



Tiago could give connections second classic hit

By Rommy Favershaw

Tiago's exciting come-from-behind victory in Saturday's \$750,000 Santa Anita Derby (G1) certainly testifies to the importance of good connections, not to mention good fortune.

Shedding blinkers for the first time, the three-year-old Pleasant Tap colt enjoyed all the benefits of a hot pace and a keen ground-saving ride by Mike Smith to win the race in the final strides by a half-length.

Set off at odds of 29.30-to-1, Tiago was the second-longest price in the ten-horse field. In his three starts prior to the race, all at Santa Anita Park, he had not yet crossed the wire in front—his win against maidens on January 21 was awarded via disqualification. Most recently, the bay colt had been a well-beaten seventh to Great Hunter in the Robert B. Lewis Stakes (G2) on March 3.

Tiago's meteoric transformation from eligibility in entry-level allowance races to a Grade 1 winner is quite reminiscent of his half brother Giacomo who, with Smith aboard, captured the 2005 Kentucky Derby (G1) with a stunning stretch run at odds of 50.30-to-1.

Owned and bred by music mogul Jerry Moss and his wife, Ann, and trained by John Shirreffs, Tiago has now earned his band an engagement at Churchill Downs on May 5.

Bred in Kentucky, Tiago is the fifth winner from as many starters out of the Stop the Music mare Set Them Free, a multiple stakes-winning sprinter on the Southern California circuit during the early 1990s.

In addition to the gray-coated Derby winner Giacomo, by Holy Bull, Set Them Free has produced multiple graded stakes-placed filly Sea Jewel, by Sea Hero. Tiago also has an unraced two-year-old full brother and a yearling half brother, by Giant's Causeway.

No broodmare has ever foaled two Kentucky Derby winners. Set Them Free has a rare opportunity to be the first.

Tiago's immediate family also includes 1985 French champion two-year-old and classic winner Baiser Vole. His fifth dam, Mistress Ford (Fr), was a champion at three when taking the 1936 Prix de Diane (French Oaks).



Benoit & Associates photo

TIAGO

Tiago, b. c., 2004				
Pleasant Tap 87 520 fls, 42 SWs SI 1.84 DI=1.67	Pleasant Colony 78 6 wins, \$965,383 Champion 620 fls, 78 SWs SI 3.68 DI=1.17	His Majesty 68 640 fls, 59 SWs SI 2.33 DI=0.77	*Ribot 52	=Tenerani (Itly) 44 =Romanella (Itly) 43
		Sun Colony 68 5 fls, 1 SW DI=5.50	Flower Bowl 52	*Altbai 38 Flower Bed 46
	Never Knock 79 2 wins, \$29,035 12 fls, 2 SWs DI=0.97	Stage Door Johnny 65 582 fls, 51 SWs SI 2.54 DI=0.75	Sunrise Flight 59	Double Jay 44 Misty Morn 52
		Never Hula 69 9 fls, 0 SWs DI=10.11	*Colonia 59	*Cockrullah 51 *Nalga 52
Set Them Free 90 7 fls, 2 SWs DI=3.57	Stop the Music 70 11 wins, \$448,922, SW 667 fls, 46 SWs SI 1.76 DI=2.23	Prince John 53	*Princequillo 40 Not Afraid 48	
		Peroxide Blonde 60	*Ballymoss 54 *Folie Douce 49	
	Valseuse (Fr) 73 Unraced 7 fls, 2 SWs DI=5.15	Hail to Reason 58 308 fls, 43 SWs SI 4.40 DI=3.18	Never Bend 60	*Nasrullah 40 Lalun 52
		Bebopper 62 15 fls, 3 SWs DI=2.04	Hula Hula 52	Polynesian 42 Black Helen 32
Tyrant 66 486 fls, 35 SWs SI 1.18 DI=6.25	=Barbarossa (Fr) 68 6 fls, 1 SW DI=1.84	*Turn-to 51	*Royal Charger 42 *Source Sucree 40	
		Notthirdchance 48	Blue Swords 40 Galla Colors 43	
	=Cambremont (Fr) 62	Tom Fool 49	Menow 35 Gaga 42	
		=Barbara (GB) 47	*Bebop II 57	=Prince Bio (Fr) 41 =Cappellina (Fr) 40
=Scambrore (Fr) 48	=Djebellica (Fr) 48	Bold Ruler 54	*Nasrullah 40 Miss Disco 44	
		=Fair Trial (GB) 32	*My Babu 45 =Anne of Essex (Ire) 41	
=Mistress Ford (Fr) 33		*Anadem II 54	=Scambrore (Fr) 48 =Djebellica (Fr) 48	
			=Fair Trial (GB) 32 =Mistress Ford (Fr) 33	

Tiago figures to have received a healthy dose of stamina from his sire, Pleasant Tap, 1992 champion older male at age five when he won the Suburban Handicap (G1) and the Jockey Club Gold Cup (G1).

Pleasant Tap stands at Lane's End in Versailles, Kentucky, for \$15,000.

His Grade or Group 1 winners include dual English highweight David Junior, Japan Cup (Jpn-G1) hero Tap Dance City, Premium Tap, and Tap to Music.

Tiago's and Giacomo's names were inspired by the Mosses music-industry friendships. Tiago is named for the son of jazz pianist Sergio Mendes, and Giacomo for the son of Sting. Both names translate to "James"—Tiago from Portuguese, Giacomo from Italian.

Home, James.

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