

GYPSY'S WARNING PISSES UP VERSUS OLDER IN SOUTH AFRICAN GRADE 3, RACING HANDY THIS TIME, SHE CRUISES HOME ON TOP BY 1 ¼ LENGTHS, TEAM VALOR LOOKS TO UPSET DANCER'S DAUGHTER NEXT IN GRADE 1

Gypsy's Warning scored a facile win on Saturday running against older fillies and mares in the Grade 3 Acacia Handicap over a mile at Turffontein race course.

The pace was slow and jockey Piere Strydom found himself positioned third early, just behind the leaders. "I certainly didn't plan on racing that close to the pace," the rider said. "But they were simply crawling. She was happy enough to be where she was, so I just took a hold and let her gallop around there. When I did ask her to accelerate, what she gave me was instant and fast. She is so relaxed now and so confident, she thinks she can do anything.



Gypsy's Warning bounded a couple of lengths clear before her rider eased her in the final stages of Saturday's Grade 3 Acacia Handicap.

Gypsy's Warning is getting the press coverage and Merit Ratings of a Champion in the making. She probably should have been the Champion Filly at 2 last season, when she was the year's most impressive winner among the juvenile fillies in the Grade 1 Thekwini Stakes over a mile.

Robin Bruss, who represented Team Valor at the race, said "The great thing about this filly now is that she can be placed anywhere, depending on the pace, and accelerate instantly. I am telling you, not since Irridescence has Team Valor had a filly like this. She is special."



Piere Strydom is interviewed by TellyTrack's Dave Mollet, whom he told he was impressed by the filly's turn of foot.

Dispatched as the odds-on favorite at 4 to 5, Gypsy's Warning raced clear of her competition at the wire by a length and a quarter. Noses apart in second and third were Kiss for Kate (never worse than third in her career and Grade 1 placed at 2) and Glenrossel (winner of the Grade 2 Gauteng Fillies Guineas last season).

Barry Irwin wants to run Gypsy's Warning next time out against Dancer's Daughter in the Grade 1 Empress Club Stakes, a race in which 3-year-old fillies have a sterling record and in which that Champion from Cape Town figures to be vulnerable in her first race at altitude. The Empress Club, which Team Valor has won twice in the last three years, is slated to be renewed in 3 weeks.

From *Tabonline* comes the following:

Dancer's Daughter is set for Highveld debut



Dancer's Daughter is all set to make her Highveld appearance in the Grade 1 Laurie Jaffee Empress Club Stakes over 1600m at Turffontein on Saturday 28 February.

The R1 million race is one of four graded races to take place on Guineas Day. The others are the Gauteng Guineas, the Gauteng Fillies Guineas and the Hawaii Stakes, all Grade 2 events.

The R1 million Gauteng Guineas also forms the first leg of the Triple Crown, the others being the R2 million SA Classic over 1800m on Saturday 28 March and the R1.5 million SA Derby over 2450m on Saturday 25 April. There is also a bonus of R2 million up for grabs for any horse who can capture all three races. All the races are scheduled to be run on the Turffontein standside track.

Trainer Justin Snaith's grey mare is sure to attract a lot of interest when she contests the Empress Club Stakes and it is likely to set up a rematch with Emblem Of Liberty. Geoff Woodruff's filly caused one of the biggest upsets for some time when she hung on tenaciously to win the TBA Paddock Stakes over 1800m at Kenilworth last month, beating River Jetez by a head with Dancer's Daughter 0.50 lengths further back. No doubt Snaith would love to set the record straight in Emblem Of Liberty's back yard.

Although she has drawn at No 12 of the 18 runners, Dancer's Daughter should jump from a single digit barrier position on the day. The race is run under weight-for-age conditions and based on her second to Pocket Power in the recent J&B Met, the grey mare is likely to go off a very short-priced favourite.

Talented three-year-olds Gypsy's Warning, Sweet Theresa and On Her Toes have all been nominated for both the Empress Club Stakes and the Fillies Guineas. All three are now owned by Team Valor so it will be up to the trainers and owner Barry Irwin to decide who goes for which race.

From *SportingPost* comes the following:

Grade Gr3 Acacia Handicap

Gypsy's Warning only began in her racing career last April when comfortably accounting for Juror in a 1200m maiden juvenile event at Clairwood. She learned her trade quickly and wound up a tremendous first campaign with victory in the prestigious Gr1 Thekwini S over 1600m at that same circuit. She won her second start this season with consummate ease and so it was no surprise to her all the rage to win the Gr3 Acacia Hcp over 1600m at Turffontein last Saturday, writes Steve Furnish.

Ten runners went to post though and with eight of them accustomed to racing in higher grade feature events, there was never any doubt that Gypsy's Warning would be tested. Connoisseurs of the racing game were having none of that argument though and quickly snapped up the 11/10 that the

bookmakers had originally put on offer. Gypsy's Warning shortened into 8/10 before the off whilst the only other runners to find any kind of support were the consistent Kiss For Kate, and last seasons Gauteng Fillies Guineas winner Glenrossal.

The Charles Laird trained Blue Swift opened up second favourite at 3/1, but as with most she proved friendless on course and although she did retain her position on the boards, she was eventually sent off at double those odds. Kiss For Kate was quickest into stride when the gates opened and was soon in command of a one length advantage over the unfancied Run Angel Run.



Gypsy's Warning raced closed close up in third whilst both Glenrossal and Academy Colours were also well within striking distance. Blue Swift meanwhile had been squeezed out by Gypsy's Warning and Academy Colours at the start and as a result raced a few lengths further back in eighth. Getting the worst start of all though was Aces Wild. Drawn widest, the Alami mare stood in the pens and only set foot out the gates when the rest had travelled 60m. The racing order had changed little as they entered the strip, but the field was now much more tightly bunched. Indeed, most were still in contention if good enough.

Gypsy's Warning and Glenrossal were the first to make a move in the short home straight and as they passed the 400m marker both had gotten within a neck of Kiss For Kate. As Billy Ocean use to tell us "when the going gets tough the tough get going" and it was at this stage that Gypsy's Warning began to assert her authority.

Ridden just hands and heels as indeed she had been throughout, she steadily began to edge clear. She was two lengths to the good when jockey Piere Strydom took a glance at the opposition 50m from home and then allowed to ease down in the closing stages, the official winning margin was reduced to just a length and a quarter.

The pacemaker Kiss For Kate answered every call from Randal Simons on the run to the line and just managed to hold on to second position by the narrowest of margins from Glenrossal. The only runner to make headway from off the pace in the straight was the lightly raced Lisa Anne. Making her first appearance since finishing last of nine in much lesser company in October, Gary Alexander's charge ran on stoutly at the business end of the race and did very well indeed to get within a length and three quarters of the winner at the wire.

The only 3yo in the race, Gyp's Warning beat a very useful looking field in good style here. She's getting better with each start and already proven top class, clearly has a very bright future ahead her. Purchased for just R170000 at the National Sale, this daughter of Mogok has already amassed stake earnings of almost half a million Rands. Gypsy's Warning has been nominated for both the Gr1 Empress Club Stakes and the Gr2 Gauteng Fillies Guineas which take place at Turffontein on February 28th and whichever one her trainer Ormond Ferraris opts to go for, she has to be a very serious runner.

From *European Breeders Newsletter* comes the following:

Team Valor Fillies Setting the Standard

by Ada ven der Bert



That Barry Irwin guy seems to have a way with the fillies in Republic of South Africa.

American-based racing outfit Team Valor has tasted considerable success with South African-bred fillies and, following some classy performances from its colour bearers at last weekend's Turffontein meeting, principal Barry Irwin can look forward to the forthcoming Classics and top filly races with a powerful team made up of Gypsy's Warning, Sweet Theresa and On Her Toes.

Gypsy's Warning, in particular, impressed when giving her older opponents a galloping lesson in the Gr.3 Acacia Handicap over 1600m. After surging into the lead at the quarter mark, she powered home to win unextended.

Purchased by Team Valor after capturing the Gr.1 Thekwini Stakes as a late juvenile, Gypsy's Warning was transferred to the stable of veteran trainer Ormond Ferraris and duly scored a facile victory on her first outing for her new connections. On this performance, she must rate as one of the best of her age and Irwin has touted the possibility of her taking on the mighty Dancer's Daughter in the R1 million Empress Club Stakes in two weeks' time: "Dancer's Daughter will be vulnerable coming from sea level to high altitude. We have won this race in two of the last three years and I would like to make it three of the last four years!"

Bred at Rathmor Stud in KwaZulu-Natal, Gypsy's Warning is a half-sister to Gr.2 winner Surabi (Wolfhound). By Machiavellian's unraced Storm Cat half-brother Mogok, she is out of Gypsy Queen, a Royal Chalice own sister to two SA Oaks winners, Royal Prophecy and Noble Destiny. Grandam Sara's Warning (Caveat), in turn, is a half-sister to successful sire Shy Groom (Blushing Groom). Gypsy Queen has a Jet Master yearling colt catalogued for the 2009 National Yearling Sale.

