

# RAISE CHICKS

## MEXICAN CHAMPION

RAISE CHICKS RACKED UP A NEARLY PERFECT SEASON IN 2007, winning six of seven starts, earning \$114,926, and picking up the honor of Mexican champion.

Racing for breeder Anselmo Aguilar of Satelite, Mexico, the son of Chicks Beduino Jr was trained by Alfred Martinez and ridden through the year by J.T. Diaz, J. Rugerio and Jose Santos.

The well-marked sorrel colt began the year, and his career, with a two-length victory in the Prize Classic Stakes trial. He won the final, then next on to win the August 19 Ford Mexico Juvenile Challenge by a neck over Cash For Jessie.

Raise Chicks suffered his first defeat in the Azoom Stakes, finishing fifth.

With a ticket to the Bank of America Challenge Championship finals at Los Alamitos in November, Aguilar had to decide where to take the colt next and chose to point him to the Mexican Breeders' Futurity (RG3), scheduled to be run in late November.

"We did not take him to California for the Challenge finals because we really wanted to win the Mexico Breeders race here at the Hipodromo," he said.

His choice was rewarded, as the gelding won his trial by nearly two lengths, then concluded the year with a strong finish in the \$117,700 final.

"Winning the Mexico Breeders' Futurity meant so much to our racing stable," Aguilar said. "We've only been in the racing industry for seven years, so it's an honor."

Raise Chicks has proven to be a reliable racehorse.

"The horse is always focused and calm before each race," Aguilar said. "One can see how he is concentrating before a race. He always gives his best performance."

Aguilar purchased Raise Chick's dam, Raise A Chance, in 2002. The unraced Raise A Secret (TB) mare, now 15, is a half sister to graded stakes winner Johnnys Will, both out of the mare Angels Secret.

"It had not crossed my mind to cross (Raise A Chance) with that sire until a friend of mine suggested it," Aguilar said. "I had thought about selling her at one time because I didn't think she would be a producer. This year, I've got a few embryos out of her already, and we are awaiting her future foals."

Chicks Beduino Jr is a 14-year-old son of Chicks Beduino owned by Armando Leon of Culiacan Sinaloa, Mexico. Raise Chicks is the first champion for the unraced stallion, who had eight starters from his first three crops.

Raise Chicks will return to racing as a 3-year-old. Aguilar said he hopes to qualify the horse to race in the Challenge finals at Evangeline Downs in Louisiana in November.

BY ANDREA CAUDILL

COURTESY OF ANSELMO AGUILAR

