

**10**<sup>TH</sup>  
NOMINEE

BREEDERS' CUP



**1988 Distaff**

**Personal Ensign**

**Owned by Ogden Phipps**

# Personal Ensign's Perfect Trip

*Undefeated Champion Overcomes Challenges for Photo-Finish Win*

## **Selected by THE BREEDERS' CUP BOARD**

There is a well-used saying in horse racing that 'They all get beat sometime.' And 99.9% of the time, that's true. Even the greats like Man o' War, Secretariat, Kelso, and Citation went down to defeat sometime in their careers.

We all know how difficult it is to achieve perfection, since none of us make it there. And then along comes a Thoroughbred who shows us the way, who accomplishes that which we can only dream. And does so in such dramatic fashion that her winning run in her final race, the 1988 Breeders' Cup Distaff, is unfailingly voted the greatest moment in Breeders' Cup history.

It wasn't easy for Personal Ensign, either. As a 2 year old, she broke a bone in her left hind leg, and retirement was very much an option. But the Ogden Phipps homebred returned to the races apparently as good as ever, and coming into the Breeders' Cup as a 4 year old, she had reeled off a dozen wins without being beaten.

But over a muddy track at Churchill Downs, and facing the Kentucky Derby-winning filly Winning Colors, the unbeaten streak was in grave danger. Personal Ensign dropped back early in



the race, and with a half mile to run, she trailed by eight lengths.

"Up the backstretch she was slipping and sliding and not getting a hold of the racetrack," noted Ogden Mills Phipps. "We didn't think she had a lot of chance at that point."

Then came the magic. Personal Ensign under Randy Romero found another gear, determined to splash through the mud and preserve her legacy. Still, now in the shadow of the finish line, it seemed impossible, her getting by Winning Colors. The two champions hit

the wire together, and the photo-finish camera showed Personal Ensign a nose in front.

"When she made her move she was gaining just a little bit all the time and her stride got longer and better," Phipps said. "With all the problems she'd had, to show how great she was; the extraordinary heart of a great filly. It was very emotional because she was so much a part of our family."

For the undefeated Personal Ensign, it was the most dramatic Perfect Trip in a spectacular career.

In celebration of the 25th Running of the 2008 Breeders' Cup World Championships,  
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Ten winning horses from this prestigious event's history have been nominated by a panel of racing experts.  
The winner of the Perfect Trip Award based on fan votes will be announced during the Championships races in October.

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