



Zenyatta



Photos by Sarah Andrew

Accomplishment: Became the first distaffer in history to beat the boys in the GI Breeders' Cup Classic.
Birthdate: Apr. 1, 2004
Birthplace: Winter Quarter Farm, Fayette, Ky
Family: Dad Street Cry (Ire); mom Vertigineux; sisters Where's Bailey (Aljabr), Balance (Thunder Gulch), Treasure Trail (Pulpit), Eblouissante (Bernardini); brother Souper Spectacular (Giant's Causeway)
Principal business: Kicking ass; taking names
Current residence: Hollywood Park, Inglewood, Ca

It's been an amazing career, but is there one moment that stands out? Wow, you want me to pick just one? OK--it would have to be in the paddock, just before the Classic. I had to stop and take it all in--the fans were going crazy, cheering, clapping, holding up signs. It was almost humbling. Almost. Mario (Espinoza), my groom and best buddy? He always looks so serious before a race, but his eyes were just shining. I knew I had to do him proud.

Any anxious moments during the race? For me? No. Good ol' Trevor sounded a little concerned there early, and I think I gave Mikey a few butterflies, but I knew I had it.

What do you love most about racing? Some horses, they just love to run, but me? I love to win. There is no better feeling. And I love waiting until the last moment, letting 'em think that maybe this time they can beat me--then flying past like the cavalry to the rescue. Did you see the look on Gio Ponti's face when I caught him in the Classic? He thought he had it...ha!

What are you going to miss the most? I love to compete and, God knows, I love the fans. They are the greatest. And the Mosses and Dottie? They believed in me when I was just a lanky kid with bad acne. But what I'm going to miss the most are my buddies from the barn. Johnny--you know how I feel. Would I be the champion I am without you in my corner? I honestly don't know. And Steve Willard, my exercise rider? I know I gave you a hard time--sorry for all the aching muscles! But we had fun, right? And then there's Mario...damn, I'm going to hate saying goodbye to him. He's taken such good care of me...when I have to get on that van for Kentucky, I...I...it's gonna be so hard...can we talk about something else?

Of course. Who was your biggest idol growing up? Azeri. What a great racemare. I had her poster on my stall wall. When we were out in the field, I'd play "Breeders' Cup Distaff 2002" over and over, all by myself. Mom would be yelling at me, "It's time for lunch!" and chasing me, and I'd pretend she was Farda Amiga--she never caught me.

What's playing on your Ipod right now? Zappa, the Zombies, ZZ Top...I have "Legs" on repeat!

What is your drink of choice? H₂O...and the water would be Fiji, of course.

It's hard to find fault, but is there anything you don't like about yourself? Don't laugh, but when I was young, the other kids used to make fun of my hindquarters. They'd call me "Zeny-gottabigbutta." Foals can be so cruel. I had quite the complex--that's why I always raced at the back of the pack. I was very self conscious about it. I'd wait and wait--and then run by the field so fast, I was only a blur. I'm over it now--I'm beautiful, and I know it. And that last-to-first thing really worked out in my favor, no? Those foals, they can...well, you know what they can do!

How did you come up with your signature walk? Have you ever seen a wild stallion fighting? Right before he gets ready to rumble, he strikes the ground with a front leg--wham! It's my way of trash-talking...the other horses know they are going down! I like to rub it in a little after the race, too.

How do you feel about retirement? It's time. I love to race, but, to be honest, where's the challenge any more? And I don't want to play past my prime. I'm no Brett Favre. Go out on top--that's the way I want it.

Are you looking forward to being a mom? I am! I know everyone thinks I am this tough broad, but that's only on the track. I can't wait to have a little one that I can take care of and show the ropes. And I hope my first is a girl--a dark bay filly with a white stripe and a big butt!

Any thoughts on the baby daddy? Wouldn't it be ironic if it was Medaglia d'Oro? Because, I'm telling you, if Rachel Alexandra and I had ever met on the track, she'd know who "her daddy" was. But, seriously, I think that would be one beautiful foal.

So you feel you are the Horse of the Year? Don't get me wrong, I'm the first one to give it up for Rachel. She was amazing this year. But are you asking me who is the better horse? Really??



CONGRATULATIONS from Fasig-Tipton's own
Filly Star of the Week:
 ☆ **INFORMED DECISION** ☆
 Sentient Jet Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint (G1)

Congratulations to her connections!



www.fasigtipton.com