

by **DEBRA GINSBURG**

The management of Barretts Equine Ltd. were not lying about holding the largest winter mixed sale in the company's history. Catalogued were 676 horses, which included the continuing Ridder Thoroughbred Stable dispersal and horses from the Edward J. Hand Living Trust. Also featured was a large consignment from Golden Eagle Farm and many stakes performers of the late Prince Ahmed bin Salman's The Thoroughbred Corp.

Helped by enthusiastic bidding, prices rose across the board during the two-day sale which saw 524 horses sell for a gross of \$4,431,000, average of \$8,456 and median of \$4,000. Total revenue climbed 36 percent, mainly due to the larger catalogue, while all the other figures also registered significant gains over 2001. The average price increased by 19.4 percent and the median rose 8.1 percent. Also on a positive note was the buyback ratio, which decreased to just 12.1 percent.

"We had a good, solid mixed sale," said Barretts President and General Manager Gerald McMahan. "The attendance was excellent and the bidding energy was good at all levels. We were pleased to see that new California stallions were well-received. It was a very positive event for the California Thoroughbred industry."

Industry newcomers Rich and Gaby Sulpizio led all buyers by spending \$403,500 in the name of Magali Ventures for 10 broodmares. The Sulpizios acquired the former Mandysland Farm in Santa Ynez last year and renamed it Magali Farms. They have since been active at local sales in an effort to establish a quality broodmare band. At the Barretts October Mixed Sale last year, they acquired sale-topping Day Jewels for \$145,000 and now they came home with January's sale topper as well, the unraced Storm Cat mare Catrina for \$110,000.

Believed in-foal to 1998 Santa Anita Handicap winner Malek (Chi), Catrina was consigned by (Kathy) Berkey Bloodstock Services, as agent for Ridder Thoroughbred Stable. She is out of grade III winner Marshua's River (\$402,146) and descends from the family of California-bred Scholars Studio, winner of the grade II La Canada Stakes. Catrina has produced two foals to date, a yearling Memo (Chi) filly and a 2-year-old Smokester colt.



Magali also bought the second and third highest broodmares sold. Lunch With Lulu, a 4-year-old full sister to \$1,061,193-earner Afternoon Deelites, was consigned by River Edge Farm and sold in-foal to resident stallion Bertrando for \$80,000. Brefny, an 8-year-old Sleppy mare from the Ridder dispersal, sold in-foal to Dixie Dot Com for \$67,000. She's a winning half-sister to Cal-bred stakes winners Kildare and Tarascon and hails from the immediate family of 2002 stakes winners Hall of Gold and Public Domain.

"We are buying these mares to breed to Lit de Justice and Until Sundown, the two stallions that stand at our farm," said Rich Sulpizio, who recently retired as president of Qualcomm Inc. "We currently have 20 broodmares, so I think we're making good progress." He added that they plan to offer consignments at yearling sales in future years.

The second leading buyer was

Bruno DeBerdt, who paid \$304,900 for 19 horses. One of these was stakes-winning Regiment who brought \$100,000 as the top-selling horse of racing age. The 4-year-old son of Outflanker won four races and \$288,940 under The Thoroughbred Corp.'s silks and placed in the graded Cinema Breeders' Cup and La Jolla Handicaps. He was consigned by Kristin Mulhall.

Three broodmares brought \$60,000. Stephen Ferraro bought My Sweet Barbara from the Edward J. Hand dispersal (Harris Farms, Agent). The stakes-placed Flying Paster mare is the dam of Cavonnier Stakes winner Excessive Barb and is carrying an In Excess (Ire) foal which is a full sibling to that runner. Real Rula, a 6-year-old half-sister to stakes-placed Copelan's Eagle and Hemet Gold, was sold in-foal to Distorted Humor by (Andy) Havens Bloodstock Agency to John B. Crook. Cardiff Stud Farms purchased Beauty Mark from Golden Eagle Farm. The 8-year-old Danzig mare is from the family of graded stakes winners Fantastic Look, Designed for Luck and Worldly Ways.

The top-selling juvenile was a Bertrando colt from the River Edge consignment that went to trainer John Sadler for \$52,000. The youngster is out of an unraced half-sister to stakes-placed Pirate's Glow who hails from the family of multiple stakes winner Fearless Pirate, who sold for \$22,000 at the 1995 Del Mar Yearling Sale and earned \$495,261.

The leading consignor was Golden Eagle Farm, which sold all 39 head for \$611,000. As agent for the Ridder dispersal, Berkey Bloodstock Services sold 25 for \$561,900. In her initial consignment, Kristin Mulhall sold 21 horses for \$481,000. Rounding out the top five sellers were Havens Bloodstock Agency, which sold 59 head for \$408,600, along with Mary Knight who grossed \$377,400 for 62 lots.

Barretts January Mixed Sale 2003/2002 Comparison												
	HEAD SOLD		GROSS		AVERAGE		MEDIAN		RNA		OUT	
	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002
Broodmares	225	207	\$2,163,200	\$1,383,000	\$9,614	\$6,681	\$4,400	\$3,500	41	44	30	29
Stallions	6	11	39,000	156,800	6,500	14,255	3,250	9,000	1	1	0	3
Yearlings	127	102	812,600	466,700	6,398	4,575	3,000	3,200	12	14	22	13
2-Year-Olds	99	68	731,700	408,800	7,391	6,012	4,000	4,000	16	5	19	8
Horses of Racing Age	67	72	684,500	10,216	11,701	5,000	6,850	6,850	2	3	16	14
Total	524	460	4,431,000	3,257,800	8,456	7,082	4,000	3,700	72	67	87	67