



Walk In The Sun: A Two-Year-Old Fireball

by JACKIE BARNES

On May 14, 1975, a dark bay filly named Walk in the Sun made her way to the gate for the third race at Hollywood Park. It was a \$20,000 maiden claimer for two-year-old fillies at five furlongs. The daughter of Walker's had displayed unusual potential in her morning workouts for trainer Loren Rettele, so it was a surprise to see her entered for a tag.

No one was quite ready for the explosion to come when the gates opened. Walk in the Sun broke from the 11-post and took command right from the start. She had a 2 1/2-length lead at the three eighths pole, which became five during the stretch call. At the wire, she had blistered five furlongs in :57 4/5 drawing away to win by 10 lengths. This was just a preview of what was to come over the next seven weeks.

Walk in the Sun was claimed out of the race by Nobbie Matsumoto and Morris Soriano and moved to the barn of trainer W. A. Reavis. Exactly one week later on May 21, Walk in the Sun was wheeled back in the \$28,200 Junior League Stakes where the young fillies in this race were a more formidable group than she had faced in her maiden victory.

However, the Junior League all but turned into a match race between Fred Hooper's Bound for Pleasure and race favorite Walk in the Sun. The two fillies dueled right from the start, trading the lead at each call, with Bound for Pleasure getting a hard-fought neck victory. Two weeks later on June 4, Walk in the Sun won the \$27,850 Cygnet Stakes by going gate-to-wire as the 2-1 favorite.

With the same group of fillies knocking heads with each other these first few weeks, mostly in stakes company, Walk in the Sun then received a welcome break. Her two toughest races were yet to come. In her next start, she would finish a disappointing sixth to Windy Welcome in the second division of

the \$21,575 Cinderella Stakes on June 25, the only race of her two-year-old campaign in which she finished off the board.

For Walk in the Sun, the \$104,775 Hollywood Lassie Stakes (grade II) on July 12, would prove to be the crowning jewel of her juvenile season. In a stellar field, favoritism went to the Fred Hooper speedster Roman Chimes while Walk in the Sun was allowed to get off at the amazing price of 10-1. Breaking from the seven-hole, she popped the gate and was never seriously challenged. Under Frank Olivares, she won by 1 1/4 lengths in 1:10 2/5 for six furlongs. She was named the outstanding two-year-old filly of the Hollywood meeting.

Walk in the Sun was also voted the California Champion Two-Year-Old Female of 1975. She finished the year with three wins in five starts and earnings of \$80,925. She had originally been sold for the bargain price of \$15,000 to H. S. Braich at the CTBA Two-Year-Olds in Training Sale during March that year. She was consigned by Monty and Pat Roberts acting as agent for her breeder Peggy K. Gardner.

Walk in the Sun was the first stakes winner for her sire, Walker's. In 1969, the son of champion three-year-old Jaipur won the \$36,273 Sanford Stakes at Saratoga by 10 lengths defeating subsequent Belmont Stakes winner High Echelon in the process.

His dam Ortalan, an unraced daughter of Swaps, was a half-sister to both grade I winner Hail the Pirates and multiple stakes winner Candalita. Ortalan produced the Cornish Prince filly Edee's Image, a three-time winner of \$23,398. She was the dam of Image of Reality, a winner of the grade II Milady Handicap and \$211,290. Image of Reality proved to be a prolific broodmare, producing grade I winner Toussaud, grade III winner Navarra, stakes winner Image of Class and group III-placed Projection.

Toussaud, by El Gran Senor, was named Broodmare of the Year in 2002. She has produced four grade I winners—Empire Maker, Chester House, Honest Lady and Chiselling—and grade II winner Decarchy. Both Empire Maker, winner of the 2003 Belmont Stakes and \$1,985,800, and Decarchy, who stands at Magali Farms in Santa Ynez, Calif., are promising young sires whose first foals are yearlings of 2006.

Walker's, who stood at Peg Goeman's Curragh Stock Farm, sired many versatile runners who were equally adept at sprinting or routing. Many handled racing on turf, as well as fast or muddy tracks. Among his very best runners, besides Walk in the Sun who closed out her career with an 11-3-1-1 record and \$83,575 in earnings on Feb. 3, 1977, were multiple stakes winners Maheras (\$366,480), Walk Faster (\$151,540) and Ridgewood High (\$84,559). 🏆



Walk In The Sun
Grade II Hollywood Lassie Stakes—July 12, 1975