

The Perfect Trip

Blood-Horse Magazine is pleased to present this week's nominees for the second annual **Perfect Trip Award** presented by **Sentient Jet**.



Court Vision 2009 Shadwell Turf Mile S.
Keeneland, KY | Owners: IEAH Stables, Resolute Group Stables
Trainer: Richard Dutrow Jr. | Breeder: W.S. Farish and Kilroy

A three-month layoff certainly didn't hurt Court Vision, and neither did the soft turf at Keeneland for the Shadwell Turf Mile (gr. IT). The 4-year-old son of Gulch came flying down the outside and got his nose in front for his second grade I win, the other being the 2008 Hollywood Derby. He has won five graded stakes, two on dirt and three on grass.



Informed Decision 2009 Thoroughbred Club of America S.
Keeneland, KY | Owner: Augustin Stable
Trainer: Jonathan Sheppard | Breeders: Chuck Kidder, Nancy Cole

In 13 lifetime starts Informed Decision has 10 wins, most recently the Oct. 10 Thoroughbred Club of America S. (gr. II) at Keeneland. Trainer Jonathan Sheppard and owner George Strawbridge probably wish Keeneland were open more than six weeks a year, because the 4-year-old daughter of Monarchos is four-for-four at the picturesque Kentucky racetrack.



Gayego 2009 Ancient Title S.
Santa Anita, CA | Owner: Godolphin Racing
Trainer: Saeed bin Suroor | Breeders: Hargus and Sandra Sexton

It often takes horses time to recover from a trip to Dubai. Such is the case with Gayego, but he has certainly returned to top form. The 4-year-old Gilded Time colt made two starts in Dubai in March and won one. Returned to the races in August, he won an allowance race, and Oct. 11 won his first grade I race, the Ancient Title S.



Mushka 2009 Juddmonte Spinster S.
Keeneland, KY | Owner: Brushwood Stable
Trainer: Bill Mott | Breeder: Diane Snowden

Mushka was not first across the finish line in the Juddmonte Spinster S. (gr. I), but she was bothered in deep stretch by Proviso and was awarded the victory by disqualification. The 4-year-old daughter of Empire Maker was already a graded stakes winner on dirt (Demoiselle S. [gr. II]) and turf (Glens Falls H. [gr. IIIT]) before her grade I score on Keeneland's Polytrack.



Silver Timber 2009 Woodford S.
Keeneland, KY | Owner: Michael Dubb
Trainer: Chad Brown | Breeder: Sez Who Thoroughbreds

Since being claimed in Florida for \$25,000 in April, Silver Timber has blossomed for trainer Chad Brown. He won an allowance race in May, took the Jaipur S. (gr. III) in July, was beaten just a neck in the Commentator S. in September, and in October picked up his second turf stakes with a 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -length victory in the Woodford S. (gr. IIIT) at Keeneland.



Mambo Meister 2009 Spend a Buck H.
Calder, FL | Owner: Quantum Racing Team #1
Trainer: Philip Gleaves | Breeder: J.R. Cavanaugh

Handicappers often like the turf to dirt angle. Well, Mambo Meister has done that three times and won all three races. Most recently, the 4-year-old son of King Cugat finished a good fourth in the Red Bank S. (gr. IIIT) on grass and then was switched to dirt at Calder, where he drew off for an easy score in the Spend a Buck H. (gr. III).



Champs Elysees 2009 Pattison Canadian International S.
Woodbine, CAN | Owner: Juddmonte Farms
Trainer: Bobby Frankel | Breeder: Juddmonte Farms

Everyone wants to go out a winner, and after six races in which he failed to win, Champs Elysees made his final start in the Pattison Canadian International S. (Can-IT). And, he went out a winner. The well-bred 6-year-old horse, by Danehill—Hasili, by Kahyasi, won the 1½-mile turf race with a late charge down the middle of the Woodbine turf course and now heads to stud.



Lahaleeb 2009 E.P. Taylor S.
Woodbine, CAN | Owners: Mohammed Al-Qatami, Khalid Al-Mudhaf
Trainer: Mick Channon | Breeder: Tom Twomey

Quite often, horses run very well “off the plane,” meaning the first time they start in the United States after arriving from a foreign country. That is certainly the case with Lahaleeb, who had won just one of six prior starts in 2009 in Europe but swept by her opponents in Canada to score an easy win in the ¼-mile E.P. Taylor S. (Can-IT) over the Woodbine turf.



Field Commission 2009 Nearctic S.
Woodbine, CAN | Owners: Ed Seltzer and Danny Vella
Trainer: Danny Vella | Breeder: Minshall Farms

Field Commission was turned back in distance from a mile to six furlongs. He was ridden for the first time by Julien Leparoux. And, he got a good pace up front to run at. Still, the 4-year-old son of Service Stripe found himself blocked late in the Nearctic S. (Can-IIT). Well, no worries. Leparoux found a hole, drove him through it, and won the race by 1½ lengths.



This year's Perfect Trip Award will recognize a Breeders' Cup Challenge race winner from this season's North American races that best exemplifies a “Perfect Trip.” The winner will be selected from a panel of racing experts and will have the opportunity to experience his or her own “Perfect Trip” through Sentient Jet, with complimentary round-trip private jet travel for six people to the 2009 Breeders' Cup World Championships at Santa Anita. The Perfect Trip Award winner will be announced the week of October 19th, and the owner will be awarded the Perfect Trip trophy on ESPN during the Championship weekend.