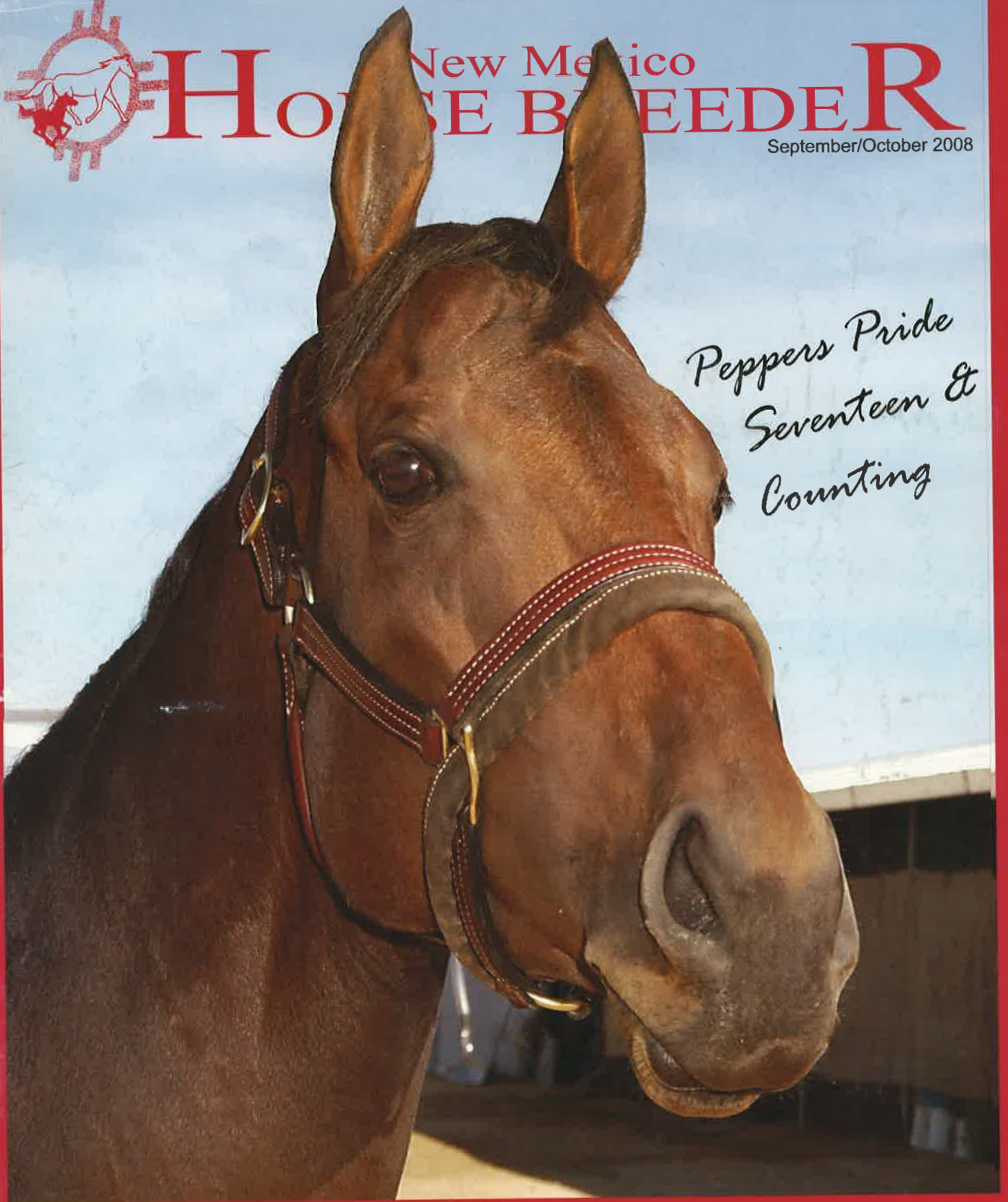




New Mexico HORSE BREEDER

September/October 2008



*Peppers Pride
Seventeen &
Counting*



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PEPPERS PRIDE

BY TY WYANT

Sets Record, Wins 17th Straight Race

Joe Allen's Peppers Pride raced to her 17th straight victory to easily establish the all-time record for consecutive wins by a thoroughbred in the \$38,200 eighth race at Zia Park on Oct. 4.

The undefeated Peppers Pride had shared the previous record with Triple Crown winner Citation, two-time horse of the year Cigar and Louisiana-based sprinter Hallowed Dreams.

Peppers Pride made the six-furlong allowance race look more like a workout than a race. "We just tried to get away well and then stalked the two speed horses," said Carlos Madiera, the only jockey Peppers Pride has known. Madiera let the five-year-old mare run past the two pacesetters on the turn and she cruised under the wire with the one-and-three-quarter length win. She was timed in 1:10 1/5.

Peppers Pride is six-for-six at Zia Park and could attempt her 18th-straight win in the \$170,000 New Mexico Cup Filly and Mare Championship on November 9 at Zia Park. That stakes is part of the New Mexico Cup racing program with \$2 million in purses celebrating New Mexico-bred racing.

"Of course, we'll take it one race at a time but the New Mexico Cup should be our next stop," said Marr.

Peppers Pride has raced exclusively in New Mexico against state-bred females with supreme success. "We're especially happy for the state of New Mexico and New Mexico racing," said Allen. "Joel and his crew, and Carlos have done a great, great job."

Peppers Pride had a tumultuous summer at Ruidoso Downs after winning the Foutz Dash at SunRay Park on April 26 to equal the record. She was entered in the Lincoln



Glenda Price Photos

Handicap on April 26, but that program was washed away when the remnants of Hurricane Dolly closed Ruidoso Downs for three racing programs. The Lincoln Handicap was rescheduled for August 31 and Peppers Pride was entered, however Marr scratched her because of a sloppy racing surface. She has never raced on an off track.

So, Marr had prepared Peppers Pride to race on two occasions and she did not race. Would this interrupted training pattern impact Peppers Pride? "That was my biggest concern. I know she is a naturally fit individual and always gives her best. It was the mental issue I was worried about," said Marr.

There were few worries after Peppers Pride made the lead entering the Zia Park stretch. "I feel great, relieved," said Marr after the race. "Maybe it will all set in tomorrow."

Madiera has been on Peppers Pride for every stride of her record-setting journey spanning four racing seasons. "This is a thrill I can't explain," he said in the winner's circle. "I'm still numb."

As the 1-5 favorite, Peppers Pride rewarded her numerous backers with \$2.40 and \$2.10. Silver Expression finished second, one-and-a-half lengths ahead of Miss Possibility in the field of six females.

In the Grade 2, \$55,000 Lubbock Stakes for quarter horse distaffers, Da Edge raced to a one-quarter length win in :19.628 for the 400 yards. The Todd Fincher-trained mare scored her fourth win from eight 2008 starts. Jorge Martin Bourdieu was aboard.

Fannie Mae Gol was second and Shaky Girl finished third in the full field. ■

