



WEST COAST

Voice Message

Trevor Denman still thrills fans after 30 years of race calling at Santa Anita

BY LENNY SHULMAN

In This Section

LEADING SIRES IN CALIFORNIA BY 2012 PROGENY EARNINGS

LEADING SIRES IN CALIFORNIA BY 2012 WINNERS

LEADING SIRES IN CALIFORNIA BY 2012 STAKES WINNERS

Advertisers' Index

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Trainer Vladimir Cerin will sometimes spend time between races at Santa Anita Park or Del Mar in the announcer's booth visiting with race caller Trevor Denman.

"I get so nervous for him," began Cerin, who is Denman's one close friend among the horsemen in California. "It's three minutes to post and we'll be talking about why a soccer team isn't playing a certain forward more, and I'll say to him, 'Trevor, you have to get ready for the race.' And he'll lean into the microphone and announce, 'The horses are approaching the starting gate.' And he'll turn to me and say, 'Yeah, but I don't like that forward, he doesn't deserve to be playing more minutes,' and I'm like, 'Trevor, go call the race.' And he'll say, 'Nah, we have time.' He literally memorizes the horses' names as they're going into the starting gate. It's amazing."

Having begun his 30th year calling the action at Santa Anita, perhaps it is not surprising that Denman has his routine so down pat. The youthful-looking native of South Africa, who could pass for two decades younger than his 60 years, has long since crossed the threshold of becoming an institution in Southern California racing. His style, weighted heavily toward description, broke through the barrier of boilerplate race calling when Denman reached these shores in the 1980s, and his voice, tinted with a slight nasal



CHRISTINA HOUSE PHOTOS

Denman has been calling racing action for 41 years



Harris Farms

Sires On Top and Rising!

Four Stakes Winners in Single Day for Harris Farms Sires.

Oct. 13.
Santa Anita.
\$250,000
Cal-Cup
Juvenile
Fillies won
by **Tilde**
(by **Swiss
Yodeler**).



TILDE



SURTSEY

Oct. 13.
Woodbine.
\$150,000
Fanfreluche
Stakes won
by **Surtsey** (by
Heatseeker).

Oct. 13.
Santa Anita.
\$100,000
Cal-Cup
Sprint won
by **Maui
Mark** (by
**Unusual
Heat**).



MAUI MARK



TIZ FLIRTATIOUS

Oct. 13.
Santa Anita.
\$100,000
Cal-Cup
Distaff won
by **Tiz
Flirtatious**
(by **Tizbud**).

The Harris Farms Roster for 2013

UNUSUAL HEAT

Nureyev-Rossard
Five-time leading sire (2008-2012)
has eight stakes winners and progeny
earnings nearing \$4 million in 2012.
2013 Fee: \$20,000 Live Foal

HEATSEEKER

Giant's Causeway-Rusty Back
A top 15 nationally ranked Freshman
sire is more than \$100,000 clear of
his nearest rival in California.
2013 Fee: \$5,000 Live Foal

THORN SONG

Unbridled's Song-Festal
Multiple G1 winner is his sire's top
earner at stud outside of Kentucky.
First crop now weanlings.
2013 Fee: \$3,500 Live Foal

SWISS YODELER

Eastern Echo-Drapeau
His 3-time stakes winner **Tilde**
(\$332,560) ranks eighth nationally
by 2-year-old earnings.
2013 Fee: \$3,000 Live Foal

LUCKY PULPIT

Pulpit-Lucky Soph
California's leading third-crop sire
has 78% winners/runners and avg.
earnings/starter topping \$50,000.
2013 Fee: \$2,500 Live Foal

DESERT CODE

E Dubai-Chatta Code
Breeders' Cup victor and graded
winner of \$1,088,939. First crop will
race as 2-year-olds next year.
2013 Fee: \$2,000 Live Foal

TIZBUD

Cee's Tizzy-Cee's Song
Daughter **Tiz Flirtatious** is 4 for 5,
\$194,800 including So Cal stakes
wins on turf and synthetic.
2013 Fee: \$1,500 Live Foal

LUCKY J. H.

Cee's Tizzy-Lucky C. H.
Graded winner's first-crop 2-year-old
average earnings per start is more
the double his stud fee.
2013 Fee: \$1,500 Live Foal

All stallions are nominated to the
Breeders' Cup. Stud fees are payable
at foaling.

Photo credits: Benoit and Michael Burns



Harris Farms

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2012 Leading Sires in California

State sire lists updated daily online. Go to <http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/thoroughbred-breeding/sire-lists>

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in California (exported stallions are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through October 17, 2012. As supplied to The Blood-Horse by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., earnings exclude monies from Japan and Hong Kong. Current year stakes winners include all N.H.-foaled stakes winners worldwide and any S.H.-foaled horses that won a N.H. stakes. *Foal counts include Southern Hemisphere. Cumulative stakes winners includes all countries. (A ♯ indicates a sire represented by his first crop to race).

Rank	Stallion (Foaling Year, Sire), Farm Standing	2012 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstret SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2012 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Wnrs	*A-E Index	*Comp Index
1	UNUSUAL HEAT (90, Nureyev), Harris Farms	\$20,000	111/48	8/10	3/8	(Unusual Heatwave, \$337,374)	\$3,967,962	*571	36	2.17	1.25
2	TRIBAL RULE (96, Storm Cat), Ballena Vista Farm	\$5,500	150/79	6/7	3/6	(Eternal Rule, \$292,350)	\$3,190,868	454	26	1.44	1.20
3	KAFWAIN (00, Cherokee Run), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	131/67	5/9	3/5	(Daisy Devine, \$301,567)	\$2,638,142	*408	18	1.14	1.29
4	BENCHMARK (91, Alydar), Ballena Vista Farm	\$5,000	120/72	4/5	0/4	(Missdealornodeal, \$173,479)	\$2,007,278	654	33	1.25	1.16
5	GIACOMO (02, Holy Bull), Adena Springs @ Magali Farms	\$5,000	101/52	4/5	2/4	(Disposablepleasure, \$203,500)	\$1,931,729	*181	8	1.10	1.43
6	OLD TOPPER (95, Gilded Time), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$3,500	124/65	2/2	0/2	(Unstopper Topper, \$96,750)	\$1,904,578	480	20	0.96	0.87
7	MINISTERS WILD CAT (00, Deputy Minister), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$4,000	107/57	6/10	2/6	(Sean S, \$125,400)	\$1,830,709	220	11	0.95	1.01
8	BERTRANDO (89, Skywalker), Ballena Vista Farm	Pnsd	118/49	5/5	2/5	(John Scott, \$218,704)	\$1,730,613	1011	56	1.37	1.55
9	ARAGORN (IRE) (02, Giant's Causeway), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$4,000	96/48	2/2	0/2	(Medolina, \$112,500)	\$1,518,891	*174	3	1.02	1.43
10	SOUTHERN IMAGE (00, Halo's Image), Rancho San Miguel	\$2,500	89/43	2/6	0/2	(Calibrachoa, \$210,000)	\$1,474,209	*356	4	1.47	1.40
11	IN EXCESS (IRE) (87, Siberian Express), Vessels Stallion Farm	Pnsd	107/47	0/0	0/0	(Kingpin Ryno, \$180,674)	\$1,451,863	970	63	1.64	1.42
12	SALT LAKE (89, Deputy Minister)	Died, 2010	81/39	5/7	0/5	(Hamazing Destiny, \$249,116)	\$1,388,202	*1208	56	1.42	1.41
13	SWISS YODELER (94, Eastern Echo), Harris Farms	\$5,000	100/48	4/8	1/4	(Tilde, \$332,560)	\$1,368,796	677	27	1.04	1.10
14	MARINO MARINI (00, Storm Cat), Rancho San Miguel	\$2,500	90/41	2/3	1/2	(Starlight Magic, \$238,120)	\$1,293,526	242	5	0.97	1.02
15	REDATTORE (BRZ) (95, Roi Normand)	N/A	73/29	1/3	1/1	(Compari, \$167,700)	\$1,194,620	*464	2	1.00	1.20
16	AWESOME GAMBLER (04, Coronado's Quest), Lovacres Ranch	\$5,000	38/15	1/3	0/1	(Willia B Awesome, \$442,000)	\$1,117,083	78	1	1.69	0.75
17	DECARCHY (97, Distant View), Magali Farms	\$4,000	97/37	1/1	0/1	(Stoney Fleece, \$146,198)	\$1,085,908	267	7	0.99	1.00
18	GOOD JOURNEY (96, Nureyev), Magali Farms	\$5,000	53/24	1/3	1/1	(Bella Viaggia, \$155,000)	\$1,023,644	*288	2	1.47	1.05
19	STORMIN FEVER (94, Storm Cat), Golden Eagle Farm	\$4,500	76/40	0/0	0/0	(Asian Odyssey, \$65,446)	\$891,433	*626	27	1.22	1.42
20	LUCKY PULPIT (01, Pulpit), Harris Farms	\$2,500	38/23	1/1	1/1	(Rousing Sermon, \$213,500)	\$876,703	67	3	1.76	1.21
21	OLMODAVOR (99, A.P. Indy), Adena Springs @ Magali Farms	\$5,000	67/36	3/3	1/3	(Idle Talk, \$104,775)	\$847,755	*211	8	0.90	1.35
22	VRONSKY (99, Danzig), Old English Rancho	\$3,500	29/15	2/3	1/2	(Norvsky, \$218,600)	\$819,320	78	3	1.72	0.94
23	POPULAR (99, Saint Ballado), Cottonwood Creek Ranch	N/A	30/19	2/5	0/2	(Halo Dolly, \$379,726)	\$802,520	75	2	1.15	0.97
24	ROAR (93, Forty Niner)	Died, 2008	44/27	0/0	0/0	(Tasty Treat, \$148,580)	\$796,601	*652	18	1.47	1.35
25	HIGH BRITE (84, Best Turn)	Died, 2010	62/33	0/0	0/0	(Live Sundays, \$106,314)	\$711,511	*924	46	1.04	1.18
26	TIZBUD (99, Cee's Tizzy), Harris Farms	\$2,500	47/18	2/2	1/2	(Spud Spivens, \$97,310)	\$709,325	133	4	0.99	0.92
27	TERRELL (00, Distorted Humor)	N/A	55/30	1/1	0/1	(Anna You're Up, \$68,100)	\$691,836	131	2	0.62	0.96
28	SEA OF SECRETS (95, Storm Cat), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	90/35	0/0	0/0	(Secret Commander, \$66,680)	\$678,321	*433	20	0.94	1.09
29	CEE'S TIZZY (87, Relaunch), Harris Farms	Pnsd	49/26	0/0	0/0	(Cost of Freedom, \$56,584)	\$620,098	729	39	1.66	1.16
30	GLOBALIZE (97, Summer Squall), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	\$3,000	38/25	1/1	0/1	(Zanbo, \$78,120)	\$616,346	147	4	0.78	0.80
31	ATTICUS (92, Nureyev), Magali Farms	\$2,500	48/20	2/2	2/2	(Lucky Primo, \$153,984)	\$600,203	435	14	1.07	1.48
32	SAFE IN THE U S A (99, Gone West)	N/A	29/21	0/0	0/0	(Change We Need, \$103,340)	\$583,060	71	1	1.17	1.08
33	DEPUTY COMMANDER (94, Deputy Minister)	Died, 2009	57/30	0/0	0/0	(A Little Off, \$42,835)	\$576,225	*564	24	1.18	1.58
34	SIBERIAN SUMMER (89, Siberian Express), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	Died, 2011	41/22	0/0	0/0	(My Summer Slew, \$85,670)	\$568,581	*382	13	1.04	0.89
35	PERFECT MANDATE (96, Gone West), Old English Rancho	Died, 2012	47/24	0/0	0/0	(Atta Boy Pete, \$66,578)	\$545,273	296	11	0.95	1.26
36	CINDAGO (03, Indian Charlie), Legacy Ranch	\$2,500	19/9	1/1	1/1	(Monument, \$195,500)	\$527,983	45	2	1.50	1.47
37	CYCLOTRON (00, Grand Slam), Old English Rancho	N/A	10/8	1/1	1/1	(Cyclometer, \$140,802)	\$495,396	32	1	2.17	1.47
38	SUANCES (GB) (97, Most Welcome), Rancho Temescal	\$1,500	26/13	0/0	0/0	(A Little Hot Sauce, \$61,550)	\$469,633	87	1	0.96	1.18
39	FREESPOOL (96, Geiger Counter)	N/A	63/27	0/0	0/0	(Baron Von Red, \$55,920)	\$446,554	198	3	0.57	0.76
40	TEN MOST WANTED (00, Deputy Commander), Magali Farms	\$2,500	43/20	2/2	1/2	(Our Eli, \$71,401)	\$438,370	166	2	0.68	1.21
41	MOMENTUM (98, Nureyev), Vessels Stallion Farm	\$5,000	52/22	0/0	0/0	(Bud I Crushed It, \$99,268)	\$428,285	181	1	0.59	1.06
42	ROCKY BAR (98, In Excess), E. A. Ranches	\$2,500	33/24	2/2	1/2	(Espresso Springs, \$47,234)	\$427,357	80	10	1.20	0.77
43	GAME PLAN (93, Danzig), E. A. Ranches	\$2,500	37/21	0/0	0/0	(Game Charmer, \$37,440)	\$420,874	419	23	0.85	0.81
44	SILIG (FR) (95, Sillery), Pacific Coast Thoroughbreds	\$2,000	21/9	1/1	1/1	(P D Q Kiddo, \$122,500)	\$417,024	*151	2	1.00	0.93
45	MUQTARIB (96, Gone West)	Pnsd	19/8	1/1	1/1	(A Jealous Woman, \$193,408)	\$404,024	*274	5	0.62	0.91

*A-E and COMPARABLE INDEX: The lifetime Average-Earnings Index indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned, on the average, in relation to the average earnings of all runners in the same years; average earnings of all runners in any year is represented by an index of 1.00. The Comparable Index indicates the average earnings of progeny produced from mares bred to one sire, when these same mares were bred to other sires. Only 32% of all sires have a lifetime AEI higher than their mares Comparable Index.

tone and quality, imparts legitimacy and authority, a natural progression from the stentorian high-pitched calls of the great Frank Caposella, who ruled New York through the mid-20th century.

Denman's popularity comes from a heady blend of style and substance. While his accent creates a dulcet quality pleasing to the ear, that would mean little if not for the verbal portrait he is able to paint as each race unfolds. While he is calling the nuts and bolts of which horses are positioned where, Denman also flaunts an uncanny ability to identify which horses are poised to present a run just as they hit their best stride, a talent honed by his youthful experiences as a part-time jockey in his native land.

"Horse racing was massively popular in South Africa," Denman related. "It was like being in Louisville at Kentucky Derby time. It wasn't front-page news in the sports section; racing was front-page news, period."

Denman, slight of build as a child, was told by a family friend he was tailor-made to be a jockey. He went out to the races as a youngster and got hooked immediately. However, when Denman tried to attend the racing academy that every jockey needed to graduate from in order to be licensed, he was rejected because it was thought he would outgrow a rider's weight requirements.

Denman did eventually ride at the equivalent of a county fair track as a teen-

ager, traveling 500 miles to do so because the circuit was short on jockeys. While the regular riders got the good horses, freelancers such as Denman were able to take out day licenses and get up on the leftovers, so the 16-year-old received experience under racing conditions.

"I didn't do it long enough to figure out what kind of rider I was," Denman said with a laugh. "I do remember not winning because the local jockeys always knew which horses to ride. But I figured if I couldn't ride, I'd be a racetrack announcer. So I called races into a tape recorder for four years and was lucky enough to get a job when I was 18 in Durban, where I was brought up."

(continued on page 3068)

STORMIN FEVER

STORM CAT - PENNANT FEVER BY SEATTLE SLEW

2013 FEE: \$4,500 DUE S&N

SIRE OF:

1 CHAMPION

12 GRADED STAKES WINNERS

30 STAKES WINNERS

35 STAKES PLACED

*"...MY ADVICE IS BREED TO STORMIN FEVER BEFORE HIS STUD FEE
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- BILL OPPENHEIM

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2YO SALE AVERAGE \$73,665...OVER 16X'S HIS STUD FEE

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2013 STALLION ROSTER



Ranked Among the Top Seven by 2012 Cal-Bred Earnings

MARINO MARINI Storm Cat – Halo America, by Waquoit/ **\$2,500 LF**

- Combined 2012 progeny earnings of more than \$1.2 million, with 2012 stakes horses including \$200,000 Fleet Treat SW **STARLIGHT MAGIC** (\$334,900), multiple \$50,000+ SW **SHUDACUDAWUDYA** (\$316,629), 5-time Stakes-placed **Bleach Blonde** (\$306,728), etc..
- Sire of over 10% Stakes Horses, including **MONEY LOVER** (\$159,706), **HOT FUSION**, **SILVER SENSATION**, Miguel's Mascot (NTR), **Queenie Marini**, etc.

#1 California Freshman Sire by Winners

McCANN'S MOJAVE Memo – Joni U. Bar, by Nordic Prince/ **\$3,000 LF**

(consideration to approved mares)

- Record-setting, multiple Graded stakes winner of \$1,513,565.
- All-surface stakes winner with graded scores at 6.5F, 8.5F, and 9F (NTR)
- Defeated 90 SWs including 54 Graded/Group winners and 15 Grade 1 Winners.
- Sire of 4 winners from his first 6 starters!



Grade 2 Winner with Tactical Speed From a Classic Family

SIERRA SUNSET Bertrando – Toot Sweet, by Pirate's Bounty/ **\$2,500 LF**

- Four-time stakes winner with scores in Oaklawn's **G2 Rebel S. (99 Beyer)**, the \$125,000 California Cup Juvenile S., the Alamedan H. at 1 1/16 miles (**101 Beyer**), and the Bay Meadows Juvenile S. by 8 lengths.
- Precocious 2YO, breaking his maiden at 4 1/2 furlongs by 5L second time out!
- One of two Cal-based sons at stud by recently pensioned **BERTRANDO**, California Leading Sire of 56 SWs. Out of a stakes-placed full sister to the dam of **G1 Belmont S.** winner **DA' TARA**.



Record-Setting G1 Performing Multiple Stakes Winner

SLEW'S TIZNOW Tiznow – Hepatica, by Slewpy/ **\$2,500 LF**

- Won on dirt and synthetic, including Del Mar's El Cajon S. at one mile by 3 lengths and Hollywood Park's War Chant S. at 1 1/16 miles in a **record 1:40.34**.
- Saratoga maiden winner and 2nd in Keeneland's **G1 Breeders' Futurity** at two.
- In his final start, posted a **102 Beyer** in Hollywood Park's G2 Californian S.
- Full brother to Multiple Graded stakes winner **SLEW'S TIZZY**.



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California's #2 Active Sire by Average Earnings Index (AEI)

SOUTHERN IMAGE Halo's Image – Pleasant Dixie, by Dixieland Band/ **\$2,500 LF**

- Over \$10 Million in progeny earnings and sire of returning **Grade 1 SW SOUTHERN SPEED**, winner of the \$2,802,425 BMW Caufield Cup (**Aus-G1**) by 1 1/2 lengths and who has won or placed in FIVE **Grade 1** events.
- Also sire of 2011 **G1**-performing, 5-time NYRA Graded SW **CALBRACHOA** (\$666,040, **G3** Tom Fool H.-twice, **G3** Bold Ruler S., **G3** Toboggan H.-twice, etc.), 2012 \$150,000 SW **WINNING IMAGE** (\$310,837), returning SW **PINK CANDY** (\$149,383), SW **SOUTHERN FIREBALL** (\$171,789, NTR), etc.



Freshman Sire with First Winner from First Starter

STORM WOLF Stormin Fever – Exclusive Rosette, by Ecliptical/ **\$2,000 LF**

- Graded SW full brother to **G1**-performing GSW **MISTY ROSETTE**.
- Won 3 of 5 starts, including the **G2** Lazaro Barrera Memorial S. by 6L in 1:22 1/5.
- Posted a **104 Beyer** breaking his maiden at Santa Anita and a **101 Beyer** winning an allowance there in 1:09 flat.
- Second-crop yearling brings **19-Times** his fee at Barretts October sale.

First Foals Arrive 2012

THE PAMPLEMOUSSE Kafwain – Comfort Zone, by Rubiano/ **\$2,500 LF**

- Santa Anita Graded stakes-winning miler by 2012 Top-3 California Sire **KAFWAIN**.
- Won 3 of 5 starts, including the **G3** Sham S. by 6L (**107 Beyer**) and **G3** San Rafael S. at one mile.
- Out of a half-sister to the dam of 2YO **G1 SW STORMELLO** (\$700,100) and **2012 G2 Del Mar Derby SW MY BEST BROTHER** (\$343,090).
- Precocious female family of **G2** Arlington-Washington Lassie S. winner **SPECIAL WARMTH**.



ALSO STANDING **Comic Strip / Onebadshark**

Inquiries to Clay Murdock / P.O. Box 741, San Miguel, CA 93451
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at the Breeders' Cup mike at Churchill Downs in 2006. While Denman is adept at brushing off both criticism and the many accolades that come his way, he was taken aback by the arrows slung at him after he was late picking up the run of Street Sense in that year's Bessemer Trust Breeders' Cup Juvenile (gr. I). Much of the incoming artillery came from East Coasters likely upset that New York legend Tom Durkin was no longer calling the event.

"It was the biggest brouhaha in a teacup I've ever seen," said Denman. "Street Sense made a massive move at the rail from last and then went clear before I picked him up. I was late, but not *that* late. I missed him from just inside the quarter pole to just past the three-sixteenths pole, and it became a mob thing like sharks circling blood, people claiming I never called him or I didn't catch him before the wire. If you go back and look at the race, it wasn't that big of a deal. Of course, I've called 100,000 races and this happened to occur in my second Breeders' Cup race, just my luck. But the flak I came in for was absurd, and 95% of it was from the East Coast. East and West here are like two different nations that are at each other's throats."

Denman also pointed out the disparity in excitement levels between the coasts when Zenyatta was putting together her 19-race winning streak, and as someone who tire-



Denman at home in his Santa Anita 'suite'

lessly promotes the game through appearances and hosting various events at racetracks, he feels racing missed a golden opportunity to bring new people to the sport.

"Zenyatta was the greatest, most charismatic horse we've had since Secretariat," he stated, "and she was ignored on

the East Coast. I couldn't believe it. This was a chance to get horse racing into the mainstream. She was almost human. She literally nodded her head at the crowd. Sure, you had to use a little imagination, but she's the closest thing you're going to come to being human that I've ever seen

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in a racehorse. And we missed the opportunity of a lifetime to sell our sport through Zenyatta because of the silly fact she came from California instead of New York.

"A lot of people who call themselves experts in racing don't know horses. Yeah, they know numbers and speed figures and blah, blah, blah, but most of them have never sat on a horse in their life and they really don't know the sport."

Zenyatta figured in one of Denman's most memorable race calls as he described her run from the back of the field in the 2009 Breeders' Cup Classic

(gr. I), culminating with him exclaiming, "This is un-believable!" when she became the first female to win the Classic, a race he terms the greatest he's ever announced. Other Denman favorites include the 1989 Preakness Stakes (gr. I), coming at a time when he was calling the races at Pimlico Racecourse.

"Easy Goer/Sunday Silence was the quintessential horse race," he said. "They were never separated by more than a half-length; you had Pat Valenzuela and Pat Day, two of the greatest jockeys; two of the greatest horses nose and nose to the wire, virtually impossible to separate them. That was a horse race."

Denman also noted that Precisionist was one of his favorite performers because of his magnificent good looks and his ability to win in grade I company at both six furlongs and 1¼ miles. He also mentions another favorite, if not so well-known runner



Denman's tools of the trade

inside the mountains? It is just spectacular. And the same could be said for Del Mar. How many racetracks are on the ocean?"

A fringe benefit to his Los Angeles locale is the film and television work Denman has picked up along the way. He has appeared in films such as "Let It Ride," "Dreamer," and "Simpatico," and on TV series such as "The Simpsons," "Luck," and "Jockeys."

Less known about Denman is that he is a racehorse owner as well, and lights up when speaking about Kings Call, a 5-year-old who is a winner of three races in South Africa.

"He's on the cusp of being a big-time horse," said the proud owner, "but he's had a bleeding problem and an ankle problem—you know horse racing. I call the trainer and tell him what to do. Of course, I've known him for 40 years. If he gets into a stakes race and I'm not working, we'll go over there to see him run."


When Denman leaves work for the day, he also leaves the world of horses behind him. Aside from reading, a good portion of his attention is taken up by soccer. And he'd rather talk current events than horses while on his own time. That, and his preference for privacy and not wishing to be seen as playing favorites, precludes his socializing with horsemen.

"There's only one subject racing people want to talk about," he said. You ask, "What's going on with Afghanistan?," and they'll say, "What claiming price is he in for?"

Some of Denman's biggest fans are the people he works for. Said Joe Harper, CEO of the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, "At the risk of having to pay him a lot more money, Trevor is the best race caller I've ever heard. He also does all the publicity you ask him to; he hosts the Doughnuts at Del Mar program and is so good at bringing out people's personalities and getting the public to understand the sport. He's got a magnetic voice and a personality where he can put a race across whether people know the sport or not."

George Haines, president and general manager of Santa Anita, added, "We at Santa Anita take pride in 'ownership' since Trevor was first hired here. He opened up the racing world to a new way of calling, and it was very controversial at the beginning. His call is so distinctive and mesmerizing, and his ability to pick up a horse in mid-pack who is making a move still amazes me."

Of his popularity in California, Denman said, "Obviously you're flattered when people tell you they enjoy what you do; you'd rather hear that than the opposite, but I try to put it in my back pocket and pretend I didn't hear it. You try not to let it get to you, because if you start thinking that way, you're gone."

Others, though, will continue to sing his praises. Said Cerin, "It comes down to this: If you're late getting to the races and you're in the parking lot listening to the race call, who is the number one person you want that call to come from? It's unequivocally Trevor. You know if your horse is in trouble even if he's on the lead, and you know when your horse is in fifth at the quarter pole but you'll ultimately be the winner." 

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