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"Pure Heart" by Michael Geraghty depicts Go For Wand in the 1990 Breeders' Cup Distaff— her final race— just before her foreleg shattered.

IMMORTAL BELOVED: GO FOR WAND

By Kate O'Hare

SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY — The last chapter in racing's tragic romance with Go for Wand was written on August 5, when the bay filly by Deputy Minister out of Obeah was inducted into the National Museum of Racing Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs.

On hand to accept the plaque from Martha Gerry, owner of the great gelding Forego, was Go for Wand's owner and breeder, Jane duPont Lunger. Trained by Billy Badgett, the filly was a two-time champion, the winner of eight stakes races, including the difficult one-two punch of the Test and the Alabama within two days of each other at Saratoga Race Course in 1990.

But the final test for the sinewy filly whose white blaze trickled unevenly down her face came at Belmont Park on October 27, 1990, when she was the 7-to-10 favorite in the Breeder's Cup Distaff against the only important Thoroughbred filly she had yet to dominate, Bayakoa.

At the sixteenth pole, moving ahead in a fierce battle with Bayakoa, Go for Wand shattered her right foreleg, pitching jockey Randy Romero over her neck and onto the track. Driven by whatever makes a Thoroughbred great, she struggled to rise on three legs and finish the race, but to no avail. Before 51,236 spectators and a national television audience, to the accompaniment of tears and shock, the three-year-old was euthanized behind a screen on the track.

The next evening, under floodlights at the racetrack where she had blazed to glory, Go for Wand was laid to rest near the flagpole, 50 yards from the finish line.

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Reg. Quarter Horse - "Miss Clay Tarp". 7 yrs., gray mare, real quiet, big body, good looking, 16 h.
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Reg. Quarter Horse - "B.F. Tacos Playboy". Palomino gelding, 4 yrs., great on trails, pretty, quiet, 15 h.
Reg. Paint/Pinto - "Silver Bar Native". 9 yrs., Red & White, 50/50 color, English or western, 16 h.
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Reg. Paint - "Badlands Truckee". 3 yrs., bay gelding, family, trails, or show ring horse, 15.3 h.
Reg. Paint - "Skipper Scooter". 5 yrs., chestnut overo gelding, 60/40 color, great all around horse.
Red & White Pinto mare - 11 yrs., 50/50 color, great family horse, 15.3 h.
Red & White Pinto gelding - 10 yrs., 50/50 color, English or western, quiet, 15.2 h.
Brown & White Pinto gelding - 6 yrs., 40/60 color, big body, 15.3 h.
Reg. Appaloosa - 7 yrs., bay gelding, great on trails or in show ring, 15.3 h.
Thoroughbred - 9 yrs., bay gelding, good looking, good mover, jumps, 16.2 h.
Thoroughbred - 6 yrs., bay gelding, big body, nicely started, jumps, 16.h.
Thoroughbred/Quarter Horse cross - 11 yrs., bay gelding, big body, dressage, jumps, 16 h.
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