



Regional Sales

Youth In Demand At Barretts October Mixed Sale

by LISA GROOTHEDDE

Although the 2006 Barretts October Mixed Sale failed to make a splash in its overall results, the Oct. 30-31 event reflected the current national trend of buyers seeking to immerse their investment dollars in an elusive fountain of youth. None of the top five sellers from this year's auction—each a filly or mare aged seven years old or younger—had produced a winning offspring at the time the catalog was printed, and four of these five were sold while carrying either their first or second foal.

But ages weren't the only numbers that were down at Barretts Equine Limited's Pomona complex in 2006; sales results were down across the board as well.

With the quantity of horses offered dropping 22.1 percent, from 603 in 2005 to 470 in 2006, gross receipts tumbled 18.9 percent from the preceding October sale, from \$2,529,400 to \$2,051,500. From the 550 horses catalogued, 367 sold for an average price of \$5,590, a slight dip of 2.8 percent compared to last year's corresponding figure. Median price fell 10 percent, from \$3,000 to \$2,700.

The buy-back rate provided some relief from the negative outcomes, however; the number of horses who failed to meet their reserve prices this year improved to 21.9 percent, compared to 27 percent in 2005; a likely indicator that sellers were more realistic with the perceived value of their offerings this time around. And although 81 horses did not receive a single live bid last year, that number was practically halved to 43 in 2006.

A pair of broodmares in foal to California stallions topped the sale at \$47,000 apiece.

Figurehead, a three-year-old daughter of Deputy Minister, anchored the first day's results when she was purchased by

Barbara Kelly from the agency consignment of River Edge Farm Inc. Representing the family of multiple grade I winner Stella Madrid, Champion Sprinter My Juliet and several international stakes winners, the unraced mare out of Refinement, by Seattle Slew, was sold while carrying her second foal by River Edge stallion Bertrando.

Seven-year-old Some Came Running, a daughter of Phone Trick out of the Kingmambo mare Miss Brazin' Hussy, topped the second session on a winning bid by agent Eric Reed. Consigned by Havens Bloodstock Agency Inc., the seven-time winner and earner of \$203,871 was sold in foal to Cardiff Stud Farm's first-year stallion Singletary, winner of the 2004 NetJets Breeders' Cup Mile (grade I).

Three additional broodmares commanded prices greater than \$30,000: Sportz Biz, a seven-year-old Hennessy mare consigned by agent Sam Hendricks, was bought by Ray Gilkyson for \$45,000 in foal to Taste of Paradise; Nandu, River Edge Farm's five-year-old Bertrando mare in foal to Benchmark, sold to Lee and Susan Searing for \$40,000; and Wayne's Princess, a seven-year-old stakes winner from agent Mary Knight's consignment, elicited a \$32,000 bid from H&E Ranch while carrying her first foal from the cover of Globalize.

Five-year-old Reckless Hero, a gelded winner by Smokester, realized the sale's top price for a horse of racing age when he was purchased by agent Hal Oliver for \$30,000 from the Havens consignment. The top-priced yearling, a son of Devon Lane named Little Bro and consigned by Special T Thoroughbreds as agent, sold for the same amount to Chris York.

Oliver also acquired the top-selling weanling, a Tribal Rule half-brother to Reckless Hero, for \$25,000. Like his sibling, the colt was presented in Andy Havens' consignment, as was the highest-priced broodmare prospect, a \$116,526-earning Bartok (Ire) filly named Queenmab's daughter who went home with Dale Baird for \$20,000.

Havens led all consignors by gross sales, with 55 horses selling for \$388,700. Pony World Farm topped all buyers, with nine horses purchased for an aggregate of \$87,700.

Top-ranked California freshman sire Tribal Rule asserted his popularity among auction-goers as the leading sire of weanlings, with three sold for an average of \$16,667, while Bertrando reigned as the leading sire of yearlings, with four sold for an average of \$16,000. Meanwhile, Singletary grabbed attention as the leading covering sire, with three in-foal mares sold for an average of \$24,500.

For complete results of the 2006 October Mixed Sale, visit www.barretts.com.



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Purchased for a joint sale-topping price of \$47,000, three-year-old Figurehead (Deputy Minister-Refinement, by Seattle Slew) epitomized the market's demand for young breeding stock