

Thoroughbred Classic Horse Show at Galway Downs Features Many Racing Connections

Nofty, a stakes-placed California-bred who shows under the name Cinfulleigh, won the War Horse Showmanship class at the Thoroughbred Classic Horse Show at Galway Downs in Temecula. Held March 21st and 22nd, this series was created to demonstrate the versatility and athleticism of off-the-track Thoroughbreds. More than 50% of the entries to the show were bred in California, including 16-year-old Pelirrojo, winner of the \$1,000 Jumper Stakes. By Flying Continental, Pelirrojo was a debut winning juvenile and chased the likes of Came Home, Earl of Danby and Fonz's in mostly allowance company through 5 seasons racing.

Thirty years have passed since Hillary Thomas last entered a show ring, and her flashy California-bred mare originally named Grin Brim rewarded her with a championship ribbon in the hunter division. Renamed Royal Flush, Hillary had only limited information on the mare and enjoyed seeing a photo of her sire Old Topper from TCHS research staff. A visual connection sweetened the relationship for Hillary, coming from a barn housing mostly warm bloods. "I've always been interested in thoroughbreds. It is my breed of choice."

TCHS reached their goal of welcoming new groups of show horse owners and trainers of Thoroughbreds. There was also support from racing contingent past and present, including jockey Kayla Stra, Leigh Gray, Jane Steiner, Amanda Gomez, Lainey Gerber and CTBA members Barbara Ranck Perry and her husband Ron. The latter show and race under Cicero Farms. They campaigned and recently retired stakes winner He Be Fire N Ice to stud at Rancho San Miguel.

Major breeder John Harris of Harris Farms recently joined as a sponsor and believes in this series that is presented by the Siegel-CARMA Foundation. "It is critically important to the whole horse industry that we find second careers for horses beyond racing. Horses can live a long time and we need to find something useful for them to do and at the same time bring pleasure to their new owners. We have had many horses come out of our farm that were retired as race horses, or were non competitive in races that went on to be very successful in other sectors of the sport."

Other featured classes held were the \$1,000 Hunter Derby, which went to Chloe W, ridden by Katy Kelly. The popular \$1,000 Event Challenge was won by Take A Yard, a beautiful son of Dynaformer owned and ridden by Erin Kellerhouse.

Lucinda Mandella, Executive Director of CARMA says it best about the second TCHS event held at Galway Downs. "These shows have really helped bridge the gap between racing and sport horse competition here in California. We're still a young show, still developing our programs, but we're clearly having an impact. It's wonderful to see more than 50 retired racehorses, all in one place doing amazing things at a show like this."

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For more information about the TCHS series, visit www.thoroughbredclassic.org

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