

January 24, 2009

## JOSHUA'S MISTRESS BECOMES STAKES WINNER IN LISTED LAISSERFAIRE, TEAM VALOR AND PARTNERS GET THEIR FIRST STAKES WINNER IN 2009, JUSTIN SNAITH AND BERNARD FAYD'HERBE COMBINE IN CAPE TOWN WIN



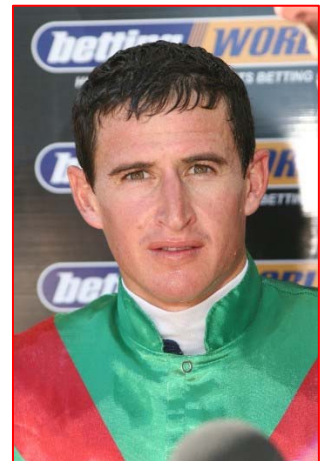
*Joshua's Mistress holds on for first Listed victory in the Laisserfaire Stakes last weekend in Cape Town, S. Africa.*

Joshua's Mistress, under an astute ride from Bernard Fayd'Herbe, stole a march halfway through the 6-furlong Listed Laisserfaire Stakes on Saturday at Kenilworth race course in Cape Town, South Africa and held on for a gritty score.

The black-type victory was all important for Joshua's Mistress, because the Joshua Dancer mare had placed in both a Grade 1 and Grade 2 before, but without a win in at least a Listed status race, the name of the mare would have remained in lower-case black type, rather than in capital letters, which in the world of auctions and breeding is the difference between night and day.

Barry Irwin had never placed a bet on one of Team Valor International's runners in South Africa via a bookmaker, but Saturday morning when he saw that she was 14 to 1 instead of the 3 or 4 to 1 he figured she would be, he called his associate Robin Bruss to have a flutter. Suffice it to say, Irwin broke his maiden in grand style, so much to in fact that he instructed the company's South African accountant to forward Team Valor's 26-percent share of the winning purse directly to the jockey.

"That's my opinion of what kind of ride he put up," he said of Bernard Fayd'Herbe (right). "The guy flat out won the race. He sensed there was no pace on at all and he sent the mare to the front. He was able to open enough of advantage at the halfway stage to nurse the mare home for a desperate, but well deserved nose victory. A stride past the post she was beaten."



In a 3-horse photo, the margins were nose and neck in the 6-furlong race that was run about 3 full seconds slower than normal on a course that had taken some rain and was labeled "good."

What made Irwin so bullish? "I had the benefit of having been on hand for her comebacker and I was frankly astonished that Justin Snaith had decided to run a horse with so little training—less than 30 days of it since returning from a lengthy farm visit," Irwin said. "She was ready for her first breeze, not a race! Well, that day she flashed true brilliance for halfway. When she came back last time, she put in what I call the 'million-dollar move,' meaning she made a stunning mid-race move that would have carried a fit horse home on top. But she was just getting fit. I figured with that race under her girth, she would not stop in her next race. And that's how it worked out."