

# Kentucky Equine Research Congratulates Team Member Champions

BY ROBIN STANBACK

Capping a 30-year career as a Thoroughbred trainer, Canadian Robert Tiller captured one of his country's highest honors when he received the 2001 Sovereign Award as Outstanding Trainer. This award came in a year marked by many triumphs. Win City, owned by Frank Di Giulio Jr., was named the Champion Three-Year-Old Male and Horse of the Year. Tiller trained the horse to wins in a number of prestigious races including the Prince of Wales Stakes and the Autumn Handicap. Tiller and Di Giulio also co-own Rare Friends, a Tiller-trained colt who was voted Champion Two-Year-Old Male after winning four of five starts that included the Simcoe Stakes at Woodbine.

Bob Peatling of Triple Crown Feeds delivers the feeds Mr. Tiller relies upon his horses directly to his stables at Woodbine Race Track. The horses are fueled by Phase III feeds from Stouffville Cooperative supplied by Kentucky Equine Research (KER) Team Member Brooks Feed Store in Ontario, Canada. Dan Irwin of Stouffville Cooperative stated, "We are very happy for Mr. Tiller. He is an outstanding horseman and is quite deserving of this award."

Australian Thoroughbred trainer Brian Mayfield Smith feeds his horses Stablemaster Racing Phar Lap, a specially formulated feed provided by KER Team Member Ridley Agriproducts PL in Victoria, Australia. Mr. Smith has enjoyed a highly successful season that has included two Group 1 wins with Sudurka in

the Oakleigh Plate and the Salinger Stakes. He has also been successful with Oliver Twist, who won the Group 1 Mackinnon and Underwood Stakes and with Rubitano who won the Group 1 Newmarket Handicap at Flemington.

Successful nutrition programs like those that have supported Mr. Tiller's and Mr. Smith's exceptional athletes are hallmarks of KER Team Members, but so too are the programs that support nursery operations like Hilton Farms in Somerset, Virginia. Cindy Brown, a horse specialist for KER Team Member Culpeper Farmers Cooperative, serves as advisor for one of Virginia's premier warmblood breeding operations.

"Hilton Farms is a sport horse farm that stands three stallions that are used in the breeding shed and compete in the show ring: Portofino, Antibes, and Letkiss. Also, the farm has foals and yearlings that, because of their substantial size, fall out of the traditional feeding box. The owner, Otto Fuchs, and the trainer, dressage rider Erin Sweeney, are actively involved in every aspect of their horses' care, and they realize that there is a real need for a balanced nutritional program that takes into consideration their horses' uses and special requirements. KER has given us the answers to a great many of these questions and has provided us with the tools we need to design the best nutritional balance for each horse," Ms. Brown explained.

One of the tools Ms. Brown has used extensively is MicroSteed™, a Windows™-based equine ration evaluation program. Ms. Brown visits the farm on a regular basis to assist in gathering samples for pasture and hay evaluation as well as to weigh the young horses. The information is entered into the computer program and the rations are then calculated to provide optimum nutrition for each individual.

She explained, "One of our goals is to reduce problems with developmental orthopedic disease (DOD). We track the growth of young horses so we can make more informed decisions about feeding rates. The current foal crop will be my third on the farm, and I believe the owners are as excited as I am with the overall health and appearance of the foals and yearlings being raised here."

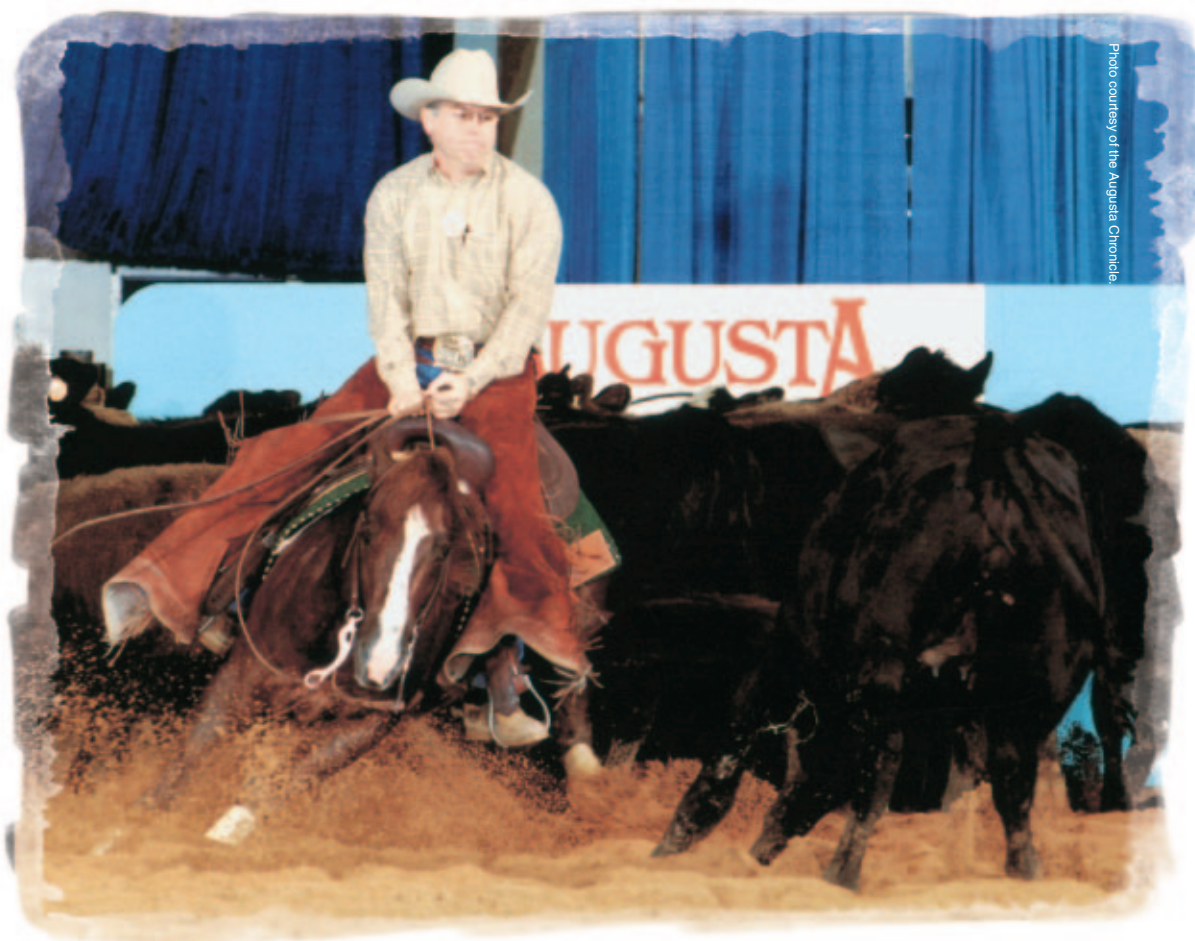
Ms. Sweeney concurred, adding, "Our foals are gorgeous and very well developed. They really sell themselves." ☺☺



*Win City winning the Queenston Stakes.*

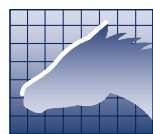
Photo by Michael Burns Photography.

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