
Horse lovers need auction items

After the Finish Line will hosts its annual fundraiser "A Tribute to the Majesty of Thoroughbreds" from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Aug. 5 at the Del Mar Hilton. There will be a reception, silent and live auctions and dinner. Donations are needed for auction items at www.afterthefinishline.org.

Jack Van Berg, one of the most successful horse trainers in racing history, will be the auctioneer at the event. Van Berg became the first trainer to win 5,000 races on July 15, 1987, when he sent Art's Chandelle to victory at Arlington Park.

Through 2009, Van Berg ranks second in victories with 6,394 and has purse earnings totaling \$82,289,589. Van

Berg's best horse was Alysheba, Horse of the Year in 1988. Under Van Berg, Alysheba won the 1987 Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes and the 1988 Breeders' Cup Classic.

An example of how ATFL's funds are used comes from a recent award to Neigh Savers, who rescued Materazzi, a 4-year-old gelding, directly from Golden Gate Fields. He also raced at Santa Rosa Fair, Del Mar and the Big Fresno Fair. Running with bone chips left Materazzi with a grim prognosis unless he has surgery. After the Finish Line will award \$1,000 toward his surgery expenses to give him the chance to be a western/English pleasure riding horse.