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GITANO HERNANDO, WORLD CLASS EQUINE ATHLETE, JOINS FACEBOOK, NEWS ON THE ENGLISH-BASED COLT'S JOURNEY TO WORLD CUP IN DUBAI, TEAM VALOR INTERNATIONAL'S BUDDING SUPERSTAR COUNTING DOWN

Last Saturday Gitano Hernando could be seen warming up for the \$10-million Dubai World Cup with a 4 ½-length triumph in the Winter Derby Trial Stakes at Lingfield in England. This week, horse racing fans can find him on the social networking site Facebook, where the Gitano Hernando page is host to video and photos from the colt's 3-year-old campaign last season when he became a Grade 1 winner in Southern California.



The page also features up-to-the-minute press notices, news on the colt as he prepares for his trip to Dubai. This page is a must-see for any serious horse racing enthusiast with international interests.

Attention Facebook members: you may easily access Gitano Hernando on his athlete page at <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Gitano-Hernando/334091271482?v=wall&ref=ts>



Gitano Hernando is master of all he surveys before prepping for the Dubai World Cup.

Purchased by Team Valor International after breaking his maiden at 2, Gitano Hernando races for the Kentucky-based stable and Hollywood motion picture producer Gary Barber of Spyglass. The colt pushed his way into the international rankings last fall when shipped over from England to defeat a field of top handicap horses in the Grade 1 Goodwood Stakes for a shocking 18-1 upset. The Winter Derby Trial was the colt's first start since his victory on American soil in October and trainer Marco Botti was pleased with his effort, stating, "He was only 80 percent fit today and I expect him to come on. They went a nice, even pace and he picked up nicely." Gitano Hernando will ship to Dubai from Newmarket in the week prior to the World Cup.

Included on the page is a story that appeared earlier today on *The Blood-Horse* website that gives some current news and recent history of the flashy chestnut racing machine.

Today, depending on which bookmaking service one gives the most credence to, Gitano Hernando is either the second, third or fourth choice for the World Cup, which will be renewed on March 27 for a winning prize of \$6 million, the largest ever offered in a Thoroughbred horse race in the long and storied history of the Sport of Kings.

The World Cup will take place for the first time on the fabulous new Meydan race course in Dubai and will be contested for the first time on a man-made racing surface produced by Tapeta Footings, a company based in Maryland and owned by former Team Valor trainer Michael Dickinson.

Gitano Hernando, described by his connections as a "freak" on all-weather surfaces, is unbeaten in 4 races on synthetic tracks. He broke a track record last season in his final English outing and came within a fifth of a second of breaking another one just last Saturday at Lingfield in the Derby Trial.