



*Breeders' Cup*

# Cal-Breds Fired Up For Breeders' Cup

by RUDI GROOTHEDDE

Not since Tiznow's 2000 and 2001 Breeders' Cup Classic successes, has a California-bred captured the nation's imagination as much as Lava Man has done with his six-race unbeaten streak so far this year.

The six-year-old gelding now takes this impressive record into the 38th Oak Tree Racing Association meet at Santa Anita Park with the goal of maintaining his status as the leading contender for 2006 Eclipse Horse of the Year honors.

All that's left is a start in either the \$250,000 Clement L. Hirsch Turf Championship (grade I) on Sept. 30 or the \$500,000 Goodwood Breeders' Cup Handicap (grade I) on Oct. 7, before he journeys to Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky, for the \$5 million Breeders' Cup Classic – Powered by Dodge on Saturday Nov. 4.

He joins a group of Cal-breds, and other horses with strong Golden State connections, who are looking to take home a significant share of the \$20



million in purse money which is on offer in the eight grade I events that day.

**No Stopping Him Now**


Starting with a victory in the Sunshine Millions Classic Stakes at Santa Anita on Jan. 28, Lava Man then recorded the second grade I win of his career with a triumph in the March 4 Santa Anita Handicap, also a \$1 million event, while he parlayed this victory into a track record-setting turf win in Hollywood Park's Khaled Stakes on April 30.

In his next two starts at the Inglewood track, Lava Man took the grassy Charles Whittingham Memorial Handicap (June 10) and his second consecutive Hollywood Gold Cup (July 8), both grade I events. In his most recent start on Aug. 20, the son of Slew City Slew, out of the eight-time winner Li'l Ms. Leonard, captured the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club's \$1 million Pacific Classic.


Bred by Lonnie Arterburn and Eve and Kim Kuhlmann and owned by STD Racing Stables



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(Steve, Tracy and Dave Kenley) and Jason Wood, Lava Man's record now stands at 13 wins in 33 starts and \$3,504,706 in earnings.

#### Other Hot Tickets

Besides Lava Man, there are a number of other locally-bred runners who could be contenders at this year's 23rd renewal of the Breeders' Cup World Championships.

Also considering the 1 1/4-mile Classic is Brother Derek, a three-year-old son of Benchmark (River Edge Farm Inc.) who, earlier this year, won the grade I Santa Anita Derby and then finished fourth in both the Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes.

Bred by Mary Caldwell, out of her 2005/2006 California Broodmare of the Year, Miss Soft Sell, Brother Derek currently sports numbers of 11-6-0-1 and \$1,308,458. Owned by Cecil Peacock, last year's California Champion Two-Year-Old Male is headed towards the Goodwood where only a good result will justify him taking the next big step.

Because Cal-breds are renowned for their speed, the \$2 million TVG Sprint at six furlongs may feature Bordonaro, the Golden State's champion sprinter of 2005. In his last five starts, four of which the five-year-old gelded son of Ridgeley Farm's Memo (Chi) has won, the winning times have all been a swift 1:08 and change.

With wins in the \$300,000 Sunshine Millions Sprint Stakes and April 13 Count Fleet Sprint Handicap (grade III) at Oaklawn Park, followed by a runner-up finish in the

grade I Bing Crosby Handicap on July 30, the \$522,164-earner looks ready to take a legitimate shot at Breeders' Cup glory for his breeders and owners Fred Carrillo and Daniel Cassella.

The other conceivable Cal-bred contingent could be in the \$2 million Emirates Airline Filly & Mare Turf, where any one of grade I winner Dancing Edie, millionaire Moscow Burning and graded stakes winner Memorette could make a name for themselves during this richest day in American horse racing history.

#### Additional Firepower

Though not a Cal-bred, Principle Secret will have his fair share of Golden State supporters should he make the final line-up for the \$2 million Bessemer Trust Juvenile at 1 1/16 miles.

The son of local sire Sea of Secrets (Ballena Vista Farm) is unbeaten in two starts after defeating subsequent Del Mar Futurity (grade I) victor Horse Greeley on July 22, and then winning the Aug. 13 Best Pal Stakes (grade II). Owned by Charles Cono's CR Cono LLC, the \$121,800-earner is out of the Cal-bred seven-time winner Beright, a half-sister to graded stakes victor Barbara O'Brien.

Even though the signs presently point to little or no Cal-bred presence in the \$3 million John Deere Turf or \$2 million Emirates Airline Distaff, NetJets Mile and Juvenile Fillies, Lava Man promises to head a serious Cal-bred challenge at Breeders' Cup XXIII being contested on the first Saturday in November this year. 🏇