owners **Royce S. Jaime and Pablo Suarez**, and **Midnight Lute** in the 2007 Sprint for owners **Mike Pegram and Watson & Weitman Performance LLC**.

With the Breeders' Cup at Oak Tree this year and next, California owners are sure to again enjoy the sweet smell of victory, and a strong sense of pride in having participated in the greatest day in Thoroughbred racing!

