



*The 2009/2010 California
Broodmare of the Year*

Fort Silver: Wonderful To Everyone

by EMILY SHIELDS

Recently, California-breds have been performing so well in open company that voters had a difficult choice in selecting the 2009/2010 California Broodmare of the Year award winner. Nominees Jewel of the Night (dam of grade I-winner Evening Jewel), Blending Element (Ire) (dam of graded stakes winner Tiz Elemental and stakes winners Excessive Blend and Tiz A Blend) and Lemhi Love (dam of grade I winner Dancing in Silks) were all deserving of recognition. However, voters selected Fort Silver, an unassuming mare whose nine runners are winners, including five stakes winners.

Fort Silver debuted for breeder Franchot Davis on March 12, 1993, winning a \$32,000 maiden claiming event at Santa Anita Park. She started four more times in the next three months, finishing second twice before winning her fifth start. Not only did she emerge from that race injured, but also with new connections; owner Ken Porter had claimed her for \$25,000.

Although disappointed that Fort Silver could no longer race, Porter had reason to think his new acquisition would be a useful broodmare. Fort Silver's unraced dam, the Jumping Hill mare Chief's Silver, was a half-sister to the tenacious Cal-bred gelding Super Diamond. In a career spanning eight seasons, the dual grade I winner won 16 of 37 starts, including 10 stakes races, and earned \$1,469,233.

Porter chose the graded stakes-placed, stakes-winning son of Valdez, Basic Rate, as Fort Silver's first mate. The resulting foal, a bay colt named Cody Hill, won two claiming races back-to-back in 1999, and is one of only two of Fort Silver's runners who didn't become at least stakes-

placed as of 2010, the other being her two-time winner Brooklyn Road, a filly by Iam the Iceman.

Shortly after foaling Cody Hill, Fort Silver was bred to Memo (Chi) for the first time. The two-time Chilean champion had also found some success in the United States, winning three graded stakes races. He stood his first season in 1995, at Ridgeley Farm in Hemet, and would see Fort Silver four more times over the next five breeding seasons. "Once I started breeding her to Memo," Porter said, "she became a producing machine."

Porter named Fort Silver's second foal Enzo the Baker after a character in the Oscar Award-winning movie, "The Godfather." "We had a lot of fun naming her foals after the Godfather sagas," Porter explained. "My Enzo the Baker had a tremendous following, even a fan club." Enzo the Baker broke his maiden first out at the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club in 1998, and would go on to win five of 17 starts, including in the \$56,084 ATBA (Arizona Thoroughbred Breeders Association) Sales Stakes at Turf Paradise. He earned \$124,988 over three seasons of racing.

Moe Greene, Fort Silver's third foal, earned \$128,892 while winning 13 times with four seconds and eight thirds in 39 tries. He finished third in the \$21,400 Last Chance Derby at Turf Paradise in 2000, his only foray into stakes competition.

After Brooklyn Road, Fort Silver went back to Memo to produce Vito Corleone. The chestnut colt brought a bid of \$28,000 from Tom Dante at the 2001 Barretts May Sale of Two-Year-Olds in Training and immediately went into training with Warren Stute. A dual stakes-placed juvenile, Vito Corleone moved to the Midwest as a sophomore and



**Fort Silver and her 2010 Terrell colt
at Dignitary Downs in Anza, California, on August 3, 2010.**

**The results
of the
ballot for the
2009/2010
California
Broodmare
of the Year,
as voted by the
CTBA
membership, are:**

- 1st—Fort Silver**
- 2nd—Jewel of the Night**
- 3rd—Blending Element (Ire)**
- 4th—Lemhi Love**
- 5th—Winning in Style**



**U R All That I Am
\$147,300 B. Thoughtful Stakes
April 24, 2010**

took Canterbury Park's \$35,000 St. Paul Stakes. He won five of 23 starts and earned \$192,911.

Tragedy almost kept Fort Silver's best offspring away from the races. Her 2000 daughter Princess V., named for Porter's granddaughter, Victoria, nearly died in a stall accident at San Luis Rey Downs. "She reared up and got her leg over the chain to the wall," Porter explained. "When the groom went to cut it down, he cut a vein on the filly. There was so much blood, we thought we were going to lose her. Fortunately, she recovered and went on to do some great things."

Princess V. won her first two starts before missing the victory in the \$200,000 Melair Stakes at Hollywood Park by three quarters of a length. She finished third in the grade II, \$206,200 Hollywood Breeders' Cup Oaks, then took on an ambitious spot: the grade I, \$200,000 Prioress Stakes at Belmont Park. Hall of Fame jockey Jerry Bailey took the call and rode Princess V. to a third-placed finish. The following year, Princess V. got her stakes win in the \$40,000 Cactus Flower Handicap at Turf Paradise, but was retired two starts later with an injury. She earned \$200,209 in 13 starts with four wins, a second and two thirds.

While Princess V. was racing, Fort Silver was under new ownership. "She was a wonderful mare and gave me a lot of great memories," Porter recalled, "but I was busy and didn't have time to focus on racing, so I started unloading the mares." Tommy Town Thoroughbreds purchased Fort Silver for \$31,000 at the Barretts January Mixed Sale in 2001.


Fort Silver was in foal to Memo at the time of sale and produced a colt later named Random Memo. Now an

eight-year-old, Random Memo is still racing at Emerald Downs in Washington, the site of his lone stakes victory, the \$42,250 Tacoma Handicap in 2004. The old campaigner has gone to the post in 65 races, winning eight and finishing second or third 22 times. He has earnings of \$178,842.

After producing two foals who did not make the races, Fort Silver cropped up again with her dual stakes-placed daughter Testify to Love and her current stakes star U R All That I Am. The Lord Carson filly Testify to Love earned \$176,254, while U R All That I Am has \$327,719 to her name. In 2010, U R All That I Am won back-to-back Calbred stakes at Hollywood Park before placing third in the grade II, \$150,000 Royal Heroine Mile on July 3.

With those two daughters slated to join their broodmare band, Tommy Town Thoroughbreds opted to sell Fort Silver at the 2007 Barretts January Mixed Sale. Despite her record, Roger Stein was able to purchase the bay mare for a mere \$2,700 due to her age.

"When you pay that much for a mare, you don't expect big things," Stein explained. "I wanted to breed her to my stallion Terrell, and you go into it with the idea that you might get two or three more foals from her. I have a beautiful yearling and weanling to show for it. They're just as good looking as you could ever dream."

Now a 20-year-old, Fort Silver resides at Madera Thoroughbreds. "She's very healthy and looks younger than her age," Stein said. "We'll be kind to her; she has been wonderful to everyone." 

Fort Silver

**Fort Silver, b. f.
Foaled 1990
In California**

Bold Joey
Fort Calgary
Lady Calgary
Jumping Hill
Chief's Silver
One Chicken Inn

Total Produce Record:

Named Foals	Runners	Winners	SWs (graded)	Stakes-Placed
11	9	9	5 (0)	2

California Foals (Named):

- 1995 Cody Hill, b. c., by Basic Rate. In NA/US, 2 wins at 4, \$9,803 (SSI = 0.27):18
- 1996 **ENZO THE BAKER**, b. g., by Memo (Chi). In NA/US, 5 wins at 2 and 4, \$124,988 (SSI = 2.99):17, 1st A.T.B.A. Sales S. (c&g) [OR] (\$31,158, TUP) \$56,084, 2nd Real Good Deal S. [OR] (\$21,580, DMR) \$107,900.
- 1997 Moe Greene, b. c., by Memo (Chi). In NA/US, 13 wins, 3 to 7, \$128,982 (SSI = 1.50):39, 3rd Last Chance Derby [N] (\$2,140, TUP) \$21,400.
- 1998 Brooklyn Road, dk. b. or br. f., by Iam the Iceman. In NA/US, 2 wins at 3, \$32,120 (SSI = 1.32):9.
- 1999 **VITO CORLEONE**, ch. c., by Memo (Chi). In NA/US, 5 wins, 2 to 4, \$192,911 (SSI = 3.05):23, 1st St. Paul S. [O] (\$21,000, CBY) \$35,000, 2nd Prairie Mile S. [O] (\$12,000, PRM) \$62,400, 2nd Golden Circle S. [O] (\$10,000, PRM) \$50,000, 3rd Barretts Juvenile S. [OR] (\$12,438,

FPX) \$103,650, 3rd Golden Bear S. [L] (\$10,725, GG) \$59,263, 3rd Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe H. [N] (\$2,200, WDS) \$20,000.

- 2000 **PRINCESS V.**, b. f., by Memo (Chi). In NA/US, 4 wins, 2 to 4, \$200,209 (SSI = 5.84):13, 1st Cactus Flower H. [O] (\$24,000, TUP) \$40,000, 2nd Melair S. [OR] (\$40,000, HOL) \$200,000, 3rd Hollywood Breeders' Cup Oaks [G2] (\$206,200, HOL), 3rd Princess S. [G1] (\$200,000, BEL).

- 2001 **RANDOM MEMO**, ch. c., by Memo (Chi). In NA/US, 8 wins, 2 to 8, placed at 9, 2010, \$177,338 (SSI = 1.72):61, 1st Tacoma H. [O] (\$22,000, EMD) \$42,250, 2nd Auburn S. [O] (\$8,000, EMD) \$40,000, 3rd Emerald Downs Breeders' Cup Derby [L] (\$11,250, EMD) \$96,250, 3rd Fox Sports Network H. [O] (\$6,000, EMD) \$40,000, 3rd Governor's H. [O] (\$6,154, EMD) \$40,000, 3rd Independence Day H. [O] (\$6,000, EMD) \$40,000, 3rd Washington Thoroughbred Breeders' Association Lads S. [N] (\$5,197, EMD) \$34,650.

- 2002 Exotic Expo, ch. g., by Valid Wager. Unraced.

- 2003 Boo Boo Magoo, b. c., by Old Topper. Unraced.

- 2005 **Testify to Love**, b. f., by Lord Carson. In US, 5 wins, 2 to 4, \$176,254 (SSI = 2.60):24, 2nd Vacaville H. [O] (\$11,000, SOL) \$56,000, 3rd Czaria H. [O] (\$5,500, SUN) \$50,000.

- 2006 **U R ALL THAT I AM**, ch. f., by Valid Wager. In US, 8 wins at 3 and 4, 2010, \$307,628 (SSI = 7.63):15, 1st B. Thoughtful S. [O] (\$90,000, HOL) \$147,000, 1st Cat's Cradle H. [OR] (\$46,800, HOL) \$75,300, 1st Fran's Valentine S. [OR] (\$37,440, HOL) \$62,400, 2nd Irish O'Brien S. [OR] (\$20,000, SA) \$100,000, 2nd Kalookan Queen H. [O] (\$16,360, SA) \$67,400.

- 2009 Unnamed, dk. or br. c., by Terrell. Unraced.

- 2010 Unnamed, dk. or br. c., by Terrell. Unraced.