

January 13, 2008

VISIONAIRE TO FLY TEAM VALOR INTERNATIONAL'S COLORS AFTER SALE, KENTUCKY-BASED STABLE ACQUIRE'S MAJORITY INTEREST IN 3YO COLT, MATZ SET TO CONTINUE TO TRAIN THE PROMISING SON OF GRAND SLAM

Barry Irwin did not let being in a different hemisphere stop Team Valor International from acquiring a majority interest this week from Vision Sales LLC in its promising Grand Slam colt Visionaire, who slammed a field of other 3-year-olds by 5 ½ lengths on opening day of the Gulfstream Park meeting.

From 3 outings, the \$300,000 Saratoga summer sale yearling improved from a runner-up effort sprinting in his debut at Delaware Park to win his next two outings, both one-turn miles, the first in a maiden race at Laurel and the second in the first-level allowance at Gulfstream.



Visionaire won impressively in Florida.

Visionaire displayed an explosive turn of foot curving into the stretch to put away his field in Florida for Michael Matz, who will continue to condition the colt for Team Valor and Vision Racing.

“We are very happy to be associated with a colt like this and obviously hope he is Triple Crown material,” said Team Valor principal Irwin. “Brandon Perry and John Stephens have done a great job in selecting the colt at the Saratoga Summer Sale and getting him ready for Michael Matz.”

Team Valor is looking for its first win in a Triple Crown race, having missed by a head in the Kentucky Derby and a couple of necks in the Preakness Stakes with Captain Bodgit, while running third with Thomas Jo and second to A. P. Indy with My Memoirs in the Belmont Stakes.

“As there is a gap of 7 weeks between Visionaire’s allowance win and the next stakes (G2 Fountain of Youth Stakes), trainer Matz will have to put his thinking cap on to figure out what to do, if anything, between races,” noted Irwin.