



Guided Times

by DEBRA GINSBURG

Sometime during 1955, officers of the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association (CTBA) inaugurated an annual award to honor the accomplishments of an outstanding broodmare. They mailed letters to members of the voting media, stating that "such an award was to inspire the sporting public to an even greater awareness and pride in the high level of our Thoroughbred production."

Fittingly enough, Iron Reward, whose son Swaps captured the Kentucky Derby earlier that spring, became the first California broodmare to win this award. Additional recipients since then have included War Whisk, Miss Larksfly, Red Curtain, Golden Shore, Iza Valentine, Miss Snowflake, Careless Notion, Chickadee, Ubetsheid and Cee's Song, all dams of state-bred runners who performed well within their native Golden State and beyond.

When the ballots were tabulated for this year's slate of candidates, a consistent produce record won out over mares that were represented by a single outstanding runner. In fact, the top three vote getters had all produced multiple California-bred stakes horses. Honors went to Mike Pegram's Guided Times, the dam of California champions Controlled and Icecoldbeetrads. The 15-year-old Crafty Prospector mare outpolled Rio Tejo (Rio Oro, Guillermo and Giovannetti) and

deceased Maui Lyphear J. (Jpn) (Maui Lyphear Gold and El Dorado Shooter) in one of the closest contests in the history of this prestigious award.

Bred in Florida by Tony Bowling and Bobby Dowd, Guided Times was purchased from the 1990 Ocala Select 2-Year-Old Sale for \$105,000 by Romi Stable, an anagram of owners Bob Roth and Mike Pegram. The chestnut filly was sent to Bob Baffert in California and debuted on Nov. 4, 1990, at Santa Anita Park. She ran second in all three of her

"She was a big, beautiful mare, too," he added. "She didn't pan out the way we would have liked. She got hurt, but all her babies are extremely fast. Going three-quarters or seven-eighths, they are very tough."

Guided Times' first foal was a colt by grade I Santa Anita Handicap winner Ruhlmann, foaled in 1993. Gelded and named Time for Cabo, he then won three races from 15 starts for \$22,252. The mare hit pay dirt with her second foal, an In Excess (Ire) filly named Inexcessivelylucky who won only one race from just six outings but did place in the filly division of the 1996 California Sires Stakes for career earnings of \$50,035.

In fact, Inexcessivelylucky was quite unlucky in the Cal Sires. She got caught up in an early speed duel and it cost her. She had opened up a 3 1/2-length lead in mid-stretch, but got weary and couldn't hold off the late rush of Unaflame to lose by a length.

Her effort marked the first of three consecutive appearances in that stake for daughters of Guided Times and she was the first of eight consecutive foals that the mare would produce from In Excess. Roth had passed away in the meantime, though, and Pegram had to go it alone, campaigning Inexcessivelylucky and her full sister Inexcessive Speed in his own name.

The latter broke her maiden in a two-furlong "baby" race at Santa Anita in the spring of 1997, then went to the sidelines for most of that summer with a minor shin problem. She resurfaced late in the Del Mar meeting and proved more than ready to tackle the 7-furlong Cal Sires at Oak Tree on Oct. 4.

Like her sister, Inexcessive Speed charged right to the front, setting quick early fractions of :22, :44 3/5 and 1:09



outings at two and broke her maiden in her third attempt at three, taking a \$62,500 maiden claimer at the Arcadia track on Feb. 28, 1991. Guided Times wound up winning a couple of allowance races, but ran unplaced in her only stakes attempt at Bay Meadows, retiring with three wins from 11 starts and earnings of \$74,075.

"The thing about Guided Times was you couldn't rate her," said Baffert in a 1998 *California Thoroughbred* interview. "She was really fast. When that gate opened, she was gone. And if you tried fighting her, that would take the race right out of her.

1/5 en route to completing seven panels in 1:23 1/5 and become Guided Times' first stakes winner. She went on to win two of five starts for earnings of \$92,000.

The mare produced a third In Excess filly in 1996, who Pegram chose to sell. Sent to the Fasig-Tipton Florida Two-Year-Old Sale in 1998, she fetched a final bid of \$125,000 from Edward J. Hand. She became Controlled, California's Champion Juvenile Filly of 1998.

Trainer Eddie Gregson unveiled Controlled in a Del Mar maiden allowance race in July. She strolled home by six lengths that day, stopping the timer in :57 4/5 for five furlongs. She jumped immediately to stakes company, taking Del Mar's Generous Portion Stakes by two lengths. Then, in October, she turned the Cal Sires into a family affair with a gate-to-wire victory.

"This filly has a tendency to do only what she has to do," the late trainer previously told *California Thoroughbred*. "I have to work her with another horse to get a decent work into her. So when I saw her on the lead by herself, I was concerned. Controlled showed a lot of gameness. She could have caved in."

Controlled's next start was the California Cup Juvenile Fillies over 1 1/16 miles and her ability to go a distance of ground became questionable when she finished a non-threatening fourth. Shortened back to seven furlongs for the filly division of the California Breeders' Champion Stakes, she stamped herself as the state's outstanding juvenile filly with an authoritative four-length victory.

Controlled raced twice at three, winning the Boo La Boo Stakes against Calbreds and running third in the grade II Santa Ynez Stakes, her only graded stakes attempt. She retired with five wins from seven starts and earnings of \$325,248. Her first foal, a General Meeting colt, brought \$80,000 at last year's Del Mar Yearling Sale.

Guided Times' next three In Excess foals did nothing to enhance her pro-



Icecoldbeeratreds Grade II Del Mar Futurity Sept. 11, 2002



Controlled \$150,000 California Breeders' Champion Stks. Dec. 31, 1998



Inexcessivespeed \$100,000 California Sires Stakes Oct. 4, 1997



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duce record. Her 1997 colt Gator in Excess won once from five starts and died at three, while Time for Excess, foaled in 1998, and her 1999 colt Sunday Cooler both failed to win at all.

In 2000, the mare foaled an attractive bay colt who Pegram kept for himself and named for Red Tracton's Steakhouse in Del Mar. Pegram and his buddies were gathered around the television in Red's bar watching the 2001 Holiday Bowl, when the conversation suddenly switched to horses.

"We got to naming horses and somebody handed me an ice cold beer," was the story Pegram told *Daily Racing Form* columnist Jay Hovdey. "I thought, you know what, that would make a good name for a racehorse."

Icecoldbeeratreds was foaled at Vessels Stallion Farm in Bonsall, then was sent to J. B. and Kevin McKathan in Florida for his early schooling. Turned over to Baffert, he won his first two starts, including a 3 1/2-length score in Del Mar's Graduation Stakes.

When the colt ran fifth as the 9-10 favorite in the grade III Best Pal Stakes, the betting public jumped off his wagon and Icecoldbeeratreds went postward in the grade II Del Mar Futurity as the 5-1 fourth choice. He led a Baffert brigade across the wire with a front-running victory in 1:22 4/5, as stablemates Kafwain, Chief Planner, Friendly Mike and Bull Market finished second, third, fourth and sixth, respectively.

Sent to New York for the grade I Champagne Stakes, Icecoldbeeratreds ran second to Toccet and came out with a chipped knee that required surgery. He suffered a fatal injury shortly after he resumed training this winter and was posthumously honored as California's outstanding juvenile male of 2002. He had three wins from five starts for earnings of \$353,800.

Guided Times dropped another In Excess colt in 2002, then produced a colt by Pegram's 1998 Kentucky Derby-Preakness winner Real Quiet earlier this year. She is currently in-foal to 1997 dual classic winner Silver Charm.

The top five California Broodmare of the Year candidates as voted by the CTBA membership (by July 9, 2003):
1) Guided Times; 2) Rio Tejo; 3) Maui Lypheor J. (Jpn); 4) Elegant Beauty; and 5) Code It Nikki.