

# The Grade California - Breds

**Tizdubai**  
Grade II Sorrento Stakes  
Saturday, August 9, 2003

Though older brothers Budroyale and Tiznow are definitely hard acts to follow, Tizdubai is doing her best to keep up the family tradition. The Cee's Tizzy filly, a daughter of California's 2001 Broodmare of the Year Cee's Song, has certainly made a big splash so far. She was once a highly-regarded weanling, bought for \$950,000 by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum's Darley Stud Management at Keeneland's November mixed sale two years ago. Now, the 2-year-old California-bred has emerged as one of the top young fillies on the West Coast following her easy win on Aug. 9 in Del Mar's grade II, \$150,000 Sorrento Stakes at 6 1/2 furlongs. "She looks like a filly that'll relish more ground, which at the end of the day is what you're looking for," said her trainer, Eoin Harty. Bred by Cee's Stable, Tizdubai will get her chance to prove it in the grade II, 1 1/16-mile Oak Leaf Stakes at Santa Anita Park on Sept. 28.



by CRAIG HARZMANN

There was a time several years ago when a promising young colt named Cee's Tizzy and a hard-headed filly named Cee's Song both inhabited the Southern California shedrow of trainer John Russell.

"We should have bred 'em and kept the foal on the Q.T., shouldn't we?" Russell pondered from his Del Mar home recently. "If we'd known then what we know now, I could have been a millionaire."

Not that he's the first to harbor those sentiments. As the parents of two California-bred greats—Budroyale and Tiznow—and another—Tizdubai—perhaps in the making, Cee's Tizzy and Cee's Song have since become a matchless couple, one of the most prolific in Thoroughbred breeding history. Back in 1990, though, they were pretty much unknowns, each trying to grind out a living on the track. Well, at least one of them was trying.

A son of Relaunch with ability Russell was never able to fully tap, Cee's Tizzy came into the barn with a damaged shoulder and eventually left with a wounded knee, his brilliant but short career spanning less than five months. Cee's Song proved to be just as frustrating, though in a decidedly different manner. Whereas Cee's Tizzy was an eager athlete, hindered only by a shaky build, the Seattle Song filly was herself a sound sort—but one with a bad attitude to boot.

"She was a bit of an enigma. I don't think she particularly liked racing," confessed Russell. "Sometimes you get a horse that's got a will of its own, and it decides what it's going to do and it's adamant about doing it. As I recall, she was that type of horse. I never felt that she would put out in her races."

Her record—one win in 18 starts—supports his opinion. Cee's Song was finally retired at roughly at the same juncture as Cee's Tizzy, and just months later, the two were bred

together for the first time. Theirs was a mating not of pre-science but rather convenience, for both were owned by the late Cecilia Straub-Rubens. In retrospect, Cee's Song was probably meant to be a broodmare all along.

So far, nine of her 11 offspring have been sired by her former stablemate. It is indeed a rarity for a mare to visit one specific stallion with such regularity, let alone to produce full siblings of such magnitude. At this stage, most people feel the pair should be a permanent item.

Not all of their progeny, of course, have been all-stars. Four of their foals, in fact, went a combined one-for-24 at the races. But for every one of those duds there are tales like the popular Budroyale, a seven-time stakes winner who earned over \$2.8-million, and champion Tiznow, the only horse in history to win the grade I Breeders' Cup Classic twice.

The latest to surface from this unique gene pool is the unbeaten juvenile filly Tizdubai, the recent winner of Del Mar's grade II Sorrento Stakes. And Tizdubai's blossoming career notwithstanding, there is still hope for yet another sibling, 4-year-old Tizbud, who ran third in January's grade II San Fernando Breeders' Cup Stakes in only his fourth start.

This long-running success, then, prompts the obvious question: How

many times can lightning strike between Cee's Tizzy and Cee's Song? The answer may come all too quickly. Cee's Song, then 15 years old and carrying a Cee's Tizzy filly in utero, sold for a whopping \$2.6-million at auction in late 2001. That foal, now a yearling, is catalogued for sale at Keeneland this September. Earlier this year, Cee's Song gave birth to a colt, her first by leading sire Storm Cat.

"You know, if something's working for you, why change? If it ain't broke, don't fix it," Russell commented. "And they apparently wanted to fix it when they bred her to Storm Cat. Be interesting to see what that one does. But my goodness, what a record she's got with Cee's Tizzy. It's a chemistry that nobody really understands."



Tizdubai as a foal with her dam Cee's Song