



From the Executive Corner

Cal-Breds Are Tops

by DOUG BURGE

California-breds are in demand. That is the overwhelming theme as Cal-breds continue to bring premium prices at the two-year-old sales across the country.

As you can see from the cover of this issue of *California Thoroughbred*, a record \$2,500,000 was realized by a Cal-bred colt at the recent Barretts May Sale of Two-Year-Olds in Training. This chestnut son of Red Bullet, bred by Dave Newcomb and foaled at his Walking G Ranch in Taylorsville, California, was the star of the sale. He brought the attention of not only local owners, but international buyers as well. He was purchased by prominent owner Sheikh Mohammed's Darley Stable, illustrating the credibility and respect that is given to horses bred in the Golden State.

This upward trend has been seen throughout the juvenile marketplace this year. At Keeneland in April, a Cal-bred was purchased for \$850,000, the second highest price of the sale. Also, during February, a California-foaled daughter of Johannesburg sold for \$1,100,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Calder Selected Two-Year-Olds in Training Sale.

Besides these results, there have been numerous other significant six-figure prices realized at the various sales across the country this year. It is apparent that California breeders are indeed upgrading their bloodstock and producing individuals who are well-received in the commercial market.

With the 2006 yearling sales only two to four months away, there is reason to believe this positive momentum will continue. Many of these top-selling two-year-olds previously sold well as yearlings, with the pinhookers achieving a very good return on

their investment. These results should obviously bode well for the yearling sales this year.

With regard to these sales, inspections recently began for the second California's October Yearling Sale, co-sponsored by the CTBA and Barretts Equine Ltd. Based on the pedigrees, previous selling prices and limited physical inspections that have already taken place, the prospects for the 2006 edition are very encouraging. We are hopeful that we will be able to continue to build on the positive results of the inaugural auction held last year.

In conclusion, a strong correlation to exists between the opportunities and success at the racetrack and the results in the sales arena. The \$20-million restricted racing program (with \$10-million in stakes opportunities) created by the CTBA and the rest of the industry, coupled with the tremendous achievements by Cal-breds in graded stakes races around the world, has certainly fueled this demand for our product. As breeders, we need to consistently review our breeding stock in order to take full advantage of the commercial sales opportunities that currently exist.

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