

CAL CUP II: THEN & NOW

Bountiful Native

by DEBRA GINSBURG

California Cup Distaff Starter 1991

The winner of the inaugural Distaff Starter Handicap, Bountiful Native was bothered by such tender feet as a youngster that she did not make her first start until June of her 3-year-old season. Marty and Pam Wygod's homebred daughter of Pirate's Bounty wired a field of \$32,000 maiden claimers at Hollywood Park and won as she pleased.

She came back a month later to score against winners for \$45,000, and this time blazed six furlongs in 1:09 1/5. In four subsequent outings, Bountiful Native won an allowance race at Del Mar and picked up her first black-type by running third in the Las Ninas Stakes at Fairplex Park.

A Distaff Starter Handicap at 1 1/8 miles had been added to the Cal Cup program in 1991, and Bountiful Native's maiden win qualified her for a starting berth. Pat Valenzuela settled the filly in third position early as the field of 12 headed into the first turn.

Sent after the leaders turning for home, Bountiful Native ranged up on the outside. She took control without being asked and pulled three lengths clear of the field. The filly then asserted her superiority through the stretch and won by 4 1/2 lengths in 1:51 2/5.

Bountiful Native's Distaff Starter victory was just a harbinger of what was to come. While she enjoyed a successful campaign at three, it was in 1992, when she was a 4-year-old, that she fully established herself as one of the top sprinters in California.

"After she won the Distaff Starter, I was convinced she wanted to route," said trainer Dan Hendricks. "But it was when we sprinted her that she began to come around."

Starting with a narrow but impressive win over Mama

Simba in the Fantastic Girl Handicap at Del Mar, Bountiful Native went on a tear and captured four consecutive stakes. She defeated a classy field of older mares in the grade III Rancho Bernardo Handicap at 6 1/2 furlongs at Del Mar, won the six-furlong June Darling Stakes in an eye-popping 1:08 4/5 and equalled that performance in the Charles H. Russell Handicap at Bay Meadows.

Bountiful Native developed a fever on the eve of the 1992 Cal Cup and Hendricks was forced to turn her out for the remainder of the year. Her four-race rampage during the summer and early fall that year earned her the title as California's champion older female.

She returned to training at five with the 1993 Cal Cup and Breeders' Cup as her principle goals. The grade III Las Flores Breeders' Cup Handicap proved to be her only stakes win that season and physical problems forced her to bypass her two major objectives. Bountiful Native retired with 11 wins from 28 starts and earnings of \$468,475.

Bountiful Native became the first Cal Cup winner bred and campaigned by the Wygods and the first for her sire. Marty and Pam went on to win the 1993 Juvenile Fillies with Private Persuasion, the 1994 Matron with Glass Ceiling and the 1999 Matron with Feverish, all Pirate's Bounty fillies. Now a pensioner at the Wygods' River Edge Farm, Pirate's Bounty is also the sire of 1998 Distaff victress Bountiful Dreamer. He is tied with Flying Paster and Intero as the leading Cal Cup sire with five winners each.

The Wygods still own Bountiful Native, although she now resides at Brookdale Farm in Kentucky. Her first foal, Colonial Policy by Pleasant Colony, won at the races. She has both a 2-year-old and a 3-year-old by Storm Cat, a yearling by Capote and she is currently in foal to Old Trieste.



Nov. 9, 1991—Cal Cup Distaff Starter—Bountiful Native 1st