

## Local Heroes

As I pen this column on the eve of the official release of the movie *Seabiscuit*, there is obviously a lot of excitement in the air. So far, the early indications—taken from the press junket held at Santa Anita Park as well as all the premieres across the country—point to a successful run for this realistic motion picture about the legendary racehorse who became an American hero in the aftermath of the Great Depression.

Let us hope that this emotionally-charged canvas, portraying such memorable horseracing characters as Seabiscuit himself, "Red" Pollard, Tom Smith, Charles Howard and George Woolf, becomes the summer blockbuster that elevates our sport to the lofty levels that it truly deserves.

On the subject of winners, this current issue features a number of such California-breds. The cover story (p24) documents the glittering record of Guided Times, the 2002/2003 California Broodmare of the Year, while the magazine also includes a splendid article (p26) on the Valkyr Trophy winner for 2002/2003, Super High.

By the time you read this, the 2003 edition of the CTBA Sales Del Mar Yearling Sale should only be about a week away and we have for you a three-page editorial (p19) detailing some of the most outstanding youngsters who are scheduled to go through the auction ring at the Del Mar HorsePark, either on Sunday, Aug. 10 or Monday, Aug. 11.

Pat Thompson's Ridgeley Farm was recently named California's 2002 TOBA (Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association) Breeder of the Year, so the tale (p29) of this Thoroughbred nursery's interesting history also graces the pages of this magazine. Then, there is a CTBA Member Profile (p30) on Robert (Bob) McCabe, as well as both a review (p34) of the leading local freshman sires of 2003 and a preview (p36) of Chris McCarron's upcoming appearance—as the Keynote Speaker—at the 7th Annual Harris Ranch Seminar, scheduled for Sept. 19 and 20.

This publication also features: Flying Continental, the 12th member of the Cal-Bred Millionaires' Row (p39); the graded stakes winners Joey Franco (p42) and Cee's Elegance (p44) in our The Grade California-Breds series; and the many stakes winners reported on in the latest chapters of both Racing in Southern California (p46) and the Northern California Report (p50).

As usual, we educate and inform in Equine Products (p54), Down on the Farm (p58) and Horse Care (p62), while Greener Pastures highlights the success achieved in an alternative career by yet another Cal-bred Thoroughbred, Seattle Spy (p64). The Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association (TOBA) explains the ins and outs of its latest venture, The Greatest Game Inc., in Guest Forum (p88), and there are also all those regular departments—from News Bits (p8) and the California Thoroughbred Foundation Notes (p16) to the latest statistics for our local sires and Cal-bred maiden and stakes race winners—to look out for.

We hope that you will both enjoy and be able to take something from all these wonderful articles in this latest issue of *California Thoroughbred*. They spotlight many of our past and present Cal-breds of distinction, so here's to you finding your own such "Local Hero" in the future, maybe even at Del Mar this summer!

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