

March 27, 2010

## MILESTONE VICTORY NUMBER 750 SCORED BY STABLE'S FORWARD HARCH, SARATOGA YEARLING SALE BUY WINS GULFSTREAM PARK GRASS MAIDEN, VALOR'S BARRY IRWIN BEEN FORMING RACING PARTNERSHIPS SINCE 1987

Team Valor International owner and Chief Executive Officer Barry Irwin has been forming partnerships to race Thoroughbreds all over the world since 1987 and he achieved a milestone on Saturday March 27 when the stable's 3-year-old colt Forward Harch won a Gulfstream Park maiden race on grass to record victory number 750 for a horse representing a partnership put together by the Kentucky resident.

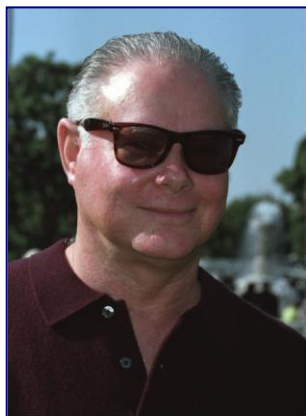
The promising sophomore colt was scoring win number 3 on the afternoon and became winner number 14 on the season, during which Team Valor to date has fashioned a win percentage of 20 percent and earnings of nearly \$530,000.

Forward Harch's acquisition is typical of the innovative approach taken by Irwin when it comes to buying horses to represent his racing stable. The colt had been consigned by Taylor Made Farm to the 2008 summer yearling sale at Saratoga. Irwin fancied the colt, even though he lacked the size and depth usually associated with most promising youngsters in the Fasig-Tipton sale.



"But his forelegs were correct, he was a good walker and I thought he was athletic," Irwin said. "I was prepared to buy him if he went for a reasonable price. When it was time for him to appear in the pre-sale area, he was a no show.

"So I went back to the barn and found out that he was withdrawn because the consignors were not confident he would reach his reserve because so little interest had been shown in him before the auction began. I was able to strike a deal to buy him privately and I am glad I pursued the purchase, as he looks like a colt that can win stakes for his racing partners."



*Barry Irwin of Team Valor.*

Forward Harch, a son of Forestry, is not the biggest horse in trainer Rick Violette's barn, but none has a bigger heart. From 4 starts, he now has a win, a second and a pair of thirds. Two races back he failed by only a half-length to peg back the Kentucky Derby bound colt Odysseus. Saturday, making his grass debut, he overcame a wide draw and split horses in the upper stretch to record a resounding 1 length victory covering a mile in 1:35 4/5.

"They've run 80 or more races on the grass this season here (Gulfstream Park)," noted trainer Rick Violette, "but other than this colt, only one other runner has been able to win from the 12 hole."

The Virginia-bred liver chestnut now will be pointed for a grass stakes at Colonial Downs this season.

Forward Harch improved to an 8 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Ragozin Sheet figure in winning his grass debut in Florida.