



Draped in glory: Zenyatta and jockey Mike Smith return from their stunning performance in the Breeders' Cup Classic-G1.

A simply zen-sational Breeders' Cup

Zenyatta's victory in the Classic-G1 was in a league by itself, but Pennsylvanians George Strawbridge and Jonathan Sheppard also had a stellar trip to Santa Anita.

Story by Sean Clancy. Photographs by Lydia A. Williams.

The Breeders' Cup World Championships, at Santa Anita on November 6 and 7, stopped and started with one name. The undefeated mare Zenyatta gave away her free pass, the Ladies' Classic-G1 on Friday, and took aim at big game—12 male rivals in the \$5 million Breeders' Cup Classic-G1 on Saturday.

It's a sport of questions. In the weeks leading up to the Breeders' Cup, the big question was, "Which race will they try?" Then it was, "Did they make the right choice?"

After Zenyatta won the Apple Blossom Handicap-G1 in her fourth start, all the way back in April 2008, trainer John Shirreffs let down his guard and told exercise rider Steve Willard what could happen.

"All we have to do is not make a mistake. . ."

So, John, "Have you made any mistakes?"

The question hung in the air, three days before Ann and Jerry Moss's daughter of Street

Cry (Ire) was set to tackle her toughest task.

Shirreffs stopped and thought about the question. Under his ubiquitous rumpled Mill Ridge Farm hat, the trainer paused long enough to make the questioner wonder if he was going to answer at all.

Finally, Shirreffs smiled wistfully.

"We'll see," he said.

That was the end of the conversation. Simply and succinctly, the man summed up his fear and his hope.

Willard wasn't sure of the outcome, but he was sure of the decision.

"She's as ready as she's going to be. If she has a good trip and everything goes right, she could win it. But races are races," Willard said. "We can't keep running her against the same fillies. I think they made the right decision. If she's that good, she can win."

Up to then, Shirreffs had not made any mistakes as Zenyatta ran the table.

But the audacious move to tackle colts and geldings in the Classic could have been the biggest mistake they ever made, blemishing perfection with the last stroke of the brush.

Thirteen of the best horses in the world showed up for the Classic. Only Rachel Alexandra, clubhouse leader for Horse of the Year, and Sea The Stars, Horse of the World who retired after winning the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe-G1, stayed home.

Zenyatta faced the winners of the Travers, Jockey Club Gold Cup, Arlington Million, Pacific Classic, Belmont Stakes, Kentucky Derby, Santa Anita Handicap, Turf Classic, Newmarket's Champion Stakes, Ascot's Queen Elizabeth II—in other words, most of the coveted Grade 1 stakes not contested by Rachel Alexandra and Sea The Stars in 2009.

"I'm totally a fan. Once she gets the saddle on, I turn into the fan. I get as excited as everybody else," Shirreffs said.

"She's the sweetest thing in the barn. But, boy, you put the saddle on and head to the race track, she turns into another being. I tell people to experience Zenyatta, you have to get up close; you've got to feel her energy around her. You can't look at her and really get that feeling."

Zenyatta gave Santa Anita the up close and personal. Number four in the program, Zenyatta followed her 12 rivals into the paddock. It was theater. All the players on the stage and then the dramatic entrance by the star of the show.

The strapping dark bay mare strutted into the paddock, raising her front legs in theatrical overstep and slapping them down like she was walking out of the ocean while trying to dry off. It's her patented move, one that's developed as she's strolled down easy street—14 starts, 14 wins.

"All horses have their ups and downs," Shirreffs said during Breeders' Cup week. "But

she's been as easy as a good horse that's 1,200 pounds of pulsating Thoroughbred blood."

She would call on every liter of that blood to pull off her greatest achievement.

Quality Road, runner-up to Summer Bird in the Jockey Club Gold Cup-G1, wrenched proceedings with a harrowing display at the starting gate. The 3-year-old son of Elusive Quality refused to load, kicking and bucking out at handlers. Finally equipped with a blindfold, he walked into the gate and then lost his composure, kicking out angrily and bursting through the door. With one man dangling from his right rein, the early Kentucky Derby favorite spun in circles and nearly got loose. He was scratched. The rest of the field was backed out of the gate, and jockeys dismounted.

Zenyatta, who balked the first time she was loaded, handled it but then hesitated when she was loaded for the second time. Finally, the gates opened for the Classic. Zenyatta broke slowest of all, spotting the field several lengths in the first couple of strides. She galloped on her left lead while jockey Mike Smith asked her to switch to her right lead. She refused the first time and finally picked up the cue on the second try, nearly a furlong into the mile and a quarter race. By then, she was squarely last, as Super Derby-G2 winner Regal Ransom took the field through the first quarter in :24.16. British invader Rip Van Winkle (Ire) joined him, with Colonel John and Einstein (Brz) near the pace after a half mile in :47.88. Zenyatta lagged, with just late-running Mine That Bird behind her.

Finally, as the field left the backside, she began to fill her engine room, her long rounded stride lowering and lengthening. Smith deftly guided her inside five horses on the turn and then outside five horses in the stretch. On her right lead for the last time in a race, she gobbled ground and rivals with her typical rousing kick. Summer Bird, Twice Over

(GB) and Gio Ponti were the last to fall as Smith hit her right-handed, then stood up and pumped his left fist, pointing to the great mare.

Game over.

In two minutes and three-fifths of a second, Zenyatta turned the crowd at Santa Anita into a frenzy and sent voters for Horse of the Year into a tizzy.

The greats have it all—talent, tenacity, consistency, a flare for drama. Zenyatta showed all four in her final race. She capped her stellar career, turning men to boys when trying to explain what they had just seen.

"She's sent from God," Smith said.

"It was just an unbelievably emotional experience to have her do this," Shirreffs said.

"We're over the moon, you know," Jerry Moss said.

Whether it was simply a way to shoulder the blame if things went awry, Shirreffs drew a line on October 10 when Zenyatta won the Lady's Secret to equal Personal Ensign's unbeaten record at 13. That was a goal. It was achieved. Move on to the next challenge.

The racing world wanted Team Zenyatta to swing for the fences and go for the Classic. But fans and writers make fickle friends. If she lost, the bandwagon would empty, Horse of the Year honors would go to Rachel Alexandra, and Zenyatta would go down in history as a splendid mare, the best of a moderate group on an island in California. She rarely traveled. She'd never beaten the boys. She was good, but she'd be a footnote in the annals of Thoroughbred history.

If she wins. . . well, that changes everything.

It was a unanimous decision: the Mosses, Shirreffs and Smith looked one way.

"She won't get intimidated. She'll be the intimidator," Smith said before the Classic.

"When you have a horse that's given you so much, that's won 13 in a row over many different surfaces against multiple Grade 1 winners, that's an achievement in itself," Shirreffs

said before the race. "If she never steps out on the track again it's a great achievement. I don't see how it would change anything."

Change anything if she got beat. Well, if she won. . . that would change everything. She would surpass Personal Ensign's benchmark of 13; she would be considered an icon in an era that doesn't produce many icons.

A European reporter asked Shirreffs about the significance of Personal Ensign, and Shirreffs tried to put her and Zenyatta into historical context.

"These are names that just jump out to anybody involved in horse racing. Personal Ensign won 13 in a row and retired undefeated—that's the standard for fillies," Shirreffs said. "There was a lot of pressure there. You really wanted that achievement for Zenyatta; after that, if she continued to train well, the other thing would be to run in the Classic and try to accomplish that. It was like a new beginning. It's another goal for her to try and achieve."

After the race, when she had achieved it, her handlers exhaled and gladly put a bookend on her unblemished career.

"We knew we wanted to do this for her to prove what we thought; she deserved this chance. She just performed so beautifully," Jerry Moss said. "So the fact that she's back home and safe, and she's got an unbeaten record to go into the history books—we couldn't be happier. We're proud of her. We think John did an unbelievable job with her, and Mike rode her like a champ."

At the end of the day, as Zenyatta walked into the test barn, Willard stopped and summed it up for the entire crowd, the entire sport.

"She did it," he said. "She really did it."



The second day of the Breeders' Cup World Championships was a rare day off for trainer Jonathan Sheppard, who contemplated going to Callaway Gardens for a day of

jump racing (his stable accounted for the first two finishers in the filly and mare stakes at that steeplechase meet in Georgia), but opted to stay and enjoy the races at Santa Anita. He didn't have a strong feeling about Zenyatta.

"I'm sure looking forward to seeing her run; I hope she can pull it off," Sheppard said. "She probably will. I'm probably being too much of a pessimist."

The two-day Breeders' Cup was over quickly for Sheppard. He shipped three to California. Each ran on Friday. The Pennsylvania-based Hall of Famer hit a personal trifecta, going one, two, three—from seven to 14 furlongs—with Informed Decision, Cloudy's Knight and Forever Together.

On Saturday morning, there was nothing to do beyond stand and salute.

Sheppard watched as assistant Barry Wiseman walked (or got walked by) crack sprinter Informed Decision, former champion steeplechase jockey Blythe Miller Davies handled the 9-year-old marathon performer Cloudy's Knight, and exercise rider Anne Sinchak meandered with champion Forever Together.

Their names, or nicknames, adorned their temporary stall doors at Santa Anita. "Princess Anne" for Forever Together, "Longest Stride" for Cloudy's Knight and "Tazmanian She Devil" for Informed Decision. The monikers fit.

Afraid to watch them jog, Sheppard simply watched. The powerful Informed Decision bounced, none the worse for her dazzling performance in the \$1,000,000 Sentient Jet Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint-G1. The throwback Cloudy's Knight pulled grass from the roots of a neighboring barn's patch of pristine green after a deflating nose loss in the \$500,000 Breeders' Cup Marathon. The diminutive Forever Together strolled like a lady, almost as if she knew this was it for her, after closing her career with a third in the \$2,000,000 Emirates Airline



George Strawbridge (second from left, below) owns Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint-G1 winner Informed Decision, who kept alive her undefeated record over synthetic tracks with a length and a quarter score. Hall of Famer Jonathan Sheppard (in blue cap) says she's the fastest horse he's trained.

Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf-G1.

Three horses, three specialists, three futures.

Informed Decision—owned by Augustin Stable, the supremely successful racing operation of Pennsylvania horseman George Strawbridge Jr.—has only sky in front of her. Managed to perfection by Sheppard, she improved her career record to 11-for-14 while closing out her 4-year-old season with a scintillating performance in the seven-furlong stakes. The gray daughter of Monarchos continued her unbeaten record over synthetic tracks, now 7-for-7, with a victory over defending winner Ventura.

Jockey Julien Leparoux placed Informed Decision just off the flank of longshot pacesetter Free Flying Soul as Bobby Frankel-trained Ventura took her customary spot near the back of the nine-horse field.

Informed Decision kicked home at the top of the stretch and never looked to be in peril as Ventura closed for second, a length and a quarter behind. Free Flying Soul hung on for third. Informed Decision went seven furlongs in 1:21.66.

A graduate of the 2007 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2-year-olds in training sale at Timonium, Informed Decision was purchased at that auction by EQB of West Grove, Pa., Patti Miller, agent. Her price—\$320,000—was the second-highest among fillies and fourth-highest overall at that sale.

At 3, Informed Decision won five of seven starts, including the Raven Run Stakes-G2 at Keeneland. Last year, she was nearly flawless, winning six stakes in seven starts; her only loss came in the Ballerina-G1 at Saratoga, in which she suffered an odd trip over a sloppy track and still finished third.



"I guess God makes them in different ways. He just put a different engine in her—she's a Corvette," Sheppard said. "I would probably say, just for pure, raw speed, yeah, she's the fastest I've trained. Storm Cat was pretty speedy. She's a running machine, which is odd because she's bred to go a mile and a half—by a Derby winner out of a His Majesty mare—so

you never know. She's just very up, forward, aggressive."

Sheppard sets up stations all over the East Coast and needed to alter his original plan for Informed Decision.

"After the first couple of breezes at Camden, it didn't seem to agree with her," Sheppard said. "We shipped her down to Gulfstream and then Keeneland and she was back to



Forever Together finished third in her bid for a second consecutive victory in the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf-G1. Champion female turf performer of 2008, the daughter of Belong to Me has been retired to owner George Strawbridge's broodmare band as an earner of \$2,802,639.

her old self. Camden is fine for training jumpers and turf horses. Two-minute licking around the outside of the Cup course wasn't her thing."

Informed Decision made her first start of the year at Keeneland, re-rallying late to nail Ventura by a head in the Madison-G1, the middle win in a five-race win streak. She rallied late to win the Humana Distaff-G1 at Churchill Downs on Derby Day, then swept the Chicago Handicap-G3 at Arlington Park. She rebounded from her Ballerina blip with wins in the Presque Isle Masters and Thoroughbred Club of America-G2 at Keeneland in her two starts before the Breeders' Cup.

A cinch for an Eclipse Award as the season's champion filly sprinter, Informed Decision has notched a new tick on Sheppard's belt. Known for his prowess in the jumping game and with two-turn turf horses, Sheppard proved he can train a sprinter too.

"We do train them a little differently but not a whole lot. Keep them healthy, happy and sound," Sheppard said. "I've often been asked what the difference between. . . Well, a lot of times they refer to it as training Thoroughbreds and steeplechase horses. I always say, it's much less than most people think. Years ago, there was a very successful trainer of steeplechase horses in England called Neville Crump. He trained three Grand National winners going four and a half miles and he never worked them more than five furlongs."

Sheppard came to Santa Anita with a most eclectic string of Breeders' Cup contenders. He marveled at their differences as they walked around him.

He pointed to Informed Decision.

"This one is just a big, muscular machine. She has a very fluid, elastic way. Now that she's so good, I'm trying to see why, by watching how she

goes," Sheppard said. "It's not that her stride is necessarily so long, but it propels her farther over the ground."

Same color, but different model, Augustin Stable's Forever Together walked into his view.

The reigning champion turf female, who came to California seeking a repeat Filly and Mare Turf victory, Forever Together had given Sheppard his first Breeders' Cup win on the flat one year earlier.

The daughter of Belong to Me kept her perfect in-the-money-on-the-turf record intact with a solid effort under Leparoux in the Filly and Mare Turf. Forever Together rallied from last to finish third, two and a quarter lengths off the winner, Juddmonte Farm's Midday (GB).

Forever Together finished 2009 with two wins from six starts, including three consecutive losses as the favorite. Sheppard didn't believe she'd lost a step, but more that she

was slower to get going at the end of her 5-year-old year.

"I think she's the same horse. She just needs to be ridden differently. She comes with that run every time. She's probably developed a little bit of a mind of her own; she's a very intelligent filly who thinks she knows what she wants to do," Sheppard said. "To run that consistently at that level for so long is pretty amazing. She's never run a bad race; she's never been worse than out of the first three since we switched her to the turf. I'm going to miss her. She's pure quality in my opinion. Doesn't she look classy?"

Forever Together, purchased by Strawbridge for \$240,000 at the 2006 Ocala Breeders' Sales Company March sale of 2-year-olds in training, retired with nine wins from 20 starts and earnings of \$2,802,639.

Forever Together walked along the backside of Bob Baffert's Santa Anita barn, her last time at the race track before



Jonathan Sheppard keeps close tabs on Cloudy's Knight, led by Blythe Miller Davies. The Lord Avie gelding, who joined Sheppard's stable last year at age 9, missed by a nose in the Breeders' Cup Marathon. "If you don't like the way he's going, then just pull him up," Sheppard told jockey Rosemary Homeister Jr.

being retired to the Augustin Stable broodmare band.

Sheppard turned to the remaining player of his Breeders' Cup team.

Cloudy's Knight, in his own world, walked like a locomotive pulling into station. The gelded son of Lord Avie came to Sheppard last April, at age 9.

Owners Shirley and Jerrold Schwartz, Chicago residents who race under the banner of S J Stables, were looking to prolong a career that had already produced 10 wins, a championship title in Canada, and more than \$2 million in earnings. Prolong it, he did.

The massive chestnut won his only two starts of the year prior to the Breeders' Cup—the Kentucky Cup Turf-G3 and Sycamore Stakes-G3—his 37th and 38th career starts, all but one on the turf. Sheppard had about the same feeling he had for Zenyatta when tackling the synthetic surface for the first time.

He gave jockey Rosemary Homeister Jr. instructions he usually only utilizes for jump jockeys.

"He's a nice old horse; he doesn't owe us anything. If you don't like the way he's going, then just pull him up," Sheppard told her.

Those instructions went out the window quickly as Cloudy's Knight traveled sweetly in the one and three-quarter-mile Marathon, moving from sixth to first with an audacious move on the turn. The veteran shook off favorite Mastery (GB) to his outside and battled all the way to the wire with Irish invader Man of Iron, who held him off by a nose.

"I was amazed; I had no idea of what to expect. I said we'd know a lot more after the first quarter of a mile. It's a tighter track than other synthetics. If he was ever going to handle something that wasn't grass I would say this would be the most likely place," Sheppard said. "He's got such a long

stride, but he's smooth for a big horse. The faster he goes, the smoother his stride gets. He's a freak, that's all."

Three freaks. Trained by a legend.

"After yesterday, there's about \$7 million in earnings walking around here (\$6,919,882). Pretty amazing. You've got a sprinter, a middle distance turf horse and a marathoner," Sheppard said. "There's no rhyme or reason for it, except fate, because presumably I've trained them the same way I have for the last 43 years and I've never had three horses like this before. Well, we've had a few like Cloudy."

CONDUIT DOES IT AGAIN

Conduit (Ire) accounted for the third victory by a defending Breeders' Cup winner (joining super distaffers Zenyatta and Goldikova-Ire) when the Ballymacoll Farm homebred

took his second consecutive Emirates Airline Breeders' Cup Turf-G1. Trained by Sir Michael Stoute and ridden by Ryan Moore, the son of Dalakhani had to work hard to run down the game front-runner, Monmouth Park-based Presious Passion, who had opened up 10 lengths on the field.

Conduit rallied from last of seven to secure the bulk of the \$3 million purse by a half length, going the mile and a half in 2:23.75. Dar Re Mi (GB) finished third.

Conduit returned to Santa Anita with a 1-for-4 mark since winning the Breeders' Cup Turf as a 3-year-old in 2008, but showed his affinity for American turf once again.

ABOUT TIME

Juddmonte's Midday marked the passage of time by vanquishing her older foes as the 3-year-old heroine in the \$2,000,000 Emirates Airline

MID-ATLANTIC CONNECTIONS AT THE BREEDERS' CUP

\$5,000,000 BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC-G1

- Zenyatta (first)—second dam, For the Flag, bred in Virginia by Newstead Farm
- Gio Ponti (second)—half-brother, Cruisin' Dixie, stands at Old Bay Stud, St. Leonard, Md.
- Summer Bird (fourth)—second dam, Hong Kong Jade, bred in Virginia by Heronwood Farm
- Richard's Kid (sixth)—bred in Maryland by Robert E. Meyerhoff; first dam, stakes winner Tough Broad, bred in Maryland by Meyerhoff
- Awesome Gem (seventh)—owned by New Jersey-based West Point Thoroughbreds Inc.

\$3,000,000 EMIRATES AIRLINE BREEDERS' CUP TURF-G1

- Precious Passion (second)—trained by New Jersey-based Mary Hartmann

\$2,000,000 EMIRATES AIRLINE BREEDERS' CUP FILLY & MARE TURF-G1

- Pure Clan (second)—second dam, champion sprinter What a Summer, was bred in Maryland by Milton Polinger
- Forever Together (third)—owned by Pennsylvania resident George Strawbridge Jr.; trained by Pennsylvania-based Jonathan E. Sheppard

- Dynaforce (eighth)—half-brother, millionaire Cetewayo, stands at Godstone Farm in Pine Grove, Pa.

\$2,000,000 GREY GOOSE BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE-G1

- Aikenite (fifth)—owned by South Carolina-based Dogwood Stable
- Eskendereya (ninth)—owned by New Jersey resident Ahmed Zayat (Zayat Stables)
- Pulsion (11th)—co-owned by New Jersey residents Carl Lizza (Flying Zee Stable) and Richard Giacomelli (Kona Stables); sold for \$35,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Eastern Fall Yearling sale
- D'Funnybone (13th)—owned by New Jersey resident Paul Pompa Jr.

\$2,000,000 GREY GOOSE BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE FILLIES-G1

- Zilva (seventh)—bred in Pennsylvania by owner George Strawbridge Jr.; trained by Fair Hill, Md.-based H. Graham Motion; first dam, Spellmaker, bred in Pennsylvania by George Strawbridge Jr.; and second dam, stakes winner Sofitina, co-bred by George Strawbridge Jr. in Pennsylvania
- Ms Vanenza (ninth)—trained by Delaware-based Juan C. Vazquez; sold for \$25,000 through the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May 2-year-olds in training sale
- Bickersons (10th)—owned by New Jersey residents George and Lori Hall; trained by New Jersey-based Kelly Breen

Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf-G1. Behind her were year-older Pure Clan and the 2008 female turf champion Forever Together, who wasn't able to muster the kind of rally that carried her to victory in this race the year before.

Trained by Henry Cecil and ridden by Thomas Queally, Midday (by Oasis Dream-GB) improved her record to four wins from 11 starts while making her first start in the U.S. and first start with the anti-bleeding medication Lasix.

Midday finished the mile and a quarter in 1:59.14.

WORLD-CLASS LONGSHOT

Godolphin Racing added to the international flavor when it got on the board in the \$2 million Grey Goose Breeders' Cup Juvenile-G1. Irish-bred Vale of York, trained by Saeed bin Suroor and ridden by Ahmed Ajtebi, upset favorite Lookin At Lucky by a head. Noble's Promise finished third after a mile and a sixteenth in 1:43.48. Probable champion Lookin At

Lucky ran gamely to overcome the far outside 13 post.

Making his sixth career start, Vale of York went unregistered with most bettors, returning \$63.20 for the win. The globe-trotting winner of two races from five starts before the Breeders' Cup, Vale of York, a son of Irish champion and leading sire Invincible Spirit, prepped for his U.S. debut with a runner-up finish in the Gran Criterium-G1 in Italy.

WILD SUCCESS

Nancy and Mike Mazzoni's homebred She Be Wild won a contentious renewal of the \$2 million Grey Goose Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies-G1 when she rallied from third to score by three-quarters of a length over Beautician and Blind Luck.

Trained by Wayne Catalano, the daughter of Offlee Wild improved her career mark to four wins from five starts.

Risked for a \$40,000 claiming tag in her debut, She Be Wild won her first three starts before finishing second to Negligee in the Alcibiades Stakes-G1 at Keeneland. Four fillies exited

that stakes, including Negligee, who wound up sixth after being forced to go wide.

The Mazzonis went to a Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association (TOBA) Greatest Game seminar in 2003 and decided to get into the game. Nearly out of the game, they tried to sell She Be Wild but she failed to reach her reserve.

"Because Mike and I do all the work ourselves, perseverance just pays off," Nancy Mazzoni said. "We had a lot of low moments before this one, and almost didn't stay in. But because we were unable to sell the foal at the sale, we kept her, and here we are."

Julien Leparoux guided She Be Wild to the victory, accomplished in 1:43.80 for the mile and a sixteenth.

SWEETER BY TWO

John Shirreffs made a tough decision when he skipped the \$2 million Breeders' Cup Ladies Classic-G1 and tackled the Breeders' Cup Classic with Zenyatta. The trainer must have known something—figuring he could possibly win both.

He sent out Life Is Sweet to upset the Ladies' Classic, a day before taking the Classic with Zenyatta.

Owned and bred by Martin and Pam Wygod, Life Is Sweet had been toiling behind her stablemate all season. The daughter of Storm Cat finished second to her in the Milady-G2 and fourth in the Clement Hirsch-G1 and Lady's Secret-G1.

Garrett Gomez, aboard for her previous seven starts, retained the ride, rallying her from last to score by two and a half lengths over Mushka and Music Note. Favorite Careless Jewel ran off on the front end, opening up nine lengths before retiring to finish last.

Life Is Sweet finished the mile and an eighth in 1:45.58.

Life Is Sweet won her first three starts this year at Santa Anita, then suffered four consecutive losses.

"Zenyatta is an unbelievable filly. So if you have to be overshadowed by something, that is the right mare to be overshadowed by. She's a great, great mare," Martin Wygod said. "The thing that was frustrating us was that after her three races

- Champagne d'Oro (12th)—bred by New Jersey resident Rob Whiteley (Liberation Farm)

\$2,000,000 BREEDERS' CUP LADIES' CLASSIC-G1

- Mushka (second)—owned by Pennsylvania-based Brushwood Stables (Elizabeth Moran)
- Rainbow View (fifth)—bred and owned by Pennsylvania resident George Strawbridge Jr.

\$2,000,000 SENTIENT JET BREEDERS' CUP SPRINT-G1

- Crown of Thorns (second)—second dam, Majesty's Crown, bred in Maryland by Augustus Riggs IV
- Zensational (fifth)—owned by New Jersey resident Ahmed Zayat (Zayat Stables)

\$1,000,000 BREEDERS' CUP DIRT MILE-G1

- Ready's Echo (second)—co-owned by New Jersey residents Kevin

- Scatuorchio and Bryan Sullivan (Let's Go Stable)
- Bullsbay (ninth)—trained by Fair Hill, Md.-based H. Graham Motion

\$1,000,000 SENTIENT JET BREEDERS' CUP FILLY & MARE SPRINT-G1

- Informed Decision (first)—owned by Pennsylvania resident George Strawbridge Jr.; trained by Pennsylvania-based Jonathan E. Sheppard; sold for \$320,000 through the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May 2-year-olds in training sale; second dam, graded stakes winner Countess North, bred in Maryland by E.P. Taylor
- Ventura (second)—second dam, Roupala, was bred in Maryland by Juddmonte Farms
- Silver Swallow (sixth)—dam, Topsom, sold with Silver Swallow (by Alphabet Soup) in utero, for \$21,000 at the 2004 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic February Mixed sale
- Evita Argentina (seventh)—dam, Jealous Wildcat, was bred in Maryland by Sondra and Howard Bender

\$1,000,000 BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE TURF-G2

- Awesome Act (fourth)—second dam, group winner Coup de Folie, bred in Maryland by E.P. Taylor
- Zip Quik (11th)—co-owned by New Jersey residents Carl Lizza (Flying Zee Stable) and Richard Giacomelli (Kona Stables); sold for \$35,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Eastern Fall Yearling sale

\$1,000,000 BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE FILLIES TURF

- Rose Catherine (second)—owned by New Jersey resident Paul Pompa Jr.
- Potosina (seventh)—trained by Fair Hill, Md.-based Mark Shuman
- Smart Seattle (ninth)—bred in Pennsylvania by owner George Strawbridge Jr.; trained by Fair Hill, Md.-based H. Graham Motion; first dam, stakes-placed Seattle Bay, bred in Pennsylvania by George Strawbridge Jr.; and second dam, Seattle Way, co-bred by George Strawbridge Jr. in Pennsylvania

\$1,000,000 BREEDERS' CUP TURF SPRINT

- California Flag (first)—first and second dams—Ultrafleet and stakes-placed Social Conduct—bred in New Jersey by William A. Purdey
- Gotta Have Her (second)—co-bred by Maryland resident Robert T. Manfuso
- Delta Storm (fourth)—second dam, Brise Vole, bred in Virginia by Bertram R. Firestone
- Canadian Ballet (fifth)—second dam, stakes winner Key Bid, bred in Maryland by Ryehill Farm
- El Gato Malo (eighth)—owned by New Jersey-based West Point Thoroughbreds Inc.

\$500,000 BREEDERS' CUP MARATHON

- Cloudy's Knight (second)—trained by Pennsylvania-based Jonathan E. Sheppard
- Eldaafer (seventh)—trained by Delaware Park-based Diane Alvarado
- Nite Light (eighth)—owned by Virginia resident Edward P. Evans; second dam, Printing Press, bred in Virginia by Paul Mellon

at Santa Anita where she was showing that she had the makings of possibly being a champion, she just wasn't right after that, and she would continually tie up and give John a lot of different problems. It just was very, very challenging, but John did a great job, and he got her back for the day that counts."

CONTINUING HER REIGN

Goldikova returned to Santa Anita and defended her crown in the \$2 million TVG Breeders' Cup Mile-G1 with another punishing late kick to run down Courageous Cat. Justenuffhumor finished third after 1:32.26. Owned and bred by Wertheimer et Frere, the daughter of Anabaa conquered America for the second consecutive year. Ridden by regular pilot Olivier Peslier, Goldikova improved her career record to 10 wins from 15 starts, for more than \$4 million in earnings. Her two Breeders' Cup starts yielded \$2,230,200.

Trainer Freddie Head became the first jockey to win back-to-back runnings of

the Breeders' Cup Mile with Miesque (in 1987 and '88) and duplicates the feat as a trainer.

Next year, he'll try to be the first for three in a row.

"I don't have the words to say what I feel—having ridden a horse like her [Miesque] and now training a horse like her [Goldikova], it's something you can't dream of," Head said. "The amazing thing is she's very easy to train. She does everything herself. She always gives her best. She has no problem. Never puts her foot wrong. She just keeps on galloping and she's happy wherever she is. So it is quite special. She's a freak, I think, really."

SUPPLEMENT PAYS OFF

The best finish of the two days came in the Sentient Jet Breeders' Cup Sprint when longshot Dancing in Silks won a four-way photo over Crown of Thorns, Cost of Freedom and Gayego. The race blew open when favorite Zensational broke a step slowly from the inside, then felt pressure the whole way and wound up fifth.

He was beaten less than two lengths. Less than four lengths covered the nine-horse field.

Owned by Ken Kinakin, trained by Carla Gaines and ridden by Joel Rosario, Dancing in Silks became the second California-bred to win on the card when taking his third consecutive stakes. Jumping out of restricted races, Dancing in Silks finished six furlongs in 1:08.14.

Kinakin paid \$180,000 to supplement Dancing in Silks to the \$2 million stakes. Gaines, who won her first Breeders' Cup, wasn't so sure about the move.

"I really, to be honest, tried to discourage Ken from putting that much money up," Gaines said. "The horse is doing tremendously well. He was doing so much better than he was the previous year. He had matured; he was very, very sound. But still I was concerned about him dumping all that money in there. And he said, 'No, Carla. Power of positive thinking—let's go.' And it's been fun ever since, especially right now." Dancing in Silks (by Black Minnaloushe) earned the winner's share of \$1,080,000.

FURTHEST AFIELD

Owners Ken and Sarah Ramsey and trainer Mike Maker upset the \$1,000,000 Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile—carrying a Grade 1 designation for the first time—with former claimer Furthest Land. The son of Smart Strike rallied from fourth to win by three-quarters of a length over late-closing Ready's Echo and pacesetter Midshipman, winner of last year's Breeders' Cup Juvenile-G1 and champion 2-year-old colt. Julien Leparoux was aboard Furthest Land, his third Breeders' Cup winner in two days, which earned the jockey the Bill Shoemaker award as the top rider of the event. Furthest Land, in winning his eighth career race, paid \$44.60 while finishing the distance in 1:35.50.

Ramsey attacks the game from all sides. He stands stallions, owns mares, owns jumpers and plays the claiming game aggressively. He claimed Furthest Land for \$35,000 as a 3-year-old in the fall of 2008.

"Not a bad claim, huh? I like that Smart Strike and I liked his numbers," Ramsey said.



A reported crowd of 58,845 turned out for Breeders' Cup Saturday, a 6 percent increase from 2008. Total attendance for the two days increased from 86,588 to 96,496.

The Ramseys came to the Breeders' Cup with no fewer than five sons and daughters from the first crop of their Eclipse Award-winning millionaire Kitten's Joy, who ranks among the top freshman sires in the nation. None of the kittens found the winner's circle, but there is always next year.

READY TO POUNCE

The Europeans continued to announce their affinity for the West Coast Breeders' Cup when favorite Pounced handled 11 opponents in the newly-graded Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf-G2, the first Breeders' Cup event on Saturday's card.

Owned by Lady Serena Rothschild and trained by John Gosden, Pounced collared a stubborn Bridgetown inside

the eighth pole to win by three-quarters of a length. Second-choice Interactif finished third. Frankie Dettori guided the winner, a son of Rahy who finished the mile in 1:35.47.

FLYING FILLIES

In its third year, the \$1 million Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf attracted an overflow field of 12 with the one-two finishers leading the proceedings for the entire mile.

Frank Jones Jr.'s Tapitsfly tracked Rose Catherine before wresting the lead from the tough pacesetter to win by a half length, giving Kentucky-based trainer Dale Romans his first Breeders' Cup victory. The gray daughter of Tapit, ridden by Robby Albarado, completed the distance over good turf in

1:34.25. House of Grace rallied for third.

Jones and Romans campaigned Tapitsfly's dam, Flying Marlin (by Marlin). She was a decent allowance filly; her daughter is now 2-for-3 in top stakes company.

"[Flying Marlin] was a good, hard-trying horse, but this filly has way more talent," Romans said. "We've always liked her, and were thinking grass from the day she was born, but she got ready earlier than they had turf races so we ran her on the dirt a couple of times, just waiting to get on the grass." Tapitsfly is undefeated in her two starts on turf.

SPEED ON THE LEAD

Hi Card Ranch's homebred California Flag wired 13 opponents in the second running of the \$1 million Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint. Contested down the hill at six and a half furlongs, the race promised speed on the lead and California Flag didn't disappoint.

The California-bred outgunned the speed, posting

fractions of :21.50 and :43.09 before stretching his lead as the field crossed the main oval. Joe Talamo implored him for more and he delivered the win by a length and three-quarters over late-running Gotta Have Her and Cannonball. California Flag finished in 1:11.28, just one-fifth off the course record. Trained by Brian Koriner, California Flag won his sixth race from his last seven starts, his only defeat during the streak coming in the same race last year.

The Avenue of Flags gelding, now 6, had given Koriner a scare earlier in the week when dropping his exercise rider and blowing out three furlongs the wrong way back to his barn. None the worse for it, he improved his record to eight wins from 16 starts.

IRONCLAD PERFORMANCE

Irish-based trainer Aidan O'Brien's annual foray to the Breeders' Cup turned fruitful quickly when Man of Iron nosed out Cloudy's Knight in Friday's opener, the Breeders' Cup Marathon. Owned by Derrick Smith, Mrs. John Magnier and Michael Tabor, the son of Giant's Causeway, a 3-year-old facing several much older rivals, tracked favorite Mastery and Cloudy's Knight around the final turn, ducked inside those two and prevailed. Johnny Murtagh guided the winner, a half-brother to Belmont Stakes-G1 winners Jazil and Rags to Riches.

Man of Iron finished the mile and three-quarters in 2:54.11.

"Last year we had three seconds and it wasn't fun going home on the bus after having three seconds at the Breeders' Cup and no winner," Murtagh said. "It's a wonderful venue for the Breeders' Cup; it's a wonderful track."

Man of Iron's victory marked the first Breeders' Cup win for the Coolmore Team since High Chaparral (Ire) deadheat win in the Breeders' Cup Turf-G1 in 2003 (also run at Santa Anita). *