

4TH
NOMINEE

BREEDERS' CUP



1986 Classic
Skywalker
Owned by Oak Cliff Stable

Skywalker's Perfect Trip

The Perfect Strategy Gets Perfectly Executed

Selected by
JAY PRIVMAN

When you're 10-1 and running against a pair of champions in the most prestigious race of the year, developing a dynamic strategy is critical to success. So is, of course, having that plan executed to a 'T.'

Skywalker certainly owned solid credentials coming into the 1986 Breeders' Cup Classic at Santa Anita Park, having won the Santa Anita Derby the preceding year and three other graded stakes before the Classic. But in Turkoman and Precisionist, he was up against two salty foes who possessed even better credentials.

So the decision was made by trainer Michael Whittingham and jockey Laffit Pincay Jr. to try and kick clear of the competition in mid-race, rather than trying to out-foot them down the stretch, a tough task indeed.

"We discovered he didn't want to run just from the eighth pole to the wire," said Whittingham. "We gave him more work, and more to do, and he just loved it."

Always close to the lead, Pincay moved



Skywalker outside the pacesetter Herat on the first turn, and in the process was able to box Precisionist in along the rail. At the 3/8s pole, Pincay moved to the lead, and had opened up two lengths by the 1/4 pole and 3 1/2 by the time he hit the top of the stretch.

When he finally got free, Precisionist had too much ground to make up. And Turkoman had to take the overland route home six-wide, falling 1 1/4 lengths short of Skywalker at the wire.

For Pincay, it was simply another Perfect Trip in an amazing career.

In celebration of the 25th Running of the 2008 Breeders' Cup World Championships,
Sentient Flight Group is sponsoring the Perfect Trip Award.

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.

Vote for the Perfect Trip online at breederscup.com/perfecttrip