



# Clark & Janine Hansen: Taking Care Of Business

by LARRY BORTSTEIN

Clark and Janine Hansen of Victorville, California, obviously have Saturday, Nov. 3, marked on their calendars.

That's because they're hoping to have Lady Gamer and Rare Exchange, the four-year-old fillies who gave them their first two stakes victories as Thoroughbred breeders and owners earlier this year, competing during California Cup XVIII at Santa Anita Park that day.

But the Hansens—married since 1991, and members of the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association since 1998—are the kind of people who aren't just concerned about where their horses will run next.

Take, for example, The Mouthpiece.

This gelded son of Ventriloquist out of Mama Negra, the first horse bred by the Hansens in 1994, won two of his 18 starts and earnings of \$103,971 for them for trainer Bob Baffert during a four-year racing career that ended in 1999.

But at 13, he's still is part of the family and is being moved by the Hansens to their friend Buck Abbott's place in nearby Oro Grande.

Another good example is Tootenkamen, a five-year-old daughter of Smooth Runner out of the winner Untimely.

After her racing career ended, she was trained for dressage and was recently sold by the couple to a woman in Hawaii who plans to enter her in horse shows.

"We consider it our responsibility to take care of our horses to the fullest extent, both in and out of racing," said Clark Hansen, a retired trial attorney.

He was a widower with five children when he married Janine, a divorcee with no children.

"I look at our horses as my children," she said. "For that reason, I don't even like to run them in claiming races."

Abbott, whose 50-acre Abbott Ranch is 25 minutes from the Hansens' home, observes them up close.

"There isn't a horse of theirs that they don't love or bring carrots to," he said.

"Whenever they come here it's always a party."

Abbott, who will be 87 years old on Sept. 29, is a legendary horseman whose roots are in the world of professional rodeo, in



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Rare Exchange—Magali Farms Stakes—April 29, 2007

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which he was a champion bareback rider until his retirement in 1966.

Raised on a cattle ranch in Ellensburg, Washington, he runs his ranch with the aid of three employees, including Farm Manager Joe Bacon, but without Juanita, his wife of more than 30 years, by his side. She died a year and a half ago.

"She was close to the Hansens," Abbott said. "They're great clients and have been all these years. They have kept some of their mares with me and foal their babies here."

The mares include Raise A. Daisy and Mariah Reyna, the dams of Rare Exchange and Lady Gamer, respectively.

Raise A. Daisy is a 12-year-old mare by Ventriloquist, one of three stallions standing at Abbott Ranch. The others are Smooth Runner and Cayoke (Fr). Eleven-year-old Mariah Reyna, is a Far North half-sister to both Raise A. Daisy and The Mouthpiece.

The Hansens raced both mares. While Raise A. Daisy only earned \$22,840 from one win in seven starts and Mariah Reyna was unplaced in her only race, the Victorville couple revel in the mares' success as mothers.

Rare Exchange, by Benchmark (River Edge Farm), captured the \$50,000 Magali Farms Stakes at Hollywood Park's Cal National California Gold Rush VIII program on April 29.

The victory came in Rare Exchange's third start after two runner-up finishes. She traveled the 6 1/2 furlongs in 1:16.26 and raised her earnings to \$59,920.

Lady Gamer, by Game Plan (E.A. Ranches), won the \$76,450 Valkyr Stakes at Hollywood Park on June 24.

She won the six-furlong event by 2 1/4 lengths in 1:09.86. It was her third consecutive triumph on Cushion Track, following two allowance scores on the synthetic sur-

face last fall. Lady Gamer has won four of her eight outings overall and earned \$162,610.

This year's Cal Cup will be the first run over Cushion Track, which Santa Anita will soon unveil for its Oak Tree Racing Association meeting starting Sept. 26.

"Rare Exchange and Lady Gamer both won on the Cushion Track at Hollywood Park, so we like the fact that the Cal Cup will be run on that surface," Clark Hansen pointed out.

Both fillies are trained by John Sadler, with whom the Hansens have worked for nearly a decade.

"We like John, because he feels the same way about horses as we do," Janine Hansen said.

By fall, the Hansens also hope some of the other horses they bred will begin to make their mark—two of them out of Mariah Reyna.

One is Comoros, a three-year-old half-brother to Lady Gamer by Comic Strip (Rancho San Miguel). Another is the two-year-old filly Mandatious by Perfect Mandate (Old English Rancho).

"They've been prepared by Rick Taylor at his Special T Thoroughbreds," Clark Hansen said. "We love the job he does there. We have high hopes for both horses."

Janine Hansen, who has a background in the Quarter Horse world, has another reason for looking forward to this year's Cal Cup in Arcadia.

She is Maxine McIntyre, the elder sister of Janine's mom June Russell who recently turned 90.

"Maxine lives near Santa Anita and is a big fan of all our horses," Janine said. "If we have horses in the Cal Cup, she'll be cheering them on. That's a big motivation for us." 🐾



Lady Gamer—Valkyr Stakes—June 24, 2007