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Richard's Boy, gray, starts his championship season by winning the Donald Valpredo California Cup Sprint

# RICHARD'S BOY

BY TRACY GANTZ

Harold and Pamela Tillemma have bred a string of good runners all descending from Theresa's Pleasure, winner of the inaugural California Cup Juvenile Fillies in 1990. They name most of the foals for their children and grandchildren, and Richard's Boy, named for their son, was voted champion California-bred sprinter of 2017.

The Tillemas run a dairy in Chino, though they recently sold their land.

"I've lived here since 1951, when my folks moved here," said Harold.

The Tillemas initially partnered on The-

resa's Pleasure, the third dam of Richard's Boy, and some of her offspring with John Haagsma. Harold Tillemma bought Theresa's Pleasure privately from friends.

Theresa's Pleasure produced Jenna's Joy, bred by Haagsma, Haagsma, and Tillemma, and raced by Harold. Jenna's Joy in turn produced Marissa's Joy, a daughter of Cee's Tizzy and the dam of Richard's Boy.

Harold Tillemma said that he bred Marissa's Joy to Idiot Proof to get Richard's Boy "because I was told to breed speed on speed." That worked so well with Richard's Boy that Tillemma sent the mare back to Idiot Proof several times.

"I have a 2-year-old full sister that I'm putting in the April 4 Barretts sale," he said. Marissa's Joy was due to have another full

## RICHARD'S BOY

- 1 RICHARD'S BOY
- 2 MR. HINX
- 3 MISS SUNSET

sibling this year, and Tillemma planned to send her to Kentucky to breed to Violence and bring back to make the foal a Cal-bred.

The Tillemas raced Richard's Boy three times at 2 and 3 in 2014 and 2015, and he won all three races. They then sold him privately to Gary Hartunian's Rockingham Ranch. For Hartunian and trainer Peter Miller, Richard's Boy has done very well, capped by his championship season in 2017.

Richard's Boy began 2017 by winning the Donald Valpredo California Cup Sprint and finishing second in the Sensational Star Stakes. He then embarked on a world tour. He traveled to Dubai, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, winning the Jim McKay Turf Sprint at Pimlico, before returning to California.

It was an eventful year for the Cal-bred gelding. Once back in his native state, he never finished worse than third in top competition. Perhaps his finest performance came in the Breeders' Cup, when he completed a Rockingham Ranch Exacta in the Nov. 4 Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (G1T) at Del Mar.

Speeding through five furlongs on the big day, Richard's Boy battled with stablemate Stormy Liberal to the wire. Only a head separated them at the finish, with Stormy Liberal emerging the winner, one of two Breeders' Cup victories for Hartunian and Miller. They also won the TwinSpires Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1) with Roy H.

Richard's Boy was part of Miller's stable at San Luis Rey Downs when the devastating Lilac fire broke out. Fortunately, Richard's Boy was safely rescued and has since been training well at Del Mar.

The gelding began 2018 by finishing third in the Jan. 1 Joe Hernandez Stakes at Santa Anita behind fellow Cal-bred Pee Wee Reese. Richard's Boy then traveled yet again, this time to Florida, where he ran third in the Gulfstream Park Turf Sprint Stakes. He now has lifetime earnings of \$872,490. **CTB**

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Idiot Proof – Marissa's Joy, by Cee's Tizzy

**Breeders:** Harold & Pam Tillemma

**Owner:** Rockingham Ranch

Gray gelding (Feb. 18, 2012)

	AGE	STARTS	1ST (SW)	2ND	3RD	EARNINGS
2017	5	9	2 (2)	3	1	\$402,360