

## *Parting With Adoration Sweet Sorrow for Amermans...*

**Adoration** (Honor Grades) gave California owners John and Jerry Amerman their biggest thrill in racing in 2003, winning the GI Breeders' Cup Distaff before a partisan crowd at Santa Anita. Four years later, the eight-year-old mare, carrying a colt by leading sire Smart Strike, provided the couple with their biggest bang in the sales ring after she was knocked down to Coolmore's John Magnier for \$3.1 million. "She's a good-looking mare and a good race mare," the typically understated Magnier commented following the sale. He was not surprised by the final price. "That's the market. What can you say?" he said. The Amermans acquired Adoration through bloodstock agent Bob Feld off a daylight maiden victory in 2002, and she went on to take graded stakes on the dirt and turf that season. Winner of a minor stakes at Del Mar in the summer of 2003, the bay was put up to third in the GII Lady's Secret BC S. prior to her 40-1 upset in the Distaff. She was never worse than third in five starts in 2004, winning the GI Santa Margarita Invitational H., the GII Fleur de Lis H. and the GIII Arlington Matron H. She retired with earnings of \$2,051,159 and is the dam of a yearling colt by Empire Maker and a weanling filly by Ghostzapper, both of which the couple are retaining. For the Amermans, parting ways with Adoration brings some mixed emotions. "It is a very bittersweet thing," explained Jerry Amerman. "She was really good to us. We know that she's going to a good place and we know that they'll take good care of her. But it's very hard, especially when you get attached to the horse. I hope it's a Kentucky Derby winner she's carrying. The market seemed to be very good and strong and we were just hoping it would stay that way." The Amermans had more success later in the session, selling MGISW **Spoken Fur** (Notebook) to Southern Equine Stables for \$1.65 million. The seven-year-old mare is in foal to Smart Strike.