

## TEAM VALOR COMPLETES ONE OF ITS MOST SUCCESSFUL RACING SEASONS



In the 22 racing seasons that Barry Irwin has raced horses in the partnership format, 2008 went down in the annals of the stable as one of its most successful years. Highlight among the achievements accomplished by Team Valor International was the 67 wins, which shattered the previous mark of 44, achieved twice in the past.

But there were other records set that are worthy of mention, most prominent among them the number of Grade 1 winners raced by Team Valor. Last season, Grade 1 races were taken by Russian Sage (Daily News 2000), Visionaire (King's Bishop Stakes), Stratos (Empress Club Stakes), On Her Toes (Allan Robertson Fillies Championship).

Team Valor was represented by two Champions in the form of Captain's Lover and Russian Sage, who were voted Champion Filly and Colt at 3 in South Africa and in the process capped a dominating season for the stable in the tip of the Southern Hemisphere.



Quality, the hallmark of the racing enterprise, remained high, as 18 individual horses earned black type by winning or placing in stakes races. Among the 18 stakes horses, no less than 14 of them won or placed in Graded races and among the 14, there were 11 stakes winners and all of them won Graded stakes. Finally, another remarkable achievement is that Team Valor International had 10 of its racehorses win or placed in Grade 1 races during the incredible 2008 campaign. The list of stakes winners follows:

- **Russian Sage**, Champion Colt at 3 in South Africa, won the Grade 1 Daily New 2000.
- **Visionaire** won the Grade 1 King's Bishop and the Grade 3 Gotham Stakes in New York.
- **Stratos** swept the 3 stakes on offer at Turffontein, capped by the Grade 1 Empress Club.
- **On Her Toes** dead-heated for first in the Grade 1 Allan Robertson Fillies Championship.
- **Fairbanks** won the Grade 2 Hawthorne Gold Cup and the Duke of Magenta Stakes.
- **She's on Fire**, second-highest rated distaffer in South Africa, was a Grade 2 winner in 2008.
- **Sailor's Cap** won the \$600,000 Grade 3 Colonial Turf Cup in Virginia last season.
- **Alexandra Rose** just before retirement won the Grade 3 Monrovia Handicap at Santa Anita.
- **Tasha's Miracle** won the Grade 3 Harold C. Ramser Handicap at Santa Anita.
- **Captain's Lover**, Champion Filly at 3 in South Africa, won the Group 3 Prix du Pin in France.
- **Unbridled Belle** ran her best speed figure ever in taking the Grade 3 Obeah Handicap.