

BRIDESMAID



Lone Star Park

2008 RACE RECORD:
7-2-3-1, \$146,642

The pride in Danny Shifflett's voice is easy to detect when he talks about Texas Champion 2-Year-Old Filly Bridesmaid, who won a division of the Texas Thoroughbred Association Sales Futurity at Lone Star Park and earned \$146,642 in 2008.

"Have you seen her pedigree?" asked Shifflett, the longtime general manager of Lane's End Texas in Hempstead for owner William S. Farish, who co-bred and owns Bridesmaid. "It's an unbelievable pedigree."

In 2008, Bridesmaid earned more money than any other runner by her sire, Valid Expectations, who stands at Lane's End Texas. The perennial leading stallion in Texas, where he commands a \$10,000 stud fee, the 16-year-old son of Valid Appeal is the sire of numerous state-bred champions over the years, including 2008 Champion 2-Year-Old Colt/Gelding Valid Message.

While that sire power is quite impressive, Bridesmaid has a female family beyond compare. Her third dam is Terlingua, a speedy

daughter of Secretariat who defeated males in Grade 2 company. A half sister to Breeders' Cup Mile (G1) winner and globally successful stallion Royal Academy and full sister to Grade 2 winner and deceased Texas sire Pancho Villa, Terlingua produced the legendary sire Storm Cat. Terlingua's next foal was Chapel of Dreams, a Grade 2-winning daughter of Northern Dancer who is Bridesmaid's second dam. Chapel of Dreams' other descendants include Ticker Tape (GB),

during 2008 included Texas Horse of the Year Stealth Cat and Champion 3-Year-Old Colt/Gelding Ablaze With Spirit plus an Eclipse Award as top trainer, Bridesmaid began her career in May, running second in a trial for the fillies division of the TTA Sales Futurity over five furlongs. At odds of 6-1 in the June final, she wore down stablemate Lightlight in the final furlong in a gutsy performance that impressed Shifflett, who had watched the filly blossom as a young racehorse.

"When you get a good individual, you hope they develop to their potential. So far she has."

a Grade 1 winner on turf.

Chapel of Dreams' second foal, the winning Gulch mare Bridal Tea, is the dam of Bridesmaid. Until Bridesmaid arrived, Bridal Tea had produced all males, with six winners from seven starters to race as far away as Ireland and the United Arab Emirates. Among them is Postponed, a colt by Summer Squall who won the 2000 Peter Pan Stakes (G2). In 1997, Lane's End, agent, sold Postponed at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Selected Yearling Sale for \$835,000.

In all, six yearlings out of Bridal Tea have brought a total of \$1.664 million at auction; one offspring was sold for \$260,000 as a 2-year-old. Last August, Lane's End Texas, agent, sold Bridesmaid's yearling

full sister for \$100,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Texas Summer Yearling Sale at Lone Star. Bobby Powell, agent, bought the filly for Mike Rutherford. The Texas-bred, now named Cuero, was the sale's fourth-highest price.

Shifflett said Farish's decision to breed the now 18-year-old Bridal Tea to Valid Expectations occurred in part because the stallion "crosses so well on the Northern Dancer line." Bridal Tea first was bred to Valid Expectations in 2004, and the resulting foal, Groomsman, won a trial and qualified for the TTA Sales Futurity in 2007. Bridesmaid arrived in 2006.

"She's a neat filly," Shifflett said about the champion, whom Farish bred with James Elkins and BCWT Ltd. "She's smart and easy to work with."

Conditioned by Steve Asmussen, whose record 622 winners

"She changed a lot from the time she left here and went into training," he said. "She really grew and developed. She always has been muscular, but she developed length and depth. I almost didn't recognize her after she left the farm."

On Stars of Texas Day on July 12 at Lone Star, Bridesmaid was a game runner-up to Sweetacious in the Pan Zareta Division of the Texas Stallion Stakes. She returned on July 26 and was third as the favorite behind Seacrettina in the open Silver Spur Breeders' Cup

Stakes at the same track. In September, Bridesmaid captured a six-furlong allowance race at Remington Park as the 3-5 favorite. On October 4 at Retama Park on Texas Horse Racing Hall of Fame

Night, the filly was second to Tiffany Royal in the Darby's Daughter division of the Texas Stallion Stakes.

Bridesmaid closed her juvenile campaign with her first try on turf and at 7 1/2 furlongs, the longest distance she had attempted, running unplaced in Remington Park's Cimarron Stakes.

The Texas champion received a freshening over the winter at Lane's End Texas, where her dam is in foal to Lane's End Texas stallion Midway Road after being barren in 2008. By late January, Bridesmaid was back in training with Michael Zwiesler at Tampa Bay Downs, where Shifflett said she could begin her 2009 campaign. Shifflett expects the blue-blooded filly to improve on her initial season at the races.

"When you get a good individual, you hope they develop to their potential," he said. "So far she has." ★

Valid Appeal, 1972

Valid Expectations, 1993

Mepache, 1981

Gulch, 1984

Chapel of Dreams, 1994

Bridal Tea, 1991

Bridesmaid
DARK BAY OR BROWN FILLY
FOALED MARCH 16, 2006