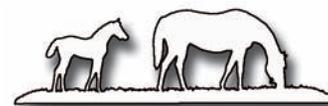# Dancing Edie:
Queen Of The Prom

The Grade California-Breds

by LARRY BORTSTEIN

Steve Warner offered Dancing Edie some freshly cut carrots during his customary morning tour of the stable area at the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, but the four-year-old bay filly showed little interest.

"She usually eats only one and a half or two carrots and that's all," Warner said. "Some horses eat a whole bunch. All of them have different appetites and different likes and dislikes."

Craig Dollase, who trains Dancing Edie, is one of the many horsemen on the Southern California Thoroughbred circuit to whom Warner sells feed.

But the daughter of Moscow Ballet, out of the 12-year-old Slewpy mare Duchess of Ack, isn't just another horse who eats Warner's offerings.

When Warner stops by Dancing Edie's stall, he is visiting the filly who provided his first grade I winner as a breeder—the $400,000 John C. Mabee Handicap at Del Mar on July 22.

Warner, whose Fast Lane Farms bred the Mabee winner with Donald Reiker, still owns a minority interest in the filly with partners Julian Basin and Stuart Lerner. Paul Reddam owns the majority interest.

"All of us were at Del Mar to see the stake," Warner recalled. "Julian's 94 years old, but he ran from the stands to the winner's circle faster than the rest of us."

The gate-to-wire victory in the grassy 1 1/8-mile event Dancing Edie's third in 14 career starts and first in an added-money event.

All her victories have been on the turf, including a seven-

length rout of maidens at Del Mar in August, 2005, while under the care of trainer Howard Zucker whom Warner said, "did a great job developing her." Her other triumph was a four-length triumph in California-bred optional claiming company at Santa Anita Park earlier this year in April.

Unlike her two previous victories, Dancing Edie's Mabee triumph was a struggle.

She had to beat back challenges in the stretch from Moscow Burning, another Cal-bred daughter of Moscow Ballet, and Island Fashion in the stretch, and then had to withstand a stewards' inquiry into late bumping between her and Island Fashion.

"She was getting bumped and banged and I was doing all I could to get her out of there," said Corey Nakatani, Dancing Edie's rider, after getting her home by a nose in 1:48.26. "She was game and kept running."

Moscow Burning finished second, a neck in front of Island Fashion. Amorama, the 5-2 favorite, was fourth in the field of seven.

Memorette, who defeated both Dancing Edie and Moscow Burning in the Fran's Valentine Stakes for Cal-breds on California Gold Rush Day at Hollywood Park on April 30, ran fifth in the Mabee.

The John C. Mabee Handicap was known as the Ramona Handicap until 2002, when it was renamed for the longtime proprietor of Golden Eagle Farm.

The 2006 edition was its 49th renewal, and the 11th won by a Cal-bred. Brown Bess was the only other locally bred winner of the race since it attained grade I status in 1985. She won in 1989, the year she was voted an Eclipse Award as North America's best female grass runner and named the California Horse of the Year.

Warner and the other owners of Dancing Edie have ambitious plans for the filly through the end of the year, including the $2,000,000 Emirates Airline Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf at Churchill Downs on Nov. 4.

"We might run her one more time before that," Warner said.

He named Dancing Edie for his wife Andrea's mother, Edie Fischer, who he said still cuts a mean rug at age 87.

Dancing Edie's dam, Duchess of Ack, was boarded at Harris Farms Inc. until she was sent to Kentucky this year to be bred to 2005 Arlington Million winner Powerscourt (GB). She's had four foals by Moscow Ballet.

The first, a 2000 colt named Tevya, won two races. Dancing Edie was a foal of 2002, followed by the unraced colt Cat Ballet and Vodka Blush, a two-year-old filly who is nearing her racing debut. Last year, Duchess of Ack delivered a Decarchy filly, who still is unnamed.

Grade I John C. Mabee Handicap
Del Mar Thoroughbred Club
Saturday, July 22, 2006