

# From the Executive Office



## A Classic Finish

In this column a few months back, I documented the tremendous success we had realized during the first eight months of the year. This included the record breaking Del Mar Sale and the successful passage of key legislation, to name but a few.

I ended that column stating that I was hoping for an exciting conclusion to 2001. Little did I know that the month of November would provide the icing on the cake. Tiznow became the first ever horse to win the Breeders' Cup Classic twice, and California Cup XII yielded record handle and on-track attendance figures not seen in almost 10 years. With nearly 30 graded stakes wins this year alone, Cal-breds have obtained unparalleled success in competition across the country. Tiznow's ultra game victory in the World Thoroughbred Championships Breeders' Cup Classic emphasized the year's accomplishments.

The reigning Horse of the Year's presence in New York, all things considering, certainly made Californians proud. In fact I remember commenting to someone in the paddock, that if they ran the race on looks alone, Tiznow would be hard to beat. Saddled next to some of the best-bred horses in the world, he was a standout. Congratulations to the connections on a remarkable job that led to his victory. This achievement will be a significant boost to the ever-improving California breeding industry.

Cal Cup XII, the annual fall celebration of the California Thoroughbred, was without a doubt one of the best overall days of racing in California in the last decade. The attendance, handle, program, and infield party were all outstanding.

When asked to explain the reasons for such a successful event, I thought of many contributing variables. Great weather, large competitive fields, the presence of stars Tiznow (who was paraded in the paddock) and Officer (who was a surprise entrant in the Juvenile), a great giveaway item, a \$1 million guaranteed pick six, and greater marketing penetration both in and out of state. The television coverage by new sponsor TVG was outstanding and contributed to the significant increases in the handle out of state.

The chart below illustrates the remarkable success of the recent Cal Cup:

Attendance			Handle		
On Track	Off Track	Total Calif.	On Track	Off Track	Total (incl. out of state)
37,184	16,344	53,528	\$5,269,092	\$5,212,056	\$19,823,879*

\*Cal Cup record

I want to specifically thank and applaud Sherwood Chillingworth of the Oak Tree Racing Association and Cal Cup Coordinator Cookie Hackworth for all of their efforts in making this event such a quality occasion. We are also indeed grateful for the support of our Cal Cup sponsors Wells Fargo, Budweiser, CTT/TOC, XTRA Sports 690 AM/Fox 1150, TVG and John Deere. Their commitment enables us to continue to offer a first rate experience for all participants. Cal Cup has been a mainstay for the last dozen years and remains one of the nation's leaders in state bred days.

Although it will be difficult to duplicate the achievements of this year, I am hopeful we will continue our positive trend though 2002.

Happy Holidays.

— Doug Burge