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Future at the Fair

Fairplex' rich history could lead to an even brighter future

BY TRACY GANTZ

Fairplex Park will launch what may be only the beginning of a complete makeover at the Barretts March sale in Pomona, Calif. The \$1.3-million facelift is turning the Barretts sale pavilion into a multi-use facility that year-round will host intertrack wagering, complete with large, high-definition video screens that can broadcast races, sale previews, and other sporting events.

That kind of state-of-the-art expansion could ultimately extend to the Fairplex

racetrack and grandstand. Because Hollywood Park is slated for eventual closure and development, California's racing leaders have been meeting to decide how best to replace that track as a year-round stabling facility as well as to determine the future of Hollywood's racing dates. One of the ideas gaining traction is an expanded Fairplex racetrack.

Sitting 20 miles east of Santa Anita Park, Fairplex, with its five-furlong oval, already
(continued on page 914)



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAIRPLEX PARK

Fairplex Park conducts racing during the Los Angeles County Fair

2009 Leading Sires in California

State sire lists updated daily online.
Go to <http://breeding.bloodhorse.com/sirelists.asp>

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 February 25, 2009. As supplied to The Blood-Horse by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., earnings exclude monies from Japan and Hong Kong. *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	2009 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2009 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Stks Wnrs	*A-E Index	*Comp Index
1	UNUSUAL HEAT (90, Nureyev), Old English Rancho	\$20,000	76/20	2/2	2/2	(Beltene, \$154,060)	\$810,447	*413	19	2.15	1.06
2	BIRDONTHEWIRE (89, Proud Birdie), Madera Thoroughbreds	\$3,500	15/5	1/1	1/1	(It's a Bird, \$552,000)	\$579,902	*235	9	1.29	1.45
3	TRIBAL RULE (96, Storm Cat), River Edge Farm	\$7,500	34/13	1/2	0/1	(Georgie Boy, \$255,000)	\$479,686	150	10	1.64	1.08
4	BENCHMARK (91, Alydar), River Edge Farm	\$4,000	78/22	1/1	0/1	(Ducky Drake, \$50,000)	\$373,480	480	22	1.39	1.23
5	SALT LAKE (89, Deputy Minister), Golden Eagle Farm	\$7,500	56/22	0/0	0/0	(Salt Water Reign, \$55,800)	\$352,687	*1109	47	1.46	1.44
6	IN EXCESS (IRE) (87, Siberian Express), Vessels Stallion Farm	N/A	52/14	0/0	0/0	(Its in God's Hands, \$37,840)	\$335,190	828	56	1.87	1.49
7	BERTRANDO (89, Skywalker), River Edge Farm	\$10,000	62/13	0/0	0/0	(The Unclean Spirit, \$36,540)	\$296,497	832	48	1.48	1.65
8	SILIC (FR) (95, Sillery), Getaway Thoroughbred Farm	\$3,500	16/4	1/1	0/1	(Gladiatorus, \$255,000)	\$288,720	*116	1	0.82	0.92
9	DEPUTY COMMANDER (94, Deputy Minister), Ballena Vista Farm	N/A	72/9	0/0	0/0	(First Commandment, \$27,600)	\$214,632	*528	23	1.32	1.72
10	LIT DE JUSTICE (90, El Gran Senor), Magali Farms	\$5,000	49/7	0/0	0/0	(Lit'sgoodlookgray, \$45,474)	\$205,176	372	19	1.36	1.21
11	OLD TOPPER (95, Gilded Time), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$6,000	52/8	0/0	0/0	(For Sure for Sure, \$39,000)	\$204,130	342	11	1.16	0.91
12	LORD CARSON (92, Carson City)	Died, 2005	43/7	0/0	0/0	(Nima's Pad, \$32,552)	\$189,389	464	25	1.19	1.32
13	SEA OF SECRETS (95, Storm Cat), Ballena Vista Farm	\$4,000	69/14	0/0	0/0	(Shanghi Breeze, \$23,420)	\$184,793	*306	16	1.05	1.13
14	SWISS YODELER (94, Eastern Echo), Harris Farms	\$6,000	74/7	0/0	0/0	(Lovehi, \$31,600)	\$184,417	538	19	1.19	1.05
15	FORMAL GOLD (93, Black Tie Affair), Rancho San Miguel	N/A	44/11	0/0	0/0	(Transduction Gold, \$28,800)	\$184,213	379	19	1.32	1.53
16	MUQTARIB (96, Gone West), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	\$3,500	21/5	0/0	0/0	(Devoted Magic, \$71,280)	\$144,293	*254	2	0.58	0.96
17	TEN MOST WANTED (00, Deputy Commander), Magali Farms	\$5,000	24/6	0/0	0/0	(Karakorum Fugitive, \$51,000)	\$139,680	96	0	0.29	1.33
18	CEE'S TIZZY (87, Relaunch), Harris Farms	\$7,500	37/12	1/1	1/1	(Moonlight Tizzy, \$28,000)	\$132,449	668	37	1.80	1.17
19	ROAR (93, Forty Niner), Rancho San Miguel	Died, 2008	37/8	0/0	0/0	(Orphan Brigade, \$23,430)	\$131,935	*613	16	1.58	1.43
20	FLYING CONTINENTAL (86, Flying Paster)	Died, 2004	19/3	0/0	0/0	(Lupita'sluckyangel, \$51,480)	\$131,748	493	23	0.95	1.10
21	STORMIN FEVER (94, Storm Cat), Golden Eagle Farm	\$7,500	59/8	0/0	0/0	(Intentional Fever, \$20,899)	\$130,457	*524	21	1.25	1.53
22	GENERAL MEETING (88, Seattle Slew)	Died, 2006	19/6	1/1	0/1	(Century Park, \$60,000)	\$130,225	*471	34	1.92	1.64
23	RICHLI BLENDED (98, Rizzi)	Died, 2006	21/6	1/1	0/1	(Ultra Blend, \$45,000)	\$119,782	114	2	0.83	0.85
24	PERFECT MANDATE (96, Gone West), Old English Rancho	\$7,500	28/9	0/0	0/0	(Kauai, \$27,980)	\$119,563	197	9	1.11	1.35
25	SIBERIAN SUMMER (89, Siberian Express), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	\$3,500	40/11	0/0	0/0	(Grey Lassie, \$15,120)	\$119,353	335	10	1.09	0.92
26	VALID WAGER (92, Valid Appeal)	Died, 2007	52/13	0/0	0/0	(Song and a Wager, \$12,400)	\$117,938	488	16	1.12	1.28
27	GOTHAM CITY (98, Saint Ballado), Applebite Farms	\$2,000	14/6	0/0	0/0	(King City Kitty, \$41,184)	\$114,164	83	0	1.06	1.09
28	BEAU GENIUS (85, Bold Ruckus), Ballena Vista Farm	\$3,000	32/7	0/0	0/0	(Partylwithlarryz, \$36,000)	\$112,944	*726	37	1.25	1.20
29	IRON CAT (95, Storm Cat), Oak Hill Farm	\$2,500	16/6	0/0	0/0	(Beaming Babe, \$46,800)	\$110,308	101	3	1.07	0.90
30	THUNDERELLO (99, Montbrook), Diamond F Ranch	\$5,000	29/7	0/0	0/0	(Southern Rainbow, \$20,520)	\$109,938	130	2	1.14	1.11
31	POTEEN (94, Irish River), Old English Rancho	\$2,500	12/3	0/0	0/0	(King of the Green, \$36,280)	\$107,272	70	3	0.74	0.79
32	FREE HOUSE (94, Smokester)	Died, 2004	19/6	0/0	0/0	(Spinning Yarns, \$49,296)	\$102,335	181	5	1.00	1.61
33	BEHRENS (94, Pleasant Colony), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	30/8	0/0	0/0	(Weggie, \$21,000)	\$98,808	180	0	0.61	1.57
34	HIGH BRITE (84, Best Turn), Harris Farms	\$5,000	47/9	0/0	0/0	(Defensive Move, \$13,200)	\$96,955	*867	44	1.08	1.22
35	MUD ROUTE (94, Strawberry Road), Special T Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	18/6	0/0	0/0	(Kulinski Rose, \$35,800)	\$94,458	230	6	0.89	0.98
36	GAME PLAN (93, Danzig), E. A. Ranches	\$5,000	30/4	0/0	0/0	(Mistical Plan, \$24,000)	\$92,618	326	22	0.92	0.86
37	DECARCHY (97, Distant View), Magali Farms	\$5,000	25/7	0/0	0/0	(Troublethreethree, \$13,000)	\$83,089	131	2	1.01	1.09
38	CRAFTY C. T. (98, Crafty Prospector), Windfall Farms	\$5,000	14/3	0/0	0/0	(Touchof Perfection, \$35,400)	\$76,114	*71	1	0.91	0.84
39	ONE MAN ARMY (94, Roman Diplomat), KingsWay Farm	N/A	7/3	0/0	0/0	(Victory Joe, \$32,552)	\$75,392	60	1	1.15	0.95
40	COMIC STRIP (95, Red Ransom), Rancho San Miguel	\$2,500	33/4	0/0	0/0	(Held Fast, \$9,780)	\$73,028	258	7	0.84	1.23
41	FLAME THROWER (98, Saint Ballado), Oak Hill Farm	\$5,000	23/4	0/0	0/0	(Linda's Baby, \$27,435)	\$73,010	140	1	0.89	1.13
42	FREESPOOL (96, Geiger Counter), Special T Thoroughbreds	\$4,000	21/6	0/0	0/0	(Senor Afortunado, \$13,800)	\$72,393	122	1	0.42	0.87
43	KELLY KIP (94, Kipper Kelly), Vinewood Farms	\$4,000	13/3	0/0	0/0	(Sir Silver Fox, \$26,580)	\$71,364	104	1	1.15	1.05
44	MEMO (CHI) (87, Mocito Guapo), Ridgeley Farm	\$6,000	27/3	0/0	0/0	(Sir Bell, \$17,576)	\$60,425	*465	22	1.48	1.14
45	ATTICUS (92, Nureyev), Magali Farms	\$5,000	21/3	0/0	0/0	(Atticus Kristy, \$19,800)	\$57,771	369	10	1.18	1.64
46	BARTOK (IRE) (91, Fairy King)	N/A	15/4	0/0	0/0	(Bewitching Bartok, \$13,200)	\$53,879	198	7	1.16	0.94
47	RIO VERDE (92, Nureyev), Lovacres Ranch	N/A	17/4	0/0	0/0	(Thelma Rose, \$22,600)	\$53,800	211	3	0.63	0.89
48	EPIC HONOR (96, Honor Grades), Green Acres Farm	\$3,700	7/2	0/0	0/0	(Epic Power, \$36,720)	\$49,915	67	1	0.94	0.57
49	CAPSIZED (96, Summer Squall), Eagle Oak Ranch	\$4,000	15/1	0/0	0/0	(Nitro Active, \$10,800)	\$48,893	73	0	0.69	0.87
50	POPULAR (99, Saint Ballado), Cottonwood Creek Ranch	N/A	8/2	0/0	0/0	(Plaza Queen, \$20,340)	\$48,860	25	0	0.88	0.86
51	LAKE WILLIAM (96, Salt Lake)	Died, 2004	10/5	0/0	0/0	(Havens Lake, \$15,400)	\$45,720	41	0	0.51	0.93
52	HIGH DEMAND (97, Danzig)	N/A	10/2	0/0	0/0	(Steady Demand, \$28,800)	\$45,568	95	1	0.82	1.34
53	DIXIE DOT COM (95, Dixie Brass)	Died, 2007	22/6	0/0	0/0	(Beautiful Dixie, \$11,240)	\$45,128	109	1	0.68	1.13
54	MR. BROAD BLADE (96, Broad Brush), Magali Farms	\$2,500	2/2	0/0	0/0	(Justdontcallmejeri, \$41,232)	\$43,187	39	1	0.72	0.99
55	REBA'S GOLD (97, Slew o' Gold), Windfall Farms	\$2,000	2/2	0/0	0/0	(Olive Queen, \$27,280)	\$42,960	10	0	0.74	0.71
56	MACH ONE (93, Thirty Six Red)	N/A	3/1	0/0	0/0	(One Track Mind, \$40,560)	\$42,742	36	0	0.44	0.75
57	CANDI'S GOLD (84, Yukon)	Died, 2005	9/3	0/0	0/0	(Sing for Gold, \$30,140)	\$42,514	*492	16	0.91	1.02
58	MOMENTUM (98, Nureyev), Vessels Stallion Farm	\$5,000	8/2	0/0	0/0	(Catsalot, \$14,720)	\$42,463	57	0	0.65	1.13
59	ALYMAGIC (86, Alydar), Daehling Ranch	\$1,000	12/1	0/0	0/0	(Phantom Ali, \$13,240)	\$41,677	84	0	0.66	0.81
60	WESTERN FAME (92, Gone West), Applebite Farms	\$2,500	19/3	0/0	0/0	(Western Runaway, \$7,160)	\$41,553	253	13	1.00	0.83
61	MARINO MARINI (00, Storm Cat), Rancho San Miguel	\$5,000	11/4	0/0	0/0	(Bar Room Gal, \$8,400)	\$40,624	92	0	0.75	1.18
62	EVENT OF THE YEAR (95, Seattle Slew), Magali Farms	\$3,000	22/2	0/0	0/0	(Lockford, \$7,132)	\$37,809	253	5	1.08	1.98
63	SMOKESTER (88, Never Tabled)	Died, 2005	16/4	0/0	0/0	(Seafire, \$11,640)	\$36,219	403	12	1.41	1.27
64	SNOWBOUND (95, Meadowlake), Burns Ranch	N/A	11/2	0/0	0/0	(Bound to Be M V P, \$20,000)	\$34,859	291	14	0.42	0.46
65	ROMAN DANCER (99, Polish Numbers), Cottonwood Creek Ranch	N/A	6/2	0/0	0/0	(Unbridled Roman, \$13,520)	\$34,819	34	1	0.64	1.06
66	FALSTAFF (81, Lyphard)	Pnsd	5/2	0/0	0/0	(Crafty Power, \$29,180)	\$34,705	412	25	1.13	0.93
67	REDATTORE (BRZ) (95, Roi Normand), Harris Farms	\$4,000	7/1	0/0	0/0	(Croxie, \$19,560)	\$34,544	*129	0	1.01	1.35
68	ALL THEE POWER (85, Lines of Power)	Pnsd	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Powers Lilsis, \$25,740)	\$31,020	155	2	0.79	0.73
69	ROYAL CAT (96, Storm Cat), Old English Rancho	\$3,500	13/2	0/0	0/0	(Flew First Class, \$6,940)	\$30,859	122	0	0.61	1.11
70	STORMY JACK (97, Bertrando), Harris Farms	\$2,500	15/3	0/0	0/0	(Hyper Speed Howard, \$9,420)	\$30,635	60	1	1.58	0.69

*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.

(continued from page 910)

serves as a training facility to some 500 horses. For three weeks every September, Fairplex runs a successful Thoroughbred meeting in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Fair.

"We want to be part of the solution," said James E. Henwood, president and chief executive officer of Fairplex. "We think we're the right choice. If we figure out with the industry that this is the right place, my hope would be that we would come up with an orderly means through which we can accomplish that."

Henwood and his team have already begun to draw up plans that would expand the racetrack to nearly a mile and add an inner turf course. The track would be unusually shaped, in that it would provide a first turn with the dimensions of a mile oval, but then would widen so that the second turn would have the dimensions associated with a 1/8-mile track.

"The track would be pear-shaped," said Henwood. "The nice thing about it is that you have the traditional mile turn, but then you go down the backstretch and you will have a more forgiving turn. Then there will be a traditional straightaway."

Cost is estimated at \$25 million for the racetrack, including 1,600 stalls and a seven-furlong turf course, and another \$30 million to renovate the grandstand. Where



James Henwood, president and CEO of Fairplex

that funding will come from is the primary hurdle facing industry leaders, who have formed the California Horse Racing Alliance to tackle such issues.

The alliance is also re-examining Southern California's racing dates. Hollywood currently runs the bulk of its dates in the spring and summer between the end of Santa Anita in late April and the beginning

of Del Mar in July, as well as a shorter meet in the fall between the Oak Tree Racing Association and the winter Santa Anita meetings.

Henwood said he doubted any one racetrack would inherit all of Hollywood's dates. He suggested that some of the dates could be added to Del Mar, Santa Anita, and Oak Tree. With additional weekends Del Mar might then back away from a six-day to a five-day week.

An expanded Fairplex, however, could shoulder some of Hollywood's dates.

"It would probably be some boutique race meets like Keeneland has," Henwood said. "That would be best for us because we would be concentrating as a training center."

Fairplex has in recent years brought on some veteran racing consultants. Cliff Goodrich, who has held management positions at Santa Anita and Arlington Park, advises Fairplex, and Tom Robbins of the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club acts as a consultant during the race meet.

FIRST IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Fairplex is the oldest Southern California track currently running, having begun racing in 1922 without pari-mutuel wagering. After the 1933 bill passed legalizing pari-mutuel wagering in the state, the Los Angeles County Fair meeting became the first to implement it in the southern part of the state. The San Joaquin County Fair in Stockton to the north predated Pomona, but only by a few weeks while Santa Anita didn't open until Dec. 25, 1934.

The racetrack, initially a half-mile bullring, was built in conjunction with the establishment of the county fair. In the early 1920s, Pomona businessmen, including L.E. Sheets and C.B. Afflerbaugh, put together what is now the Los Angeles County Fair Association, a not-for-profit organization. The association deeded the land and buildings to Los Angeles County, and the association has the use of the grounds via a long-term lease.

As the larger mile tracks began to dominate Southern California racing, Pomona continued to play a role in the racing calendar. In fact, many top horses either received their early training at Pomona or

SUANCES (GB)

Won 8 of 12 Career Starts

- Highweighted 370 French Free Handicap 7-8 1/2 Furlongs
- Embroc Airline Prix Jean Prat (GT)
- Prix de Godebe (RL)
- Dallas Turf Cup Handicap
- San Francisco Breeders' Cup Mile (JC) including The Mile, Security and Purser

Sire of a \$45,000 yearling at Barro's Fall Selected Yearling Sale.

California's #1 Freshman Sire of 2008 Cal Breds by SPI

SUANCES	2.84	*Sire Production Index (SPI) reflects the average mating size of a stallion's foals. Superior Index!
MOMENTUM	1.18	
MAJESTIC MAJORS	.73	

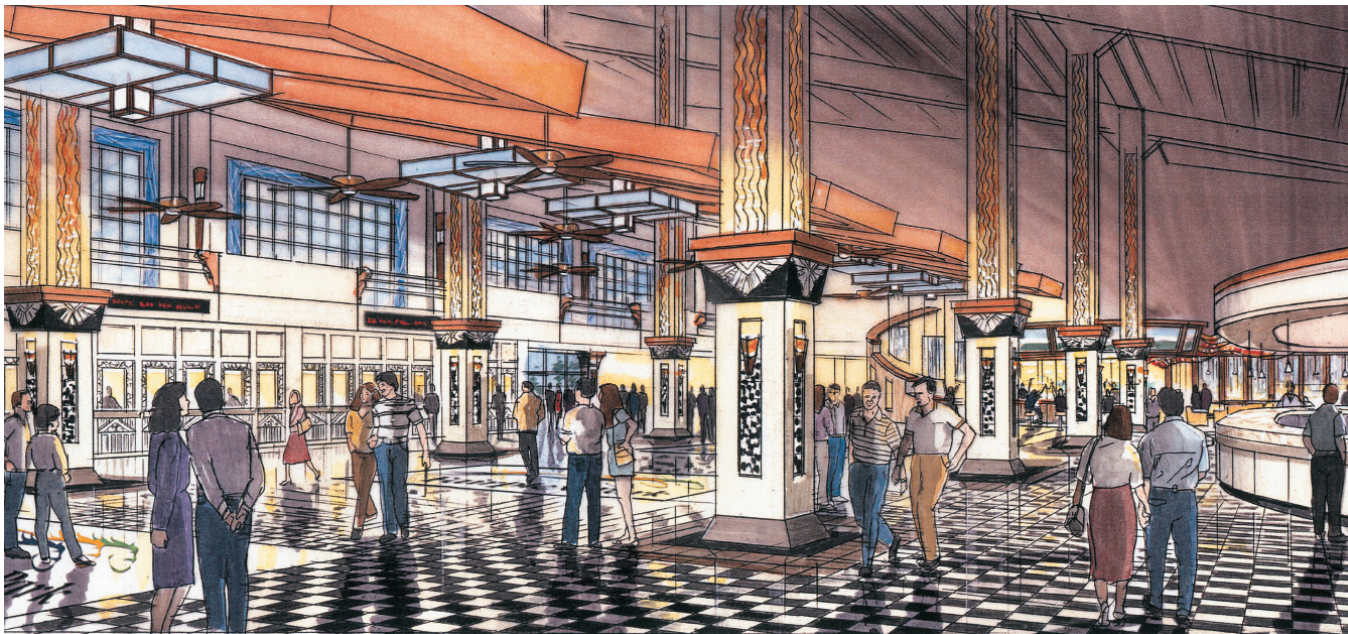
Top 10 Rank for:

- Leading Juvenile Sire of CA Breds by SPI (Rank #4)
- Leading Freshman Sire of CA Breds by Rankings (Rank #6)
- Leading Freshman Sire of West Region Breds by Rankings (Rank #4)
- Leading North American All Weather Sire of CA Breds by SPI (Rank #7)

2009 STUD FEE: \$2,500 LF

Contact: Tim Cohen
805-521-0511 or tcohen@rancho-temescal.com
www.rancho-temescal.com

2009 California Sires By Stakes Winners		
Sire	Stks Wnrs	Stks Wins
Unusual Heat	2	2
Tribal Rule	1	2
Benchmark	1	1
Birdonthewire	1	1
Cee's Tizzy	1	1
General Meeting	1	1
Richly Blended	1	1
Silic (FR)	1	1
Tychonic (GB)	1	1



Artist's rendering of the Fairplex facelift, which will convert the sale pavilion into a multi-use facility

started during the fair meet.

"I've been there since 1958," said Bruce Headley, whose stakes winners include champion sprinter Kona Gold. "All of my stakes winners got their start at Pomona—'Kona,' Surf Cat, Street Boss, Silveyville. We had 25-30 there last year. It's a good, safe track."

As early as 1937, Mrs. C.S. Howard of Seabiscuit fame was winning stakes at Pomona. Her horse St. Stephens, trained by Buster Millerick, won the Southern California Handicap there that year.

Two years later Mel Stute stood in the Pomona winner's circle with the horse Rough Crossing.

"I was 11 years old," Stute said. "I think I saddled my first winner there in 1949."

Stute has continued to saddle winners at Fairplex for 70 years. He has weathered the name change from Pomona to Fairplex in 1986, as well as the expansion of the half-mile track to five furlongs in 1985. Nothing has stopped Stute from becoming by far the track's leading trainer, with 187 victories.

Over the years, to commemorate his accomplishments, Stute has received a special parking spot and induction into the Fairplex Park Hall of Fame as the first honoree in 2003. Stutes' Sports Bar & Grill was dedicated in 2007 to honor the entire training family, which includes Mel's late brother, Warren, as well as Mel's son, Gary, and nephew, Glen, all trainers.

"I go over there all the time to dust my plaque," Stute said one recent morning at Santa Anita's Clocker's Corner when encouraged to talk about his Pomona exploits. "They take good care of me over there."

Stute likes the immediacy of the Fairplex track to the grandstand.

"You're so close to it that you can see the horses all the way around," he said. "It's like racing was 100 years ago. It's a good little track."

Stute's stakes victories include eight runnings of the Foothill Stakes. He won both divisions of the Foothill with Menderes and General Jimmy in 1982. Stute has garnered three Pomona Invitational Handicaps, with Fabulous Dad in 1984 and with Score Quick in 1997 and 1998. The latter two runnings came after the race had been renamed the Ralph M. Hinds Pomona Invitational Handicap for the longtime Fairplex CEO, who died in 1994.

One morning, before he had ever won a Pomona Handicap, Stute sat at Hollywood Park with his brother, Warren, and several other trainers.

"Everybody was supposed to name the biggest race in the world," Stute recalled. "John Russell said the Arc. Warren said the Santa Anita Handicap. Somebody else said the Kentucky Derby. I said the Pomona Handicap."

Another Fairplex stalwart over the years has been the Johnston family's Old English Rancho. Old English Rancho became one of California's leading breeders under founder E.B. "The Pie Man" Johnston and has continued under the guidance of Johnston's son, E.W. "Bud." Many of the horses they developed through the years raced at Fairplex.

Balcony's Babe won two of her eight stakes at Pomona for the Johnston family. Impressive Style twice took the Bangles and Beads Stakes and was one of several Johnston runners to capture the Las Madras Handicap.

More Megaton, a son of Old English's stallion The Pie King, won the 1963 Pomona Derby with the venerable John Longden in the saddle. Under Ray York, More Megaton added the Pomona Handicap that year and in 1964.

In 2004 Old English Rancho was the second to be inducted into

Via Lombardia Now In Utah!

Multiple California Graded SW of \$559,794,
Proven sire of 12% 2YO SHs/Rnrs,
including:
Record-Setting SW LOMARD, 5-length
Futurity winner first time out and a 'Derby'
winner at 3.

Also Standing: PALANCE (SW \$169,510, DAMASCUS grandson)

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Fairplex is the oldest track running in Southern California

2009 California Sires By Winners

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Benchmark.....	78.....	22
Salt Lake.....	56.....	22
Unusual Heat.....	76.....	20
Sea of Secrets.....	69.....	14
In Excess (IRE).....	52.....	14
Bertrando.....	62.....	13
Valid Wager.....	52.....	13
Tribal Rule.....	34.....	13
Cee's Tizzy.....	37.....	12
Formal Gold.....	44.....	11
Siberian Summer.....	40.....	11
Deputy Commander.....	72.....	9
High Brite.....	47.....	9
Perfect Mandate.....	28.....	9
Stormin Fever.....	59.....	8
Old Topper.....	52.....	8
Roar.....	37.....	8
Behrens.....	30.....	8
Swiss Yodeler.....	74.....	7
Lit de Justice.....	49.....	7
Lord Carson.....	43.....	7
Beau Genius.....	32.....	7
Thunderello.....	29.....	7
Decarchy.....	25.....	7
Ten Most Wanted.....	24.....	6
Dixie Dot Com.....	22.....	6
Freespool.....	21.....	6
Richly Blended.....	21.....	6
Free House.....	19.....	6
General Meeting.....	19.....	6
Mud Route.....	18.....	6
Iron Cat.....	16.....	6
Gotham City.....	14.....	6
Muqtarib.....	21.....	5
Birdonthewire.....	15.....	5
Lake William.....	10.....	5
Comic Strip.....	33.....	4
Game Plan.....	30.....	4
Flame Thrower.....	23.....	4
Rio Verde.....	17.....	4
Silic (FR).....	16.....	4
Smokester.....	16.....	4
Bartok (IRE).....	15.....	4
Marino Marini.....	11.....	4

the Fairplex Park Hall of Fame, following Stute. Pomona inaugurated the E.B. Johnston Stakes in 1982, and the family won the race in 1995 with Fancy 'n Fabulous and in 2006 with Allswellthatnswell.

Current trainers Ted West and Jerry Fanning are also members of the Hall of Fame. Both won stakes during the 2008 meeting, Fanning taking the Hinds with Booyah and West taking the Jim Kostoff Stakes with Trevor's Clever. Likely to join them someday in the Hall of Fame is jockey Martin Pedroza, the all-time leading Fairplex rider with 561 victories.

FAIRPLEX' NATIONAL STARS

Fairplex has hosted more than its share of horses that went on to national prominence. One of the earliest was Physician. The son of Khaled—Doc's Rosy, by Talon, captured the 1961 C.B. Afflerbaugh Stakes and Pomona Handicap during the fair meet before heading to Santa Anita, where he won the 1962 Santa Anita Handicap and 1963 San Antonio Handicap.

Hall of Fame trainer Charlie Whittingham saddled two winners of the Pomona Handicap: Deck Hand in 1968 and Epidaurus in 1986. A half-brother to champion Hoist the Flag, Deck Hand won the 1966 Discovery Handicap at Aqueduct and 1969 San Marcos Handicap at Santa Anita.

The good California sprinter Kissin' George won the 1969 Governor's Cup

Handicap. Twice, the durable Sledge, who started 91 times, took the Governor's Cup—in 1963 and again in 1968 at the age of 9. In between, he captured the 1966 C.B. Afflerbaugh Memorial Handicap.

Kentucky Oaks victress Fran's Valentine was the queen of Pomona at 2 in 1984. The California-bred filly won that year's Bustles and Bows Stakes and the Black Swan Stakes, the latter by 19 lengths.

Free House, winner of the 1997 Santa Anita Derby (gr. I) over future classic winner Silver Charm, broke his maiden at Fairplex the previous year. A horse unable to win at Pomona was Codex, who finished fourth there at 2 in 1979 and won the following year's Santa Anita Derby, Hollywood Derby (gr. I), and Preakness Stakes (gr. I).

Lava Man won the 2004 Derby Trial Stakes at Fairplex, and another of the track's noted winners was Squirtle Squirt. Winner of the Barretts Juvenile Stakes as a 2-year-old in 2000, he captured the Penske Auto Center Breeders' Cup Sprint (gr. I) the following year at Belmont Park.

Fairplex annually offers the Barretts Juvenile Stakes and the Barretts Debutante Stakes for horses that have gone through a Barretts sale. Fred Sahadi began the auction company on the property in 1990 with Fairplex as a minority partner. Fairplex bought out Sahadi's interest in 2002.

Henwood speaks enthusiastically about the current renovation of the Hinds Sales Pavilion at Barretts. The main hall will have two big-screen video monitors, and the entire sound system is being improved. Henwood expects the facility to have more of a sports bar feel, and he said that admission, program, and parking will be free.

"The idea is to create a venue that's a place where on weekends families can go over there," Henwood said. "We'll have live events outside. We might have children's events during the daytime."

Henwood would like to broaden that vision to the entire racetrack with the proposed expansion. He said if the industry decides that Fairplex is the answer to the eventual demise of Hollywood, Fairplex would need about a year and a half to implement the plans. Ideally, that would mean construction would begin following the 2009 fair meeting.

Hollywood Park has committed to racing through the summer of 2009, but could run its fall 2009 meeting and even beyond, depending on the real estate market. The California Horse Racing Board has allocated dates to Hollywood for both the summer and fall of this year. The question remains, what will the industry do once Hollywood closes?

"It's my belief we will be an integral part of it," Henwood said. "We've got a great history. Our primary mission is serving the community, and our business is entertainment." 📺

2009 California Sires By Stakes Horses

Sire	Stks Horses	Stks Wnrs	Stks Wins
Unusual Heat.....	6.....	2.....	2
Benchmark.....	2.....	1.....	1
Cee's Tizzy.....	2.....	1.....	1
Lit de Justice.....	2.....	0.....	0
Stormin Fever.....	2.....	0.....	0
Swiss Yodeler.....	2.....	0.....	0