

LOUISIANA TOBA BREEDER OF THE YEAR

Chester Thomas

Allied Racing Stables, LLC

Chester Thomas may call Kentucky home, but he has been investing in the Louisiana breeding program and it is paying off for him. His Allied Racing Stables, LLC was the Leading Louisiana Breeder by Percentage of Stakes Winners for 2022.

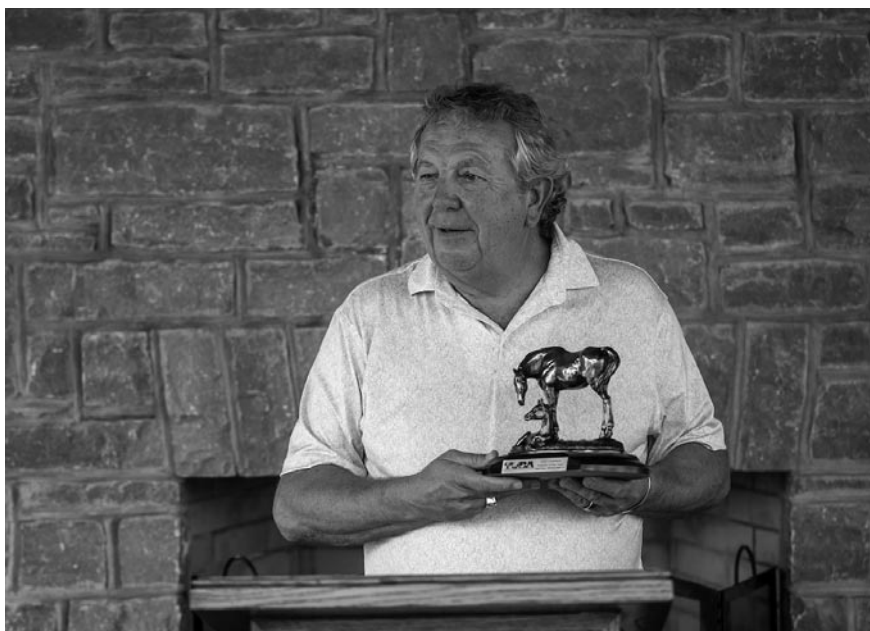
In 2022 Allied Racing had seven Accredited Louisiana Breds start with three of them winning stakes races, earning \$425,090 for Thomas.

Older male champion, Who Took The Money, never missed the board, going 4-0-2 in six starts and earning \$191,550. His wins included the Gold Cup at Delta Downs, the EVD Classic at Evangeline and the Scott's Scoundrel at Fair Grounds. For his career, the 5-year-old has earned nearly half a million dollars.

Winning Romance captured the EVD Distaff and the Shantel Lanerie Memorial Stakes, and earned \$143,540 in 2022 with lifetime earnings of \$341,696.

Jack Hammer, a half brother to Winning Romance won the Louisiana Futurity in December as a two year old and continued his winning ways in 2023 with a victory in the Louisiana Premier Prince Stakes.

"Those homebreds kind of started our Louisiana-bred program," said Thomas. "We've got some nice 2-year-olds now and are extremely excited about the purse structure for



Chester Thomas accepts the Louisiana 2022 TOBA Breeders' Award at the TOBA Awards Dinner in September.

next year. Right now Louisiana is a great place to be and there's a lot of enthusiasm from horsemen in the state with sports betting money going to purses soon. I don't know why anyone wouldn't want to be breeding and racing in Louisiana."

One might wonder why a native Kentuckian is also breeding and racing in Louisiana and not exclusively in his home state. For Thomas, the answer is simple.

"Compared to other states, we felt like Louisiana stood out and there was an opportunity there as a breeder to not just win races but to also get a nice breeders' award check," he said.

As an owner, he moved his five-time graded stakes winner and three-time Breeders' Cup participant Mr. Money from Florida to Clear Creek Stud in Louisiana in August of last year. The millionaire son of Goldencents, which he owns in partnership with Spendthrift Farm, is part of a plan to invest back into the state's breeding program. Thomas' Allied Racing Stable hopes to prove the viability of not just his stallions but elevate the state's profile in the sport.

With Mr. Money's yearlings hitting the sales ring this year, it's only a matter of time before results are seen.