



Regional Sales

Review of the Barretts October 2003 Mixed Sale

by **DEBRA GINSBURG**

By offering the largest catalogue in its sale history, officials of Barretts Equine Ltd. in Pomona, Calif., knew this year's October Mixed Sale would be filling some big shoes. Record numbers were posted at its corresponding sale last year, which featured two major dispersals and a quality offering of horses in training from Golden Eagle Farm. Although this year's catalogue was expanded to feature 150 more horses, the pickings were lighter in comparison. And if that wasn't enough, wildfires blazed from Simi Valley to San Diego to compromise buyer turnout for the Oct 27 and 28 auction at Fairplex Park.

"It seemed as if the forces of nature had conspired against us this year," explained Barretts President and General Manager Gerald McMahon. "Every horse community in Southern California was affected by these fires. Considering what we had to deal with, from transportation problems and freeway closures to a fire that came within four miles of our doorstep, I have to say we came out okay. We may have been down 10 percent from last year's record sale, but above 2001's overall numbers."

The two sessions grossed \$2,860,400 from 513 horses sold, and the average price was \$5,576. While McMahon explained that this year's sale cannot accurately be compared to 2002, it did stack up very well against the 2001 October Mixed Sale, when 350 horses brought total receipts of \$1,880,800 and an average of \$5,239. Last year's sale, which included the dispersals of Ridder Thoroughbred Stable and Cecilia Straub-Rubens' horses, grossed \$3,176,600 and averaged \$7,510 from 423 horses sold.

In addition, the median of \$3,200 exactly matched 2001's median price and was just slightly 8.6 percent down from the \$3,500 median realized last year. However, there were 157 horses bought back from a catalogue of 782 for a ratio of 23.4 percent.

"We were worried that the fires would move us into the 40 percent range," he added. "The fact that it didn't, meant the consignors adjusted their reserves to reflect the situation. It was a pretty solid sale for us, considering the circumstances."

Topping the sale was graded stakes-placed Nanogram from the consignment of Mary Knight, Agent. She entered the ring midway through the first session and fetched a final bid of \$72,000 from Sheila O'Callahan. Bred and raced by a group that included the late pedigree expert Leon Rasmussen, Nanogram is a 6-year-old Quiet American mare out of 1994 California Cup Distaff winner Nannetta. Nanogram won two races and placed twice in the grade III Senator Ken Maddy Handicap for career earnings of

\$189,672. O'Callahan was a friend of Rasmussen, who passed away in August.

Two broodmares sold for \$55,000. One was Got the Votes, a winning Slew o' Gold half-sister to multiple California champion Work the Crowd. Consigned by Harris Farms Inc., Agent, the \$139,301-earner was believed in foal to Cee's Tizzy and purchased by Blooming Hills Inc. The other was Jacodra's Devil, a 12-year-old Devil's Bag mare in-foal to Bertrando, who was consigned by River Edge Farm, Agent, and purchased by Magali Ventures.

The top-selling weanling was Nannetta's Mutkaddim filly who went to Gayle Van Leer for \$28,000. The mare's unraced 2-year-old Cromwell colt, Rules of War, sold to Bob Cheema for \$22,000, while Nannetta herself went to Royalty Stables for \$22,000. She is believed to be in-foal to General Meeting. All were consigned by Knight.

Another weanling filly by Bertrando out of stakes winner Forever Mango brought a final bid of \$25,000 from Tailwind Racing, and her dam sold in-foal to Cee's Tizzy to Tom Bachman for the same price. Both were consigned by (Andy) Havens Bloodstock Agency Inc., Agent. Forever Mango, a stakes winner of \$68,729, is a full sister to this year's California Cup Starter Sprint Handicap winner, Coconut Mango.

The highest priced yearling at \$25,000 was Rathskeller, a Bartok (Ire) half-sister to 2001 California Champion Sprinter Go Go.

Consigned by (Nancy) Yearsley Bloodstock, Agent for Chris J. Ray, she was bid in by trainer Wesley Ward. Selling for \$24,000 was Resonate, a yearling colt by Rio Verde, consigned by Lov Acres Ranch, Agent, and bought by Peter Pappas.

The top-selling horse of racing age was Gray Jag, a Florida-bred 3-year-old son of Ponche who placed in last year's Malcolm Anderson Stakes at Bay Meadows for earnings of \$55,860. Consigned by (Kathy) Berkey Bloodstock Services Inc., Agent, he fetched \$29,000 from El Presidio Farms.

The leading consignor for a second straight year was Golden Eagle Farm, Agent, which brought a large consignment comprised mostly of broodmares and the stallions Half a Year, Half Term and American Day. They sold 59 horses for gross receipts of \$514,600. A distant second was River Edge Farm, which sold 35 head for \$321,600. Knight sold the sale topper and 24 others for \$263,700. Havens Bloodstock Agency, Cardiff Stud Farms, Agent, and Harris Farms were also among the top sellers.

The top purchaser was Nevada Bloodstock, Agent, which bought 11 horses for \$104,000. Trainer Jerry Dutton paid \$100,000 for seven horses. Magali Ventures, the leading buyer from last year, returned for three more horses totaling \$91,500, while Blooming Hills bought four for \$86,500.

