

# GRADUATES LEAD BY EXAMPLE

By RUDI GROOTHEDDE

The past year has been one success after another for many past graduates of the Del Mar Yearling Sale. Whether it was Officer, who won his first five starts, including the grade I Champagne Stakes, prior to finishing fifth as the favorite in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile, or Gourmet Girl, who gave the sale its first Eclipse Award winner, or any of its other fine performers, it has been 12

months of triumph for those associated with the west coast's premier yearling auction.

The following graduates, who graced the sales ring at Del Mar, represent just a handful of performers who have achieved a high level of excellence over the past year. Their achievements, as well as everyone associated with them, and the marquee event from which they originate need to be lauded for making the California Thoroughbred breeding industry a force to be reckoned with nationwide.

**OFFICER**, 1999 dk.b./br. c. Bertrando-St. Helens Shadow, by Septieme Ciel



**SOLD FOR \$175,00 TO  
BECKY THOMAS' SEQUEL  
BLOODSTOCK, AGENT  
AS HIP #79  
(RIVER EDGE FARM INC., AGENT)  
AT THE 2000 DEL MAR  
YEARLING SALE**

**Breeders:** Mr. & Mrs. Martin J. Wygod  
**Owner:** The Thoroughbred Corporation  
**Record To Date:** 9-6-1-1 and \$804,090  
**Including:** Champagne Stakes-Grade I (left);  
Del Mar Futurity-Grade II;  
Best Pal Stakes-Grade III;  
Graduation Stakes;  
Zany Tactics Stakes.

A year ago, on July 6 to be exact, Officer made his much-anticipated debut at Hollywood Park. His easy six-length win garnered the same kind of headlines he had caused in the sale ring. Originally sold for \$175,000 at the 2000 Del Mar Yearling Sale, the second-highest price of the auction, he was pinhooked and returned seven months later to the Barretts March Sale of Two-Year-Olds in Training, where he realized a record \$700,000 for a California-conceived and bred juvenile at public auction.

On July 25, he returned to contest the \$125,000 Graduation Stakes at 5 1/2 furlongs, the same distance as his maiden victory, and he was equally impressive with an eight-length triumph. The furlong further grade III Best Pal Stakes (Aug. 15), worth \$90,000 to the winner, was next on the agenda for the strapping colt. He did not disappoint his growing legion of fans when he brought his cumulative winning margin for his first three starts to an incredible 21 lengths.

In his third consecutive appearance at the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, Officer took the next step up with a grade II win, this time by a 1 1/2 length margin in the seven-furlong Del Mar Futurity (\$250,000) on Sep. 5.

Belmont Park was his next port of call when he put 3 3/4 lengths between himself and four opponents in the Oct. 6 Champagne Stakes, a grade I event which saw him pocket \$300,000.

Sadly, he then disappointed in his final three starts of 2001. A fifth place finish in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile, as the race's favorite, was followed by a runner-up effort in the California Cup Juvenile and a third-place finish in the Hollywood Futurity. However, he had done more than enough to be voted California's Champion Two-Year-Old Colt of last year.

Racing fans had to wait nearly four months for his return to the track as a sophomore, but his facile six-length comeback win in the \$106,800 Zany Tactics Stakes at 6 1/2 furlongs over Santa Anita's main track on April 7, proved a pleasure to behold. Unfortunately, he was then sidelined with a soft-tissue injury to his leg while preparing for a tilt at the Apr. 20 Lexington Stakes.

It is hoped that this talented Cal-bred will return to his former glory later this year and build on the phenomenal record he has posted so far as one of the best horses to graduate from the Del Mar Yearling Sale in recent memory.

# 2002 CTBA SALES DEL MAR YEARLING SALE

## **GOURMET GIRL**, 1995 dk.b./br.m. Cee's Tizzy-Rhondaling (GB), by Welsh Pageant (Fr)

**SOLD FOR \$3,500 TO A. PICO PERDOMO AS HIP #76 (LAKEVIEW THOROUGHBRED FARM, AGENT) AT THE 1996 DEL MAR YEARLING SALE**



The exploits of this \$3,500 graduate of the 1996 Del Mar Yearling Sale have been well documented in the past but it was only a few months ago that she achieved her greatest success, namely becoming the auction's first-ever Eclipse Award winner.

Her national Champion Older Female accolade was, not surprisingly, duplicated at a regional level. Both awards were justly deserved considering that her record last year was an impressive 6-3-1-1 (\$554,950), including a couple of wins at the highest level in the Apple Blossom and Vanity Handicaps.

However, the year didn't start off as it finished, for it took

**Breeders:** Carl C. and Olivia F. Cannata  
**Owner:** Gary A. Tanaka  
**Record:** 33-9-7-10 and \$1,255,373  
**Including:** Vanity Handicap-Grade I;  
Apple Blossom Handicap-Grade I (left);  
Milady Breeders' Cup Handicap-Grade I;  
Bay Meadows Oaks-Grade III;  
Sacramento Handicap;  
Miss America Handicap.

Gourmet Girl three runs—a win in the Sacramento Handicap sandwiched between two unplaced efforts—before she kicked into another gear with the aforementioned grade I wins on Apr. 8 and June 30, respectively. In what would have prove to be the final start of both 2001 and her racing career, she had to settle for a second place finish in the grade II Clement L. Hirsch Handicap on Aug. 5.

So, about a week after being honored at Miami Beach, Florida, on Feb. 8, 2002, her connections announced her retirement to the breeding shed where she continued where she had left off on the track, visiting only the best in the form of 2000 Kentucky Derby winner Fusaichi Pegasus.

## **GO GO**, 1997 ch.f. Falstaff-Key Mist, by Plugged Nickle

**SOLD FOR \$25,000 TO EDWARD KALINOSKI (LIMIT MOVE STABLES) AS HIP #117 (YEARSLEY BLOODSTOCK, AGENT) AT THE 1998 DEL MAR YEARLING SALE**



Go Go was another distaffer who may have spent a significant amount of time away from the track during the latter part of last year but was rewarded with a championship for her overall record in 2001.

As California's Champion Sprinter of last year, she wrapped up her 2001 campaign as the runner-up in the grade III Rancho Bernardo Handicap on Aug. 19. This meant she was 7-5-2-0 for the year with a grade II (A Gleam Handicap, July 1) and a trio of grade III (Las Flores Handicap, Feb. 24; Las Cienegas

**Breeder:** Christopher J. Ray  
**Owners:** Thomas and Thomas Racing  
**Record To Date:** 17-8-3-1 and \$556,280  
**Including:** A Gleam Handicap-Grade II (left);  
Desert Stormer Handicap-Grade III;  
Las Cienegas Handicap-Grade III (T);  
Las Flores Handicap-Grade III;  
Survive Stakes.

Handicap, Apr. 8; and Desert Stormer Handicap, June 2) successes to her name.

This year has not been as kind to her, though, as she has only managed two unplaced efforts to date and is also awaiting the results of a nuclear scan which her connections hope will reveal the reason for her disappointing comeback. Yet, all of this cannot take anything away from the fact that Go Go is yet another fine representative of the Del Mar Yearling Sale.

# 2002 CTBA SALES DEL MAR YEARLING SALE

## WARREN'S WHISTLE, 1998 gr./ro.f. Wolf Power (SAf)-Velveteen, by Pirateer

**SOLD FOR \$27,000 TO PATRICK EVERARD, AGENT  
AS HIP #36 (WEST 12 RANCH, AGENT)  
AT THE 1999 DEL MAR YEARLING SALE**

**Breeder:** Robert S. Harmon  
**Owners:** Patrick and Elizabeth Everard, and Six Dueces LLC  
**Record To Date:** 33-5-2-9 and \$458,454  
**Including:** Boo La Boo Stakes;  
Sardula Stakes;  
Pio Pico Stakes (right);  
Black Swan Stakes.



The Del Mar Yearling Sale is famous for producing sound horses and Warren's Whistle is one of its finest examples. With seven starts already to her name in 2002 it is therefore not surprising to note that she made it to the post a phenomenal 18 times last year.

Earning \$306,035 for her 2001 efforts, which included three wins, all in stakes company, one second-place finish, and seven show spots, this hardy filly has proved to be yet another bargain graduate of the west coast's premier yearling auction.

Her only stakes victory of the last twelve months came on Sep. 14 when she took the Pio Pico Stakes at the Fairplex Park meet, but during that time period she was also graded stakes-placed in the Aug. 19 grade III Rancho Bernardo Handicap and five times stakes-placed, including a fine runner-up berth in the 2001 Cal Cup Distaff on Nov. 3.

Warren's Whistle is closing in on the \$500,000 mark and shows the potential to be around for a while longer, so don't be surprised if this wonderful Del Mar Yearling advertisement grabs a few more headlines in the near future.

## PHAENNA, 1995 b.m. Frankly Perfect-Redsand Dancer, by Desert Wine

**SOLD FOR \$3,500 TO CURT & LILA LANNING  
AS HIP #75 (JOHN O'HARA, AGENT)  
AT THE 1996 DEL MAR YEARLING SALE**

**Breeder:** Dr. Jerry Buss  
**Owners:** Curt and Lila Lanning  
**Record To Date:** 30-10-4-5 and \$429,437  
**Including:** Survive Stakes (right);  
Bara Lass Stakes;  
Vacaville Handicap;  
Elie Destruel Handicap;  
Bay Meadows Matron Handicap.



Phaenna has always been that speedy, consistent kind of horse that every owner wants to have in their stable and her results of the past year have confirmed that she hasn't lost her touch.

The first half of 2001 turned out to be relatively uneventful for her but then she came into her own. A Vacaville Handicap win on July 14 was followed by consecutive third-place finishes in the Elie Destruel and Mae de Vol Sprint Handicaps. Her final start for the

year was an unplaced spot in the Pio Pico Stakes, but when she returned to the track nearly four months later she was an easy winner of the Survive Stakes on the second day of the new year.

With just a third place finish in the Orinda Handicap to her name in three starts since, up to and including March 3, don't presume that we've seen the last of this durable graduate of the Del Mar Yearling Sale.

## AYANNA, 1999 dk.b./br.f. In Excess (Ire)-Dance Play, by Sovereign Dancer

**RNA FOR \$50,000 AS HIP #140 (MOLLY PEARSON, AGENT)  
AT THE 2000 DEL MAR YEARLING SALE**

**Breeder:** Triple AAA Ranch  
**Owner:** Triple AAA Ranch  
**Record To Date:** 7-3-2-0 and \$145,750  
**Including:** Moccasin Stakes (right);  
Christmas Futurity.



Ayanna was recently voted Arizona's Champion Three-Year-Old Filly of 2001 and it is not hard to see why. As a juvenile, she earned \$145,750 while compiling a 6-3-2-0 record, thus vindicating the decision made by her breeders not to part with her at the Del Mar Yearling Sale a year earlier.

In her third start as a maiden, she won at Del Mar on Aug. 25, but was then eased when making the difficult jump to grade I company. Moving back down a few levels to the \$100,000 Moccasin Stakes at

Hollywood Park on Nov. 18, she showed her opposition a clean pair of heels.

After this 3 1/2 length victory she returned to her home state on Dec. 22 to claim the Christmas Futurity (\$75,000) with a 1 1/2 length hand ride win. Then Ayanna tried another jump in class on Jan. 21 but was unplaced in the grade II Santa Ynez Stakes. The next start for this very speedy customer is now eagerly anticipated.

# 2002 CTBA SALES DEL MAR YEARLING SALE

## BRITETONMYDAY, 1999 dk.b./br.f. High Brite-Runaton Tonz, by Tonzarun



**SOLD FOR \$35,000 TO WESLEY A. WARD  
AS HIP #60 (MOLLY PEARSON, AGENT)  
AT THE 2000 DEL MAR YEARLING SALE**

**Breeder:** Greg Posta  
**Owners:** Richard Hale Sr. & Wesley Ward  
**Record To Date:** 9-5-1-1 and \$168,890  
**Including:** Mid-Peninsula Stakes (left);  
Juan Gonzalez Memorial Stakes.

In a span of less than eight months last year, Britetonzmyday went to post nine times and on five occasions she returned triumphant to the winner's circle. This impressive record included a couple of stakes wins which helped establish her as one more valuable graduate of the Del Mar Yearling Sale.

On July 1, Britetonzmyday followed up her maiden victory at Hollywood Park with a win in Pleasanton's Juan Gonzalez Memorial Stakes and then, after an unplaced effort in the

CTBA Stakes, she had her picture taken again. This time it was in the Mid-Peninsula Stakes at the Bay Meadows Fair meet on Aug. 12 before she headed south again to run third in the Generous Portion Stakes at Del Mar.

Britetonzmyday closed out 2001 with two optional claiming wins on Sep. 28 (Santa Anita) and Nov. 28 (Hollywood Park), but has not been heard from since. So one can only hope that this talented filly will make a reappearance soon and add to her already impressive record.

## LUSTY LATIN, 1999 gr./ro.c. El Prado (Ire)-Scarlet Ann, by Afleet



**SOLD FOR \$29,000 TO CURT & LILA LANNING  
AS HIP #62 (BERKEY BLOODSTOCK SERVICES INC., AGENT)  
AT THE 2000 DEL MAR YEARLING SALE**

**Breeder:** Applebite Farms  
**Owner:** Joey & Wendy Platts  
**Record To Date:** 12-2-2-3 and \$179,693  
**Including:** Rattlesnake Stakes (left).

Another claim to fame for the Del Mar Yearling Sale, was the fact that it boasted a 2002 Kentucky Derby starter in Lusty Latin. Even though he finished a never threatening 15th in the nation's premier sophomore contest, his record leading up to the first Saturday in May was impressive.

At Fairplex Park on Sept. 14, he won his maiden at the third attempt, and then followed that up with a runner-up effort in an allowance race before finishing a respectable fifth in the Cal Cup Juvenile. His original owners Curt and Lila Lanning subsequently received \$62,500 for him after he was narrowly beaten by recent California Sires Stakes

winner Gobi Dan in a claiming race on Nov. 29.

From then on he remained in stakes company. He won the Jan. 2 Rattlesnake Stakes at Turf Paradise after an unplaced effort at Golden Gate, and then put together three consecutive third place finishes in the Turf Paradise Derby, grade III El Camino Real Derby and grade I Santa Anita Derby, respectively.

The trip to Churchill Downs was a reward for showing continued improvement during the past year, but the dream was not to be and soon after that he was sidelined with a hairline fracture. So his connections must now be hoping that he will be back in a matter of a few months to build on his fine record as a worthy representative of the Del Mar Yearling Sale.

## MENACING DENNIS, 1999 dk.b./br.g. Star de Naskra-Joli's Princess (GB), by Prince Sabo



**RNA FOR \$7,000 AS HIP #184 (ASMUSSEN HORSE CENTER, AGENT)  
AT THE 2000 DEL MAR YEARLING SALE**

**Breeder:** K C Horse Corporation  
**Owner:** MJM Racing Stables  
**Record To Date:** 5-2-1-0 and \$116,4087  
**Including:** 2nd Cal Fed Snow Chief Stakes;  
Allowance (left).

Even though he is yet to win a stakes race, Menacing Dennis deserves a mention as a successful Del Mar Yearling Sale graduate if only for the fact that he was a part of the line up in this year's Preakness Stakes where he acquitted himself quite well with a game front-running effort that saw him finish in tenth place.

In his four starts prior to his trip to Pimlico, he had shown enough promise to deserve a crack at the big time. In his lone start of 2001, he romped to a 10 3/4 length maiden victory at Monmouth Park on July 12. Santa Anita was then the venue for

his next appearance where he continued his winning ways with a March 6 allowance triumph by two lengths.

After finishing a distant fourth behind the incomparable Officer in the Zany Tactics Stakes a month later, Menacing Dennis lost a heartbreaker in the \$250,000 Cal Fed Snow Chief Stakes at California Gold Rush III (Apr. 28). Nabbed at the wire after grabbing the lead in the stretch and looking a winner until the last jump, Menacing Dennis' connections can take solace in the fact that their charge will not be without a stakes win for long should he continue to put in performances like these.