

MEDIA RELEASE
19th November 2020

Tough Tilly hopes for happy ending to fairy tale story

Tough Tilly, the two-year-old half-sister of Centenario, faces her biggest challenge yet this Saturday night at Tabcorp Park – and true to her namesake, she’s ready to put up a fight.

The filly is named after Tilly Wilkes, an inspirational 9-year-old who was born with Epidermolysis Bullosa, a rare genetic condition that results in wounds that never heal, disfigurement, blisters, bleeding, and ever-present pain.

Champion breeder, Craig Judd, donated a 25 per cent share in Tough Tilly as part of a fundraising auction for EB Research, with the winning bid going to a syndicate of 28, including Tilly’s father Corey Wilkes.

Corey who is also a Director of EB Research Partnership (Australia) says that the story of Tough Tilly is one of friendship, fight and determination to defeat this rare skin disease.

“I met the Judd family at the Royal Children’s Hospital when my wife Kelly and I were taking our daughter Tilly to the EB clinic for treatment. Their daughter, Kendall, also suffers from the same condition as Tilly,” Corey said.

“We started talking about Benstud Standardbreds and harness racing and almost straight away the idea of naming a horse after Tilly and auctioning it to raise vital funds came up – it just felt so right.

“We all chipped in to buy it for a bit of fun and to support the charity. Never in my wildest dreams did I think she would do so well, despite getting terrible barrier draws. From seven starts she has two wins and six places. Last weekend she finally got a good draw and beat the field by 10 metres.

“We were lucky enough to draw barrier 2 in the final race of the series, a \$300K race this Saturday. Whatever the result, we’re just excited to get to watch it with the EB team and our little champion, Tilly.”

Tough Tilly’s biggest challenge awaits her at 9.40PM this Saturday, 21 November where she will jump from barrier 2 in race 8 – Captain Crunch Breeders Crown Series Final Group 1 at Tabcorp Park, Melton.

Tough Tilly is trained under four-time trainer of the year Emma Stewart and will be driven by Kate Gath.

Ends

For further information or interviews contact
Ruby Kerr – rkerr@prx.com.au or 0451 142 701

About EB Research Partnership Australia:

EB Research Partnership Australia aims to raise funds to invest in science & medical research that will lead to products and therapies for treating and ultimately curing Epidermolysis Bullosa, a group of life-threatening skin disorders that affects individuals from birth.

For further information: <https://www.ebresearch.org.au/>