



# Shalini

gr./ro. f. 4., Urgent Request (Ire)—Code It Nikki, by Falstaff

## \$175,000 Fran's Valentine Stakes (R) 1 1/16 Miles (T)

unable to win a single race. The mare's offspring banked a combined grand total of \$3,215 in purse money, of which \$1,900 belonged to Code It Nikki.

The Briere cousins might be accused of wishful thinking when they named her first foal Broke the Slump. Code It Nikki's 1998 Slewy filly may have broken Jim and Richard's slump, but she ran her best races for other owners.

After she broke her maiden by seven lengths in her fourth start, they lost Broke the Slump in a \$20,000 claiming race in May of 2001. By the end of the year, she had finished fourth in the California Cup Distaff Starter Handicap. In 2002, Broke the Slump became the model of consistency and ran second to Super High in the Cal Cup Matron. She has earned \$208,799 to date.

Also participating in the 2002 California Cup was Code It Nikki's 1999 filly that Jim and Richard still own. Sired by 1995 Santa Anita Handicap victor Urgent Request (Ire), this one was named Shalini, an Egyptian word for "a woman of good luck or wisdom." She had placed in both the juvenile and 3-year-old filly divisions of the California Sires Stakes and then lost the Cal Cup Distance Handicap by just a nose to Nicole's Pursuit. It was a profitable California Cup for Code It Nikki's daughters.

"It would be beyond our wildest fantasy if this filly went on to do some big things," said

Jim of Shalini. "Craig Dollase has always been high on her."

Shalini justified those wild fantasies when she opened 2003 with a win in the Pro Or Con Handicap on the Santa Anita Park turf course on Jan. 4. She then ran a lackluster sixth in the Sunshine Millions Distaff when returned to the main track, but prepped for the Fran's Valentine by running fifth in an \$80,000 optional claimer on the grass on March 20.

Sent off as second choice behind Blind Ambition in the 1 1/16-mile turf event, Corey Nakatani settled the gray filly in mid-pack during the early going. They closed with a rush between horses to catch Blind Ambition in the final strides for a neck victory in 1:41 2/5. Sunset Serenade closed well for third.

This was Shalini's fourth win from 16 starts and pushed her bankroll to \$255,396.

John Harris, the breeder and co-owner of Blind Ambition, also had a rooting interest in the winner. Code It Nikki resides at his Harris Farms Inc. and she foaled Shalini at the Coalinga facility. The mare had a High Brite colt in 2002, a Rhythm filly this year and was bred to resident stallion Cee's Tizzy.

"No matter what any of her future foals do, it's a real distinction for any mare to have back-to-back earners of \$200,000," exclaimed Jim Briere. "We're totally dumbstruck with our success."

Breeder: Briere Thoroughbreds

Owners: James M. & Richard Briere

Trainer: Craig Dollase

Jockey: Corey Nakatani

Lifetime Record: 16-4-2-3 and \$257,396

2nd: Blind Ambition

3rd: Sunset Serenade

by DEBRA GINSBURG

As grip technicians for the film industry, cousins Jim and Richard Briere know how the right kind of lighting can make Hollywood movie magic. To get away from that make-believe world, they immersed themselves with racehorses and reality jumped up and slapped them in the face.

"We did all the wrong things at first, breeding to the wrong stallions and whatever," Jim said. "We weren't winning and we weren't enjoying ourselves the way we thought we should. It was an expensive lesson."

One of their early failures recently gave them a real Hollywood ending, however. Jim had owned a Codex filly named Coded Letters in partnership with another man. She had one win from 11 starts and about \$7,000 in earnings. Jim made a deal with his partner, got Coded Letters in exchange for her first foal and bred her to Falstaff.

The result of that mating was a filly named Code It Nikki. Like Coded Letters' four other foals, she was



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