

MILLION-DOLLAR TAPIT COLT SOARS TO RISING STARDOM *by Brian DiDonato*

Hronis Racing, Siena Farm, Summer Wind Equine, West Point Thoroughbreds and Woodford Racing's **Flightline** (**Tapit**) turned in one of the more impressive debut performances in recent memory Saturday at Santa Anita to stamp himself as a no brainer 'TDN Rising Star'. Pounded down to 4-5 favoritism into the face of two Bob Baffert firsters, a \$650,000 Simon Callaghan trainee and a MyRacehorse runner, the John Sadler pupil and \$1-million Fasig-Tipton Saratoga grad broke perhaps a half-step slowly but quickly rushed up through horses to set a pressured pace from the rail. He began to widen his advantage after a :21.59 opening quarter, got the half in :44.42 while already some seven or eight lengths clear, and cantered to the wire from there to romp by a geared-down 13 1/4 lengths while stopping the clock in a sharp 1:08.75. Baffert runner Brutto (**Nyquist**) was best of the rest.

It was a productive day for seven-figure Saratoga graduates co-owned by West Point Thoroughbreds, Woodford Racing and Siena Farm. The overlapping connections also celebrated a debut win Saturday at Belmont with \$1.5-million FTSAUG co-topper **First Captain** (**Curkin**). Flightline was the co-third-priciest purchase at that boutique auction. **Cont. p2**



Benoit Photo



Flightline | *Benoit Photo*