

TEMAIR IS SECOND TO GRADE 1 WINNER MOTHER RUSSIA IN PRIX DU CAP, NATIONAL YEARLING SALE BARGAIN TURNS IN CAREER-TOPPING EFFORT, SHE IS GRADED STAKES HORSE NO. 129 FOR A BARRY IRWIN PARTNERSHIP



Temair ran the odds-on, short-priced favorite Mother Russia to a half-length this afternoon in the Grade 3 Prix du Cap over 7 furlongs at Kenilworth race course in Cape Town, South Africa.

Mother Russia's stablemate Ice Belle provided a lead for the 2 to 5 favorite, with Temair stuck to her outside. When the favorite was given her head and asked to quicken, she bounded into the lead and pulled away by slightly more than a length.

Temair has steadily improved this season at age 3 under the astute tutelage of trainer Mike Bass.

Temair was caught for speed momentarily, but re-rallied. Mother Russia was ridden out until the final stride or two, when her rider took a hold to make the win appear easier than it was. Temair finished in a rally and was flying at the end. The margin at the wire was a half-length and the winner had to fight hard for the expected score.

Mother Russia this summer in Cape Town was an excellent second in the Grade 1 Cape Fillies Guineas and reversed the order of finish with Sparkling Gem by handing that one a convincing beating in the Grade 1 Majorca Stakes against older fillies and mares.

That the winner of 7 starts in 11 outings would be brought back for a modest Grade 3 race was nothing if not surprising. She conceded nearly 9 pounds to the runner-up, which is significant. Temair, for her part however, had to be used from a wide draw in the 9 hole in a field of 11 distaffers.



Leading trainer Mike Bass.

The 3-year-olds dominated the finish, as they have all year both in Cape Town and Johannesburg. The winner, rated at 105 by the official handicapper with the National Racing Authority, is tied for the highest Merit Rating among 3-year-old fillies this season with Gypsy's Warning, who is campaigned by Team Valor International.

Temair, who races for a partnership includes Team Valor International and Anant and Vanashree Singh of Durban, South Africa, has always been a progressive filly. Earlier this season she ran within 5 lengths of Champion Older Filly or Mare Dancer's Daughter, was fourth in the Grade 1 Cape Fillies Guineas and won a conditions race in her start prior to the Grade 3 Prix du Cap.

A \$50,000 buy for Barry Irwin from the 2007 National Yearling Sale in South Africa, Temair became runner number 129 to win or place in a Graded stakes in a racing partnership formed by Irwin since 1987. The strike rate for the stable with Graded runners is 36 percent.

Temair also is stakes horse number 177 and the stable has been at around 50 percent since Irwin first began to form his racing partnerships 22 seasons ago.

This season, Team Valor International has won 9 of 36 starts for a winning strike rate of 25 percent. Horses that have won or placed in a stakes race during the initial 7 weeks of the season include the following: Gypsy's Warning (Grade 3 win), Joshua's Mistress (Listed winner), Miss Singhsix (third Grade 2), Sweet Theresa (second Grade 3), On Her Toes (third Grade 3) and She's on Fire (Listed placed).



Three-year-old Temair cost \$50,000 at the 2007 National Yearling Sale in Germiston, South Africa. She was prospected by Barry Irwin.