

THE  
BREEDERS'  
CUP

STORY & PHOTOS BY: STEVE HEUERTZ



*Always...History in the Making*

**A**midst the hazy backdrop of the San Gabriel Mountains and under the cover of a pure blue sky, Santa Anita Park awoke adorned in purple and awaiting the world. On November 2nd and 3rd, 2012, the venerable race track served as host to the Breeders' Cup World Championships.



*Above: The San Gabriel Mountains provide the breathtaking backdrop of the Santa Anita setting. Below right: Welcome to the Breeders' Cup World Championships! Below left: A Breeders' Cup garland awaiting the moment to crown a new champion. The winner of each of the 15 Breeders' Cup races is draped in one of these garlands made of yellow and purple chrysanthemums.*

Inaugurated on November 10, 1984 at Hollywood Park in Los Angeles, California, the Breeders' Cup was designed as a year-end event aimed at awarding a champion horse in various divisions of thoroughbred racing. This first Breeders' Cup lasted one day and comprised of seven races (Juvenile Fillies, Juvenile, Sprint, Mile, Turf, Distaff and Classic) with a combined total purse of \$10 million. That day, 64,254 fans witnessed a thrilling three-way finish in the \$3 million Breeders' Cup Classic with 31-1 shot, Wild Again, holding off favorite, Slew o' Gold, and Preakness winner, Gate Dancer. The Breeders' Cup was born.



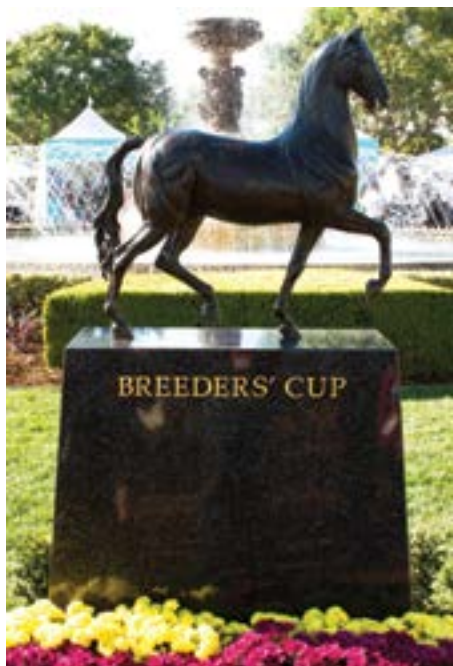
In the days since its inception, the Breeders' Cup has expanded to a two day event that hosts 15 races with a total purse of \$25.5 million, making it the richest event in all of sports. The centerpiece of this is the Breeders' Cup Classic, which itself carries the largest purse of any race in America at \$5 million. However, aside from large purses, what makes the Breeders' Cup truly exceptional and unique is its inclusion of the multiple divisions of racing. Whereas many individual races target a specific age group, gender, racing surface and distance, the Breeders' Cup has designed a formula to hold multiple races consisting of differing variables that focus on the specialties



*Clockwise from top left: The Breeders' Cup celebrates its return to Santa Anita Park, "The Great Race Place; Palm trees, mountains, seagulls, sunshine...yes, this is what happens when the Breeders' Cup returns to California; From the overall setting to the art and architecture, there is nothing lacking beauty at Santa Anita; Although the venue for the Breeders' Cup changes, one thing that remains constant and appears at every track is the Breeders' Cup statue and trophy. The statue is a reproduction of the Torrie horse, sculpted by Giovanni da Bologna in the late 1580's.*



of these wonderful equine athletes. Further, the Breeders' Cup aims at involving the world in this process and highly regarded runners from European and other countries regularly compete in the World Championships. In the end, a champion is awarded in each division on the grandest of stages that celebrates the best the sport of thoroughbred racing has to offer.



Another unique charm of the Breeders' Cup is that it is rotated to various tracks throughout the United States. While the 2012 version returned to Santa Anita Park in the Los Angeles, California suburb of Arcadia, previous locations have included tracks such as Churchill Downs, Belmont Park, Monmouth Park, Arlington Park and Gulfstream Park among others. However, once, in 1996, the Breeders' Cup was held outside of the United States when at Woodbine in Toronto, Ontario. Recently, the rotation has focused on holding the event at the same location for consecu-

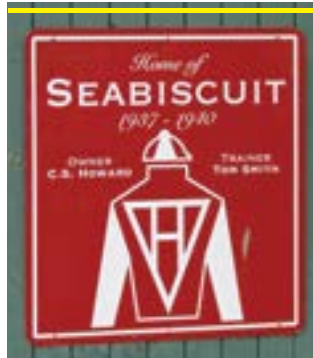
tive years, such as when it was held at Santa Anita in 2008 and 2009, followed by the 2010 and 2011 editions at Churchill Downs. To continue this trend, the 2013 Breeders' Cup will once again be held at Santa Anita Park.

Despite its relative youth in the sport of thoroughbred racing, the Breeders' Cup has generated many memorable moments. After Wild Again's dramatic finish in the 1984 Classic, the Breeders' Cup experienced a similar heart-pounding finish in the 1987 Classic when two Kentucky Derby winners clashed and Ferdinand edged Alysheba by a nose. One year later, in the Distaff, Personal Ensign secured perfection when she absolutely refused to lose and ran down Kentucky Derby winner, Winning Colors, in the mud to retire undefeated in 14 career races. Continuing the trend, in 1989 Sunday Silence and Easy Goer renewed their storied rivalry when Sunday Silence held off a furious charge by Easy Goer to win the Classic. In 1991, Arazi demonstrated an unimaginable burst of speed as he passed 12 horses in a mere one furlong (1/8 of a mile) in the Juvenile. In 1995, Cigar won the Classic and continued on his path toward an eventual 16 consecutive wins. Tiznow became the first and only horse to win consecutive Classic's when he held off Sakhee in 2001 and Tom Durkin exploded in saying "Tiznow wins it for America!" In 2007 Curlin romped in the mud at Monmouth to win the Classic and in 2010 Goldikova became the first and only horse to win three consecutive Breeders' Cup races when she took the Mile for the third time.



Above left: On September 29, 2012, this statue of Zenyatta was unveiled at Santa Anita depicting the Queen doing her regular "dance" that endeared her to legions of fans. Above right: Forever the "Queen" of thoroughbred racing, fans still celebrate Zenyatta two years after her retirement. Santa Anita was the site of Zenyatta's greatest accomplishment when she became the first female to win the Breeders' Cup Classic in 2009.

Considering the gravity of each of those moments, there remains one horse that embodied the Breeders' Cup from 2008-2010...her name is Zenyatta. Affectionately known as racing's "Queen," Zenyatta burst onto the Breeders' Cup scene when she won the Ladies Classic in 2008 and ran her perfect record to nine consecutive wins. One year later and still undefeated, she returned to the Breeders' Cup and decided to face the boys for the first time in her career when she entered into the Classic. At the top of the stretch, announcer Trevor Denman said, "Zenyatta has a lot, a lot of ground to make up. Zenyatta, if she wins this, she'll be a super horse." Moments later Zenyatta unleashed her patented late kick and Denman yelled, "This...is...UN...BE...LIEVABLE!!!" as the Queen surged past her male counterparts and became the first female horse to win the Breeders' Cup Classic. With the historic win, Zenyatta had now run her race record to a perfect 14 for 14. Finally, one year later and in the final start of her career, Zenyatta sat with 19 consecutive victories and still perfect. She returned to the Breeders' Cup one last time and once again entered the Classic against the boys. Proclaimed by some as "Zenyatta's Breeders' Cup," legions of fans filled Churchill Downs and hoped to be in the presence of history. After breaking "dead last," as she regularly would, Zenyatta found herself further back than normal. She once again put in a furious run that erupted in deafening cheers, however, on this day Zenyatta sadly came up a head short when she finished second to winner, Blame. Although losing her quest for perfection, many reflected upon the moment and felt that, in defeat, she might have run the best race of her career. Still, others held onto the fact that she was closing on Blame and had she been just slightly closer to the pace or had the finish line been just 50 or 100 yards farther away, she likely would have won. Nonetheless, for a period of three years, Zenyatta's presence was mightily felt at the Breeders' Cup as she forever left an impression on the World Championships and the sport of thoroughbred racing.



Clockwise from above: Santa Anita was home to Seabiscuit and the site of many of his greatest accomplishments throughout his legendary career; Even Seabiscuit wants to wear a Breeders' Cup garland! This statue honors the champion within the Santa Anita paddock. A duplicate of this statue resides at the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, NY; Admiring a painting of the great Seabiscuit.



While horses such as Zenyatta, Wild Again, Sunday Silence and Personal Ensign might long be retired, the 2012 renewal of the Breeders' Cup had no shortage of stars and thrills. Of the 15 races and subsequent championships that were awarded, each of them have their own unique and defining moments. Of particular note on Breed-

# Excitement Fills the Air - It's the Breeders' Cup!



*Clockwise from above: The paddock is full prior to the start of the Grey Goose Breeders' Cup Juvenile; Saddle up for a day at the Breeders' Cup; Look Out! Another great example of why schooling in the paddock is so important prior to a race; Signaling the start of the 2012 Breeders' Cup!*



ers' Cup Friday was the moment of Calidoscopio winning the Marathon. This Argentinian-bred, 9-year-old, became the oldest horse to ever win a Breeders' Cup race. The connections of Calidoscopio were jubilant in their victory as they cheered and chanted within the winner's circle while waving the flag of Argentina. Similarly, in the Juvenile Fillies, Beholder valiantly held off the charge of undefeated Executiveprivilege and becomes one of the top contenders for the Kentucky Oaks next year. However, the most defining moment of that first day was the victory by Royal



Delta in the Ladies Classic. As racing's grandest stage, it is difficult enough to win one Breeders' Cup race. However, when a horse is a good enough to win two Breeders' Cup races, it starts to place them in an even greater historical context.





Left: Beholder, out for a stroll the morning after her victory in the Grey Goose Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies. Above: Beholder's garland and saddlecloth on display outside her barn.

In winning the Ladies Classic, Royal Delta did exactly that as she won the same race in the 2011 Breeders' Cup at Churchill Downs. While likely earning her the honor of female horse of the year for the second straight year, Royal Delta's race took on even greater historical significance as her jockey, Mike Smith, in victory earned his record breaking 16th lifetime Breeders' Cup win.

With more Breeders' Cup races scheduled for Saturday as opposed to Friday, the second day of racing brought even more highlights. In the Filly & Mare Sprint, Groupie Doll demonstrated tremendous speed while dominating her rivals and asserting herself as the fastest of the fast female horses. Mizdirection was remarkable when making her first start in more than five months while beating the boys to win the always exciting Turf Sprint. As was the case with Royal Delta, Mike Smith rode Miz-

## Making Memories & History



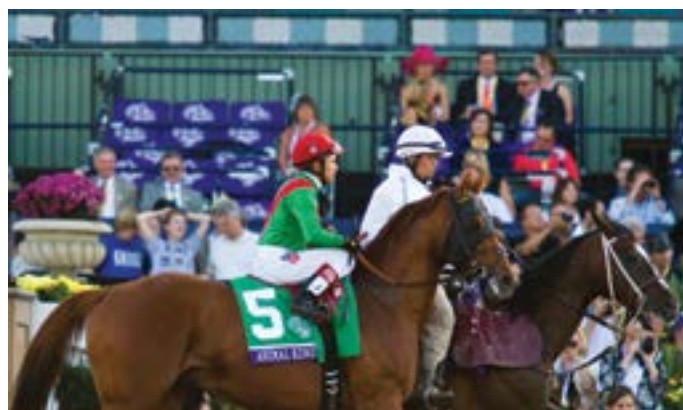
Left: Legendary trainer, Bill Mott, heads to the winner's circle after watching his horse, Royal Delta, romp in the Breeders' Cup Ladies Classic for the second consecutive year.

Below: Mike Smith celebrates aboard Royal Delta after his record-breaking 16th lifetime Breeders' Cup race win as a jockey. Right: Royal Delta struts back to the barn after another Breeders' Cup victory.





Left: The crowd gathers at Santa Anita. The two day Breeders' Cup posted a total attendance of 89,742 with a handle of \$144,272,332! Above: 15 championship races will bring out the best in fashion and, of course...hats!



Above: Groupie Doll schools in the Santa Anita paddock the day before her dominating victory in the Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint.

2011 Kentucky Derby (Gr. 1) winner, Animal Kingdom, walks in the post parade prior to the start of the Breeders' Cup Mile. Despite finishing second to Wise Dan, Animal Kingdom was one of the stars of the Breeders' Cup show.



Above left: Grey Goose Breeders' Cup Juvenile contender, Capo Bastone, walks toward the Santa Anita paddock to school the day before the big race. Above right: After winning the Grey Goose Breeders' Cup Juvenile, Shanghai Bobby asserts himself to the front of the 2-year-old class and earns the title as early favorite to wear a garland of roses on the first Saturday in May.

direction and added one more win to his growing Breeders' Cup record. In the Juvenile, Shanghai Bobby demonstrated incredible determination when it looked like he was tiring at the top of the stretch and about to surrender the lead to He's Had Enough. However, Shanghai Bobby fought back and was able to hold on to the victory and remain undefeated, while making himself the early favorite for the Kentucky Derby. Little Mike also demonstrated guts and determination when he won the Turf. Typically regarded as a horse that would prefer slightly shorter distances, Little Mike was able to hold the lead from and upset two of the best turf horses in the world in Point Of Entry and defending champ St Nicholas

Abbey (IRE) during the 1 ½ mile race. In the Sprint, Trinniberg was able to sit just slightly off a fast pace before taking the lead in the stretch and holding off The Lumber Guy. Being a three-year-old, Trinniberg was able to show that wonderful quality of being able to step up and beat older horses in a big a race. The Mile held one of the most fascinating and deep fields with multiple

graded stakes winner (on dirt, turf and synthetic), Wise Dan, facing off with 2011 Kentucky Derby winner, Animal Kingdom (making his first start since February 2012), and the European, Excelebration (only recent losses to the remarkable and undefeated, Frankel). The race lived up to its billing with Wise Dan winning in a track record time of 1:31.78 while Animal Kingdom, after a troubled trip, closed like a rocket to finish second. The win likely catapulted Wise Dan to become Horse of the Year as it was his fifth win of the year with three of those coming in Grade 1 races. In his lone defeat this year, Wise Dan finished second.



## Fort Larned

Finally, with 14 races in the books, the world turned its collective attention to the Breeders' Cup Classic. Heading into the race it appeared on paper that Game On Dude was the horse to beat as he was runner up in the Classic the previous year at Churchill Downs and now was taking a second crack at the prize after a dominant racing season and with the race being run this time on his home track of Santa Anita. Other standouts in the race included Ron the Greek and Flat Out and two other horses that would make this Classic live up to its name. Although Game On Dude made a run in the final turn, he quickly faded as pacesetter Fort Larned and Mucho Macho Man hit the top of the stretch while separating from the rest of the field. Flat Out launched a bid and would eventually finish third, but Fort Larned and Mucho Macho Man hooked one another in one of the greatest stretch duels in Breeders' Cup history. While it looked for a moment that Mucho Macho Man was going to corral the worthy pacesetter,



*Clockwise from above: Jockey, Brian Hernandez Jr. thanks his partner and new champion for a wonderful ride; Draped in racing glory; The winner's circle is full after Fort Larned's Classic victory; After leaving the pageantry of winner's circle celebration, Fort Larned walked back to his barn and settled in his stall just as Zenyatta had done three years before..*

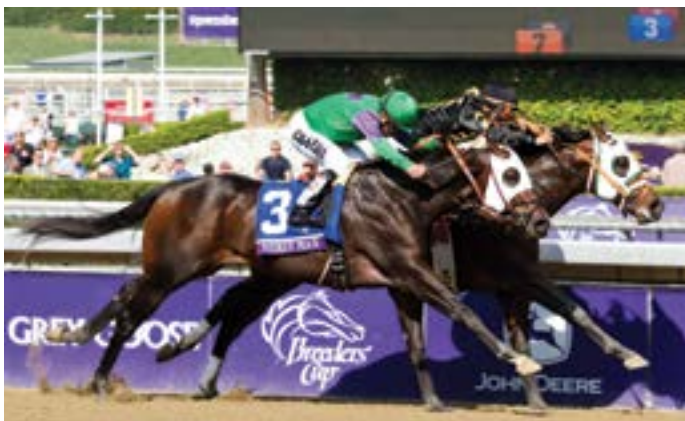


Fort Larned dug deep and realized that he possessed the heart of a champion. Despite his best effort, Mucho Macho Man couldn't pass Fort Larned. They crossed the wire together, separated by  $\frac{1}{2}$  length and  $6\frac{1}{2}$  lengths ahead of Flat Out.

As Fort Larned paraded back to the winner's circle and donned the garland of America's richest race, the racing world paused for a moment to recognize the tremendous accomplishment that had just been witnessed. The Breeders' Cup is racing's World Championships and the entire event isn't simply a collection of isolated instances comprised of races lasting roughly two minutes in length. No, instead it is the sum of a year's worth of work, commitment and dedication that peaks at the right moment and is on display in front of the entire world. That night, Fort Larned walked back to his stall at Santa Anita just as Zenyatta had done three years before. While he likely had his regular ration of hay, oats and water, that night, Fort Larned had realized the potential of a Thoroughbred. He was a Breeders' Cup Classic Champion...and the world knew it. In one year's time the Breeders' Cup will return to Santa Anita for its 30th edition. Although it is too early to know what might happen that day, as the Breeders' Cup would say, "The Best is Yet to Come..."



# 2012 Breeders' Cup Champions



Breeders' Cup Juvenile Sprint - \$500,000 - 6 Furlongs on Dirt  
 Hightail (inside) - Jockey: Rajiv Maragh  
 Trainer: D. Wayne Lukas - Owner: Bluegrass Hall LLC



Breeders' Cup Marathon (Gr. 2) - \$500,000 - 1 3/4 Miles on Dirt  
 Calidoscopio (ARG) - Jockey: Aaron Gryder  
 Trainer: Guillermo Frankel - Owner: Stud Dona Pancha



Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf (Gr. 1) - \$1,000,000 - 1 Mile on Turf  
 Flotilla (FR) - Jockey: Christophe Lemaire  
 Trainer: Mikel Delzangles - Owner: Sheikh Mohammed Al Thani



Grey Goose Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (Gr. 1) - \$2,000,000 - 1 1/16 Miles on Dirt  
 Beholder - Jockey: Garrett Gomez  
 Trainer: Richard Mandella - Owner: Spendthrift Farm LLC



Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf (Gr. 1) - \$2,000,000 - 1 1/4 Miles on Turf  
 Zagora (FR) - Jockey: Javier Castellano  
 Trainer: Chad Brown - Owner: Martin Schwartz



Breeders' Cup Ladies' Classic (Gr. 1) - \$2,000,000 - 1 1/8 Miles on Dirt  
 Royal Delta - Jockey: Mike Smith  
 Trainer: William Mott - Owner: Besilu Stables



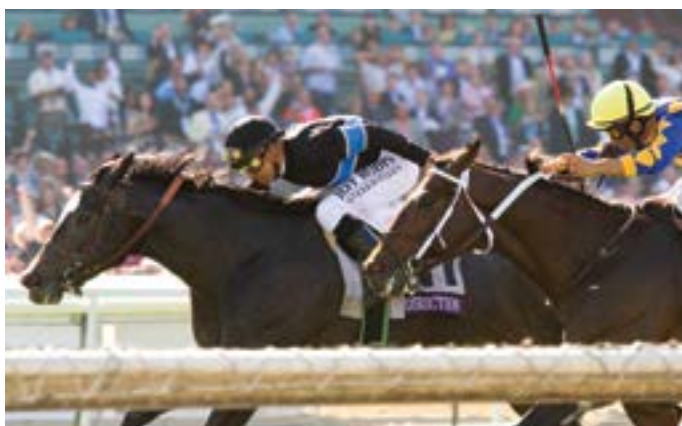
Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (Gr. 1) - \$1,000,000 - 1 Mile on Turf  
 George Vancouver - Jockey: Ryan Moore  
 Trainer: Aidan O'Brien  
 Owner: Mrs. John Magnier, Michael Tabor & Derrick Smith



Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint (Gr. 1) - \$1,000,000 - 7 Furlongs on Dirt  
 Groupie Doll - Jockey: Rajiv Maragh  
 Trainer: William Bradley  
 Owner: Fred Bradley, William Bradley, Carl Hurst & Brent Burns



Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (Gr. 1) - \$1,000,000 - 1 Mile on Dirt  
 Tapizar - Jockey: Corey Nakatani  
 Trainer: Steven Asmussen  
 Owner: Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC



Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (Gr. 1) - \$1,000,000 - 6.5 Furlongs on Turf  
 Mizdirection (outside) - Jockey: Mike Smith  
 Trainer: Mike Puype - Owner: Jungle Racing LLC, W. Strauss, J. Grohs, B. Beljak & KMN Racing LLC et al.



Grey Goose Breeders' Cup Juvenile (Gr. 1) - \$2,000,000 - 1 1/16 Miles on Dirt  
 Shanghai Bobby (inside) - Jockey: Rosie Napravnik  
 Trainer: Todd Pletcher - Owner: Starlight Racing,  
 Mrs. John Magnier, Michael Tabor & Derrick Smith



Breeders' Cup Turf (Gr. 1) - \$3,000,000 - 1 1/2 Miles on Turf  
 Little Mike - Jockey: Ramon Dominguez  
 Trainer: Dale Romans  
 Owner: Priscilla Vaccarezza



*Xpressbet Breeders' Cup Sprint (Gr. 1) - \$1,500,000 - 6 Furlongs on Dirt  
Trinniberg - Jockey: Willie Martinez  
Trainer: Shivananda Parbhoo  
Owner: Sherry Parbhoo*



*Breeders' Cup Mile (Gr. 1) - \$2,000,000 - 1 Mile on Turf  
Wise Dan - Jockey: John Velazquez  
Trainer: Charles Lopresti  
Owner: Morton Fink*



*Breeders' Cup Classic (Gr. 1) - \$5,000,000 - 1 1/4 Miles on Dirt  
Fort Larned (inside) - Jockey: Brian Hernandez Jr.  
Trainer: Ian Wilkes  
Owner: Janis Whitham*



*A Breeders' Cup trophy awaiting its champion.*

**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, Belmont Park, Keeneland and Hoosier Park. During these travels, Steve has been fortunate to witness and photograph equally wonderful races such as the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes (racing's famed Triple Crown) as well as the Travers, Santa Anita Derby, Indiana Derby and the Breeders' Cup. 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 has 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 17-year-old, Red Dun Quarter Horse*

