

BLAZIN FIRE

CHAMPION AGED MARE

SCOTT MARTINEZ



A SELF-PROCLAIMED HORSE FREAK, LISA MCMAHON REFERS TO Blazin Fire as her “miracle baby.”

Blazin Fire is one of seven winners from eight starters produced by her dam, the stakes-winning Easy Crimson mare Blazin Sin. A finalist in champion Florentine’s 1988 Vessels Maturity (G1), the mare assembled a seven-race win streak at Blue Ribbon Downs before she shipped to California.

But not long after her racing career ended, Blazin Sin contracted the often fatal colitis-X virus. Soon after she had recovered from that, she was diagnosed with another often deadly disease – cancer.

“The cancer spread fast,” McMahon recalled. “The insurance company cleared her to be put down, but then the cancer went into remission. She had this baby next to her, so as long as she was feeling OK we decided to wait.

“A week or so later, I got a call telling me she was in season and was ready to be bred,” she added. “I was asked if I wanted to breed her, and I agreed. We got an embryo out of her by This Snow Is Royal, and that embryo was Blazin Fire.”

After the embryo transfer, Blazin Sin’s cancer returned and she was euthanized two weeks later.

As if to honor her late dam’s memory, Blazin Fire banked \$114,812 during her championship season, and her four wins in six outs at Los Alamitos included the John Deere Distaff Challenge Championship (G1), Las Damas Handicap (G2) and John Deere California Distaff Challenge (G3). The 6-year-old mare is one of 36 stakes winners from six crops sired by the late This Snow Is Royal, the sport’s champion 2-year-old colt in 1997. Her half brother, the Heza Fast Man stallion The Blazin Man, won four stakes in Texas from 2002-04 and ran second in the ’02 Manor Downs Maturity (G3).

Another of Blazin Sin’s foals, the On A High gelding Blazin

High, earned \$260,113 from 1994-96 while qualifying to four Grade 1 futurities in Oklahoma and Texas.

“I’ll always refer to Blazin Fire as my miracle baby,” McMahon said. “Blazin Sin was my pride and joy, not only for what she did on the track but also for what she produced.”

McMahon lives with her husband Dan in Collierville, Tennessee, a suburb of Memphis. The McMahons own an agency that produces ads for a print, television and direct mailing in the mid-south region. They have two children, a son, Bobby, 15, and a daughter, Jessie, 11.

“I’ve been a horse freak since I was 2,” McMahon recalls.

“When I was in high school, I met this couple that had moved from California to Tennessee. They had Quarter Horses that had raced at Los Alamitos, and they were boarding their horses at the same place I had my riding mare. I had heard about Los Alamitos, but thanks to them, I got to hear all these great stories from people that had been there.

“Dan has been so supportive of my love of horses for all these years,” she added. “Until about five years ago, we lived on a farm, and our bedroom was in a barn next to a foaling stall. I’m also part of a great Quarter Horse racing group on Yahoo.com, and these people in this group are very supportive and important to me because they’ve helped me get through the ups and downs of the racing business. They’ve been great to me, and I hope I’ve been great to them. We share ideas and talk about different topics, such as breeding and pedigrees, and we all stay on top of what’s happening with our horses.”

All told, Blazin Fire has won 10 of 29 races and has banked \$275,230 while racing exclusively at Los Alamitos. Her five career stakes victories include the 2006 Las Damas (Handicap, G2), and she also ran in the Champion of Champions (G1) that year.

“To be in the Champion of Champions is the most awesome experience I’ve had in racing,” McMahon said. “One of the Yahoo group members told me, ‘Lisa, you’ve finally found the glass slipper for your Cinderella.’ That’s the best way I can describe what this is like. Blazin Fire is my Cinderella, and this is her Cinderella story.

“We hope we’re going to be running her this year,” she added. “She has a First Down Dash baby coming in March, and we’re breeding her back to (champion) FDD Dynasty, so we have a lot to look forward to.”

BY MICHAEL CUSORTELLI