

THE
BREEDERS'
CUP

STORY & PHOTOS BY: STEVE HEUERTZ



Breeders' Cup 2014

On Friday, October 31 and Saturday, November 1, the 2014 Breeders' Cup World Championships returned to Santa Anita Park in Arcadia, California. Hosted at the "Great Race Place" for the third consecutive year, the Breeders' Cup featured 13 races between the two days. While there was one less race than the previous year (the Marathon was removed from the Breeders' Cup program), the 13 carded races are all of the Grade 1 (G1) variety and featured the best horses in the world, divided amongst their respective age, surface and distance divisions. Here is a look back at the fabulous weekend of racing that was the 2014 Breeders' Cup World Championships.



Preparation



Top L to R: Prior to a Breeders' Cup "Call to the Post"; Sunshine and palm trees at the "Great Race Place"; Sunset Glow struts off the track after a workout; Belmont Stakes (G1) winner, Tonalist walks in the Santa Anita paddock; Kentucky Derby (G1) and Preakness (G1) winner, California Chrome, exits the track after a workout in preparation for the Breeders' Cup Classic; Main Sequence looks to continue his winning ways in the Breeders' Cup Turf; Bayern works two days before the Breeders' Cup Classic



Experience



Top L to R: Hot walking on the Santa Anita backside; Multiple graded stakes winner, past Breeders' Cup champion and Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf contender, Stephanie's Kitten, poses by her barn; Getting a picture with Seabiscuit; All the Breeders' Cup excitement can leave some feeling exhausted; Working on Breeders' Cup Friday; Breeders' Cup trophies make their way to the winner's circle; Frankie Dettori makes his patented "flying dismount" after Hootenanny kicks off the Breeders' Cup and wins the Juvenile Turf

Friday, October 31, 2014

Hootenanny

Juvenile Turf (G1)
 1 Mile on Turf - \$1,000,000
 Horse: Hootenanny, Bay Colt
 by Quality Road out of More Hennessy, by Hennessy.
 Foaled March 17, 2012 in Kentucky
 Breeder: Barronstown
 Owner: Mrs. John Magnier, Michael Tabor and Derrick Smith
 Trainer: Wesley Ward
 Jockey: Lanfranco Dettori

The Juvenile Turf kicked off the weekend with Luck of the Kitten flying out of the gate and establishing a sizable lead on the backstretch. While Luck of the Kitten maintained his lead into the stretch, Hootenanny had been racing in perfect stalking position and exploded down the center of the track to run down the pacesetter. Luck of the Kitten held on for second.





Atmosphere



Dirt Mile (G1)
 1 Mile on Dirt - \$1,000,000
 Horse: Goldencents, Bay Colt
 by Into Mischief out of Golden
 Works, by Banker's Gold. Foaled
 March 7, 2010 in Kentucky
 Breeder: Rosecrest Farm &
 Karyn Pirrello
 Owner: W.C. Racing
 Trainer: Leandro Mora
 Jockey: Rafael Bejarano



Goldencents



For the second year in a row the Dirt Mile was all Goldencents. Sent immediately to the lead, Goldencents dueled Vicar's in Trouble as the two separated well clear of the pack while setting fractions similar to a sprint race. Vicar's in Trouble couldn't maintain the grueling duel and drifted back as Goldencents continued to romp. Tapiture made a valiant run at the defending champ, but Goldencents refused to give up the lead, crossing the finish in almost identical fashion to his 2013 victory.

Top L to R: The tote board on the Santa Anita roof; The pony brigade gets a well-deserved break during the busy two-day Breeders' Cup; Goldencents' connections celebrate his magnificent Dirt Mile victory; Goldencents romps in the Dirt Mile for the second year in a row; Lady Eli and Irad Ortiz Jr. take the Juvenile Fillies Turf



Lady Eli

Juvenile Fillies Turf (G1)
 1 Mile on Turf - \$1,000,000
 Horse: Lady Eli, Dark Bay or Brown Filly, by Divine Park out of Sacre Coeur, by Saint Ballado. Foaled February 2, 2012 in Kentucky
 Breeder: Runnymede Farm Inc. & Catesby W. Clay
 Owner: Sheep Pond Partners
 Trainer: Chad Brown
 Jockey: Irad Ortiz, Jr.

Sunset Glow made the early lead and held it for the majority of the race. Lady Eli saved ground on the rail, off of the pace, awaiting opportunity. Rounding for home the rail opened and Lady Eli sped through the space, taking the the lead from Sunset Glow and never looking back. Sunset Glow stayed for second.



Longines Distaff (G1)
 1 1/8 Miles on Dirt - \$2,000,000
 Horse: Untapable, Bay Filly, by Tapit
 out of Fun House, by Prozed. Foaled
 February 13, 2011 in Kentucky
 Breeder: Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC
 Owner: Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC
 Trainer: Steven Asmussen
 Jockey: Rosie Napravnik



Untapable

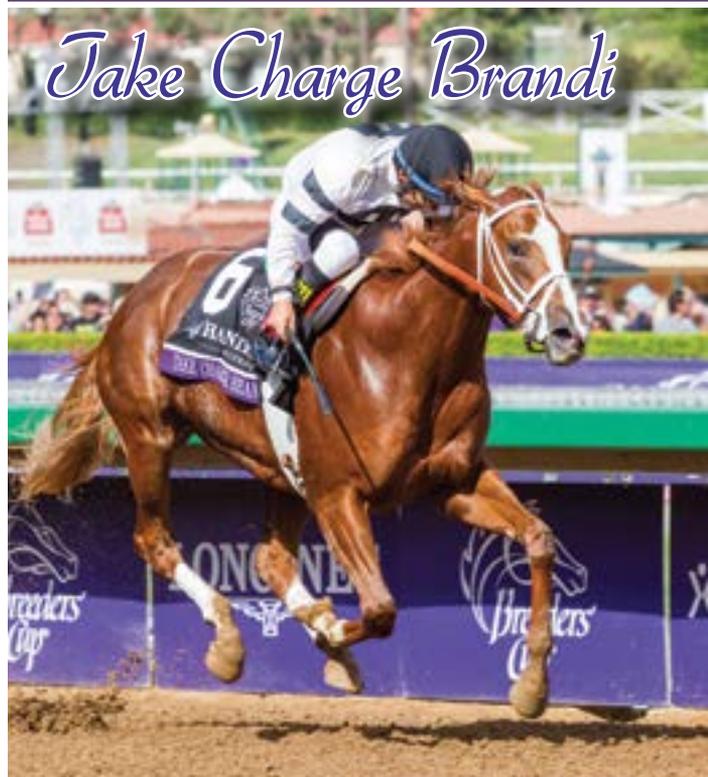


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to run. Around the final turn and by the time the field hit the stretch that time had come. Untapable took the lead and battled Iotapa as Don't Tell Sophia fired at them both. Untapable put away Iotapa and held off the late charge of Don't Tell Sophia, capping off a remarkable season and making her a legitimate candidate for Horse of the Year.



People



Take Charge Brandi

Saturday, November 1, 2014

14 Hands Winery Juvenile Fillies (G1)
 1 1/16 Miles on Dirt - \$2,000,000
 Horse: Take Charge Brandi, Chestnut Filly, by Giant's Causeway out of Charming, by Seeking the Gold.
 Foaled February 7, 2012 in Kentucky
 Breeder: Charming Syndicate
 Owner: Willis D. Horton
 Trainer: D. Wayne Lukas
 Jockey: Victor Espinoza

The Juvenile Fillies was Take Charge Brandi's every step of the way. Grabbing the lead immediately, the 62-1 shot vaulted through speedy fractions and never looked back. Despite being the longest shot in the field of 12, Take Charge Brandi crossed the wire first, pulling off the biggest surprise of the weekend.

Top L to R: After her victory aboard Untapable, jockey Rosie Napravnik announced her upcoming retirement; The amazing Untapable and Rosie Napravnik skip home to victory in the Distaff to wrap up Breeders' Cup Friday; Tony and Emmy award winner, Kristin Chenoweth, practices "The Best is Yet to Come" the evening prior to her big performance; The crowd begins to fill up Santa Anita on Breeders' Cup Saturday; Take Charge Brandi and Victor Espinoza pull off the shocker of the Breeders' Cup by winning the 14 Hands Winery Juvenile Fillies at odds of 62-1



Top L to R: The Santa Anita paddock; Dayatthespa takes the Filly & Mare Turf with Javier Castellano up; Judy the Beauty (right) and Mike Smith grind out a victory in the DraftKings Filly & Mare Sprint; Bobby's Kitten and jockey Joel Rosario are led to the winner's circle by breeder and owner Ken Ramsey (third from right) and connections after winning the Turf Sprint

Filly & Mare Turf (G1)

1 1/4 Miles on Turf - \$2,000,000

Horse: Dayatthespa, Chestnut Mare, by City Zip out of M'Lady Doc, by Doc's Leader. Foaled February 17, 2009 in New York

Breeder: Castellare DiCracchiolo Stable, Cracchiolo & Goldsher
Owner: Jerry Frankel, Ronald Frankel, Steve Laymon and Bradley Thoroughbreds

Trainer: Chad Brown

Jockey: Javier Castellano

Following Take Charge Brandi's example, albeit at a much shorter price, Dayatthespa took the early lead in the deep Filly & Mare Turf and set comfortable fractions with Parranda glued to her outside. Eventually, she opened daylight in the stretch despite Stephanie's Kitten and defending champ Dank moving on the outside, and Just the Judge on the inside. Dayatthespa refused to be corralled by any and crossed the wire for her third consecutive victory.

Judy the Beauty



DraftKings Filly & Mare Sprint (G1)

7 Furlongs on Dirt - \$ 1,000,000

Horse: Judy the Beauty, Chestnut Mare, by Ghostzapper out of Holy Blitz, by Holy Bull. Foaled March 17, 2009 in Ontario
Breeder: Adena Springs

Owner: Wesley Ward

Trainer: Wesley Ward

Jockey: Mike Smith

Stonetastic established quick fractions on the early lead in the Filly & Mare Sprint. Racing off the speedy pace and to the outside, Judy the Beauty moved wide around the turn and overtook the tiring Stonetastic. Better Lucky made a huge run but Judy the Beauty held on to win the race she finished second in (to champion Groupie Doll) just one year before.

Bobby's Kitten



Turf Sprint (G1)

6.5 Furlongs on Turf - \$1,000,000

Horse: Bobby's Kitten, Bay Colt, by Kitten's Joy out of Celestial Woods, by Forestry. Foaled March 30, 2011 in Kentucky
Breeder: Kenneth L. Ramsey and Sarah K. Ramsey

Owner: Kenneth L. Ramsey and Sarah K. Ramsey

Trainer: Chad Brown

Jockey: Joel Rosario

Reneesgotzip barreled out of the gate and down the turf hill in the always exciting Turf Sprint. Bobby's Kitten sat dead last of 14 even as the field rounded the turn and headed for home. With tremendous turn of foot, Bobby's Kitten ran the entire field down in the last 1/8 mile to hit the wire just in front of favored No Nay Never.



Texas Red

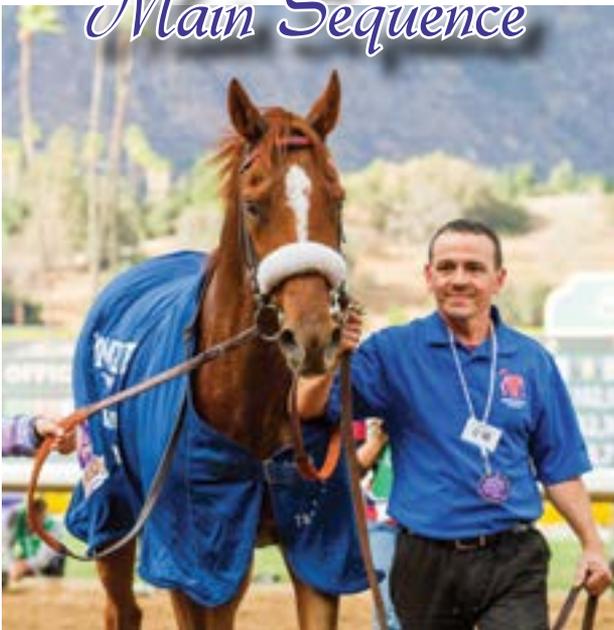


Sentient Jet Juvenile (G1)
 1 1/16 Miles on Dirt - \$2,000,000
 Horse: Texas Red, Bay Colt, by Afleet Alex out of Ramatuelle (CHI), by Jeune Homme. Foaled March 15, 2012 in Kentucky
 Breeder: Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC
 Owner: Erich Brehm, Wayne Detmar, Lee Michaels and Keith J. Desormeaux et al.
 Trainer: Keith J. Desormeaux
 Jockey: Kent Desormeaux

Top L to R: Texas Red, with Kent Desormeaux up, flies to an easy win in the Sentient Jet Juvenile; Kent Desormeaux celebrates his victory aboard Texas Red; The very handsome Texas Red; Main Sequence throws his name into the Horse of the Year discussion after his fourth consecutive Grade 1 win; Main Sequence (outside) and John Velazquez rally to win the Longines Turf; Indianapolis and Mike Smith gear up for the Xpressbet Sprint

Four days before the Juvenile, morning line favorite, American Pharoah, was scratched from the race due to a bruise in his left front hoof. The now wide open field of eleven remaining horses were sent off with Blue Dancer making a fast and contested lead and post-time favorite, Carpe Diem, only leading Texas Red around the first turn. The blistering pace proved too much for the tiring leaders and Texas Red split horses and hooked to the outside heading into the stretch. He surged to the lead and dominated his rivals to a 6 1/2 length victory as Carpe Diem rallied to finish second.

Main Sequence



Longines Turf (G1)
 1 1/2 Miles on Turf - \$3,000,000
 Horse: Main Sequence, Chestnut Gelding, by Aldebaran out of Ikat (IRE), by Pivotal (GB). Foaled February 13, 2009 in Kentucky
 Breeder: Flaxman Holdings, Ltd.
 Owner: Flxman Holding, Ltd.
 Trainer: H. Graham Motion
 Jockey: John Velazquez

Main Sequence finished a stellar season by establishing a comfortable position near the back of the pack in the grueling Turf. With a clear shot at the lead, Main Sequence picked up momentum into the stretch before hitting the wire 1/2 length in front of Flintshire. The Turf victory gave Main Sequence his fourth consecutive Grade 1 win and firmly catapulted him into the Horse of the Year discussion.

Indianapolis





Work All Week



Xpressbet Sprint (G1)
 6 Furlongs on Dirt - \$1,500,000
 Horse: Work All Week, Chestnut Gelding, by City Zip out of Danzig Matilda, by Repriced.
 Foaled March 9, 2009 in Illinois
 Breeder: Midwest Thoroughbreds, Inc.
 Owner: Midwest Thoroughbreds, Inc.
 Trainer: Roger Brueggemann
 Jockey: Florent Geroux



Fast Anna quickly lived up to his namesake by setting a gut-wrenching opening 1/4 mile of 21.19. Work All Week stuck to Fast Anna's outside and took a narrow lead at the top of the stretch. Defending Sprint champ and two-time Breeders' Cup winner, Secret Circle, moved to contest Work All Week, but the Illinois-bred dug in and held off the late charge to win the Sprint and remain a perfect 8-for-8 on dirt.

Mile (G1)

1 Mile on Turf - \$2,000,000

Horse: Karakontie (JPN), Bay Colt, by Bernstein out of Sun is Up (JPN), by Sunday Silence. Foaled January 30, 2011 in Japan

Breeder: Flaxman Holdings, Ltd.

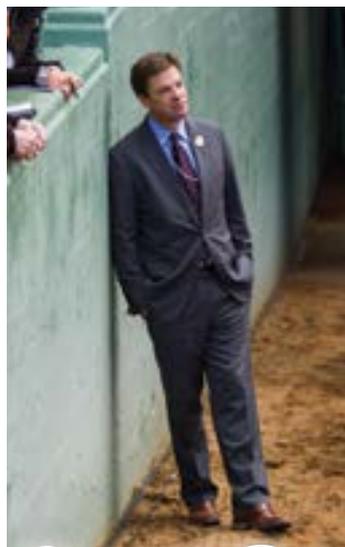
Owner: Flaxman Holdings, Ltd.

Trainer: Jonathan Pease

Jockey: Stephane Pasquier



Won by two-time defending Horse of the Year, Wise Dan, each of the past two years, the Mile appeared to be wide open as the superstar was sidelined with injury and unable to attempt a third straight victory. Obviously (IRE) set torrid fractions throughout the race and appeared to be well clear of the field until flattening in the stretch while Toronado (IRE) swung too wide around the turn for home. Karakontie (JPN) split Obviously and Toronado and accelerated to the lead. Anodin (IRE) put in a late run, but the Japanese-bred Karakontie held his ground and hit the wire first.



Top L to R: Work All Week and Florent Geroux celebrate victory in the Xpressbet Sprint after fighting off two time Breeders' Cup winner and defending Xpressbet Sprint champ, Secret Circle; Illinois-bred Work All Week remains undefeated on dirt after his Xpressbet Sprint triumph; Main Sequence's trainer, H. Graham Motion, watches the Breeders' Cup action from the tunnel to the Santa Anita track; With two-time defending Horse of the Year and Mile champion, Wise Dan, missing the race due to injury, Japanese invader, Karakontie, and Stephane Pasquier pounce on the opportunity and win the prestigious turf race; Undefeated favorite, Shared Belief, and Mike Smith walk in the post parade prior to the Classic; California Chrome makes for a good position, just off the lead, the first time under the wire in the Breeders' Cup Classic

Shared Belief



California Chrome





San Gabriel Mountains



Classic Finish



Top L to R: The San Gabriel Mountains watch over another wonderful edition of the Breeders' Cup at Santa Anita; Bayern (inside) and Toast of New York fight to the finish in the Breeders' Cup Classic with Bayern hitting the wire first; Mike Smith and Shared Belief watch the video replay of their rough trip in the Classic during the stewards inquiry; Bayern returns and finds the Classic result is under inquiry


 A close-up photograph of a dark brown horse named Bayern. The horse is wearing a red saddle cloth with a purple number '7' and a purple banner across the bottom that reads 'BAYERN'. The horse's head is partially visible on the left side of the frame.

Bayern

Classic (G1)

1 1/4 Miles on Dirt - \$5,000,000

Horse: Bayern, Dark Bay or Brown Colt, by Offlee Wild out of Alittlebitearly, by Thunder Gulch. Foaled May 3, 2011 in Kentucky

Breeder: Helen Alexander

Owner: Kaleem Shah, Inc.

Trainer: Bob Baffert

Jockey: Martin Garcia

With twelve races complete, the Breeders' Cup stage cleared for its marquee event, the Classic. Featuring a full field of 14, the Classic appeared dominated by its three-year-old entrants including Kentucky Derby (G1) and Preakness (G1) winner, California Chrome, the undefeated champion Two-Year-Old Male, Pacific Classic (G1) and Awesome Again (G1) winner, Shared Belief, Belmont Stakes (G1) and Jockey Club Gold Cup (G1) winner, Tonalist, and the speedy Haskell Invitational (G1) winner, Bayern.

With little to yet be determined in the race for Horse of the Year and other divisional honors, the Classic again aimed to settle the discussion on the track. However, once the gates opened, more questions than answers appeared.

As the field was sent on their way, Bayern immediately broke inside and set off a chain reaction of contact. He veered into the path of Shared Belief who in turn moved in on Moreno. Bayern made for the lead and clear of trouble, while another chain reaction began to his outside. This time, Toast of New York moved to the inside and made contact with Moreno. Shared Belief became trapped behind the calvary charge for the lead and eventually had to be steadied by jockey, Mike Smith.

The result left Bayern uncontested on the lead with his likely pace-setting counterpart, Moreno, shuffled well back. Meanwhile, California Chrome broke cleanly on the outside and settled into fourth position just to the outside of Cigar Street and behind Bayern and Toast of New York. Shared Belief eventually got to the outside around the first turn, but at this point he had already endured an extremely difficult trip. Tonalist raced in last.

Bayern led the field around the track setting impressive fractions of 23.12 for 1/4 mile, 46.44 for 1/2 mile and 1:10.22 for 3/4 mile. California Chrome moved into third, behind and to the outside of Toast of New York as Bayern moved through one mile in a staggering 1:34.16. The three of them hit the stretch clear of the field as Shared Belief fought to overcome his troubled trip while behind in fourth.



Toast of New York continued to fight with Bayern as California Chrome inched closer to them from the outside. However, Bayern wouldn't relent and he crossed the wire first in a brilliant final time of 1:59.88 for the 1 1/4 miles, with Toast of New York in second, California Chrome third, Shared Belief fourth and Tonalist rallying late for fifth. Candy Boy finished in sixth behind Tonalist, making it an unprecedented finish of all three-year-olds in the top six placings. The best finish by an older horse was Cigar Street in 7th.

Despite the exciting stretch run and close finish, Bayern returned to a steward's inquiry that was looking at the chaotic start to the race. After a lengthy review process the steward's ruled there would be no change and Bayern remained the winner.

Top L to R: Bayern hopes number 7 is indeed lucky and that he is not taken down as Classic winner; Bayern walks and awaits the stewards decision; Celebration ensues as the stewards indicate their will be no change, and Bayern will remain winner of the Classic



2014 Breeders' Cup Classic Champion - Bayern



While controversial to some, Bayern's victory was an impressive example of his tremendous talent and speed and the difficulty his rivals face when he gains an uncontested lead. His victory also served as the first Classic victory for his Hall of Fame trainer, Bob Baffert, and jockey Martin Garcia.

With that, the Classic appeared to add further intrigue to the debate for divisional honors and Horse of the Year as Bayern joined the discussion with horses such as California Chrome, Shared Belief, Main Sequence and Untapable. While those questions will be answered at the Eclipse Awards on January 17, 2015, thoughts of the upcoming year and the return of these magnificent three-year-olds has already begun.

Soon, the road to the next Breeders' Cup will also begin. However, this time the destination will not be Southern California, but instead, the bluegrass of Kentucky and the first time that Lexington's Keeneland will play host to the World Championships.

Top L to R: Martin Garcia is all smiles after his victory aboard Bayern in the Classic; The sun begins to set on another Breeders' Cup; Bayern proudly wears the coveted Breeders' Cup Classic garland

Steve Heuertz Bio

It started with a horse named Cowboy. Disregarded and discounted, this nine-year-old Red Dun Quarter Horse left his life as a ranch horse in South Dakota and ventured a new path into the life of Steve Heuertz in 2004. Shortly thereafter, a bond was formed that fully catapulted Steve into the world of the horse where he became fascinated with the wonderful capabilities of this majestic animal. Of particular interest were the speed, endurance and competitive spirit demonstrated by the equine heroes within the sport of Thoroughbred Racing. Although initially satisfied with observing from afar, Steve became increasingly captivated by the sport and turned toward capturing the splendor of racing via his other passion, photography. The result was a recipe where he could combine his great love for horses, racing and photography into one harmonious blend that was greater than the sum of its parts. Since then, racing has taken Steve across the country to such wonderful places as Saratoga Race Course, Churchill Downs, Santa Anita Park, Pimlico Race Course, Belmont Park, Keeneland and Hooiser Park. During these travels, Steve has been fortunate to witness and photograph equally wonderful races such as the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes and Belmont Stakes (racing's famed Triple Crown) as well as the Travers Stakes, Santa Anita Derby, Indiana Derby, Stephen Foster Handicap and Breeders' Cup,

among others. However, residing in the Chicago suburb of St. Charles, IL, Steve regularly frequents Arlington Park and Hawthorne Race Course where he has enjoyed capturing magnificent races like the Arlington Million and Hawthorne Gold Cup. Today, Steve's passion for horses, racing and photography is like a fire that continues to be stoked. While either behind the lens capturing the thrill of a Grade 1 race or in the saddle loping around a field with Cowboy, Steve as learned to operate under the simple truth that the more he is able to involve the horse in his life, the happier his days become.



Steve Heuertz; Steve's horse and loyal friend, Cowboy, a 19-year-old, Red Dun Quarter Horse

