

March 28, 2009

## **GYPSY'S WARNING WINS GRADE 1 SA FILLIES CLASSIC TO HEAD THE CLASS, FILLY BIDS TO BECOME TEAM VALOR'S THIRD CHAMPION MISS IN 4 YEARS, SHE DELIVERS STAKES SCORE NUMBER 200 SINCE 1987 FOR BARRY IRWIN**



*Gypsy's Warning strides away from a weary Zirconium to win the Grade 2 SA Fillies Classic by 2 lengths as the 3 to 2 favorite. She provided Barry Irwin with stakes win number 200 for a racing partnership he has formed since 1987.*

Gypsy's Warning cemented her position as the top middle distance filly among 3-year-olds in South Africa today with an authoritative 2-length triumph in the Grade 1 SA Fillies Classic, leading a 1-3 finish for Team Valor International, which also had Sweet Theresa finished third in the 9-furlong race.

The win was an historic one for Team Valor's owner Barry Irwin, who was represented by stakes win number 200 for a racehorse he has syndicated since 1987.

"To have stakes win number 200 come in a Grade 1 with a potential Champion is a dream come true," said Irwin, who was racing in Dubai at the World Cup meeting and was unable to see the race. "She's a top filly and will go to Dubai next season."

Veteran trainer Ormond Ferraris sent out both Gypsy's Warning and Sweet Theresa, who along with Mike Azzie-conditioned On Her Toes formed a three-horse entry for the stable.

Barry Irwin said "This was a good day for us, as Gypsy's Warning proved she is the top staying filly in her crop, having won the Grade 1 Thekwini over a mile at 2 and the Grade 1 SA Fillies Classic over 9 furlongs at 3. And Sweet Theresa showed that she is a Grade 1 filly, albeit a better performer over a mile than 9 furlongs. On Her Toes needs to revert to a mile as well. She finished sixth today.

"I am happy for Mr. Ferraris and Stryker. They make a formidable pair. I was forced to run against Dancer's Daughter last time, so I am glad they were able to win this Grade 1 event. They both deserved it."

Irwin said that he is not keen to run in the 12 ½-furlong South African Oaks, preferring instead to wait for the Woolavington because of the timing. "I want to have a filly left when she leaves for greener shores," said Irwin. "She will follow the path of our other SA Classic winner and subsequent Champion filly Irridescence and go to Durban for the next Grade 1. Then she will go to Dubai with Mike de Kock after July."

From *SAhorseracing.com* comes the following:

## GYPSY'S WARNING TOO GOOD IN FILLIES CLASSIC

The money came for Gypsy's Warning (SAF) in the Gr 1 SA Fillies Classic and she duly delivered with a no-nonsense performance in the 1800m contest at Turffontein today, easily accounting for Zirconium (SAF), Sweet Theresa (SAF) and Kiribati (SAF). This victory gave Team Valor their 200th stakes win as a syndicate with Barry Irwin as its head.



Nobody looked too keen to make the early running and it was the winner's stable companion Sweet Theresa who found herself in front. Piere Strydom settled Gypsy's Warning in second with On Her Toes next best and Zirconium disputing fourth with Sharp Mistress.



Sweet Theresa kept going for some way in the straight with Strydom sitting in her wake and waiting to pounce and Zirconium starting to wind up for her final effort. Gypsy's Warning finally kicked into the lead about 300m out with Zirconium looking a big threat to the outside and it looked for a few strides as if the expected match between the two market rivals was on. Gypsy's Warning had more in the tank, though, and she imposed herself over the last 100m to win by two lengths.

"This filly, to me, she's probably one of the best 3-year-old fillies in the country at the moment," enthused Strydom. "Easy to ride, you can get her in a nice position and she gives you a really good kick. Well done to the kid [Karis Teetan] who went to the front. It was going to be an absolute crawl; he used his brains and decided to make it a decent gallop and it helped me get cover and into a winning position."

Winning trainer Ormonde Ferraris said: "Nice ride by Piere but I was a bit worried when [Teetan] went to the front; I thought that he might set a helluva hot pace. It wasn't intended, I just wanted him lay up handy. Anyway, it worked out well in the end and that's the main thing."

Gypsy's Warning had sidestepped the Gauteng Fillies Guineas, the first leg of the Triple Tiara, in favour of a tilt at Dancer's Daughter on the same day and although she was pretty well beaten into third that day, punters obviously felt it represented strong enough form for her to assert her superiority over her own generation. This

is the second Gr 1 win of her career and there looks to be plenty more to come from the daughter of Mogok (USA).

Zirconium was second best on the day and her defeat meant that the Triple Tiara can no longer be won. She didn't let herself down, however, and confirmed the form with all the fillies she had beaten in the Gauteng Fillies Guineas.

Sweet Theresa was very game in third, showing that her Fillies Guineas failure was not her true form while Kiribati showed once again that she can compete in this league on her day.

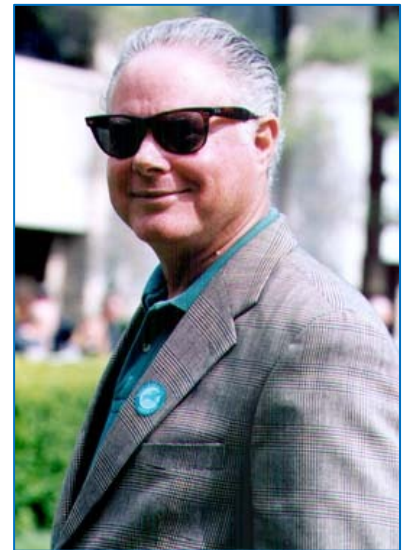
From *Tabonline.com* comes the following:

## **SA FILLIES' CLASSIC**

It was classic Strydom in the R1-million SA Fillies' Classic at Turffontein on Saturday as the blond rider's tactics paid off aboard Gypsy's Warning who justified 15-10 favouritism in the 1800m Grade 1 race.

Strydom had Gypsy's Warning in box position scraping paint as her stable companion Sweet Theresa (14-1) set a good pace. On Her Toes (14- 1), who races in the same Team Valor silks as the first two, was two lengths further back in third place, ahead of Sharp Mistress (12-1) on the rail and 5-2 second favourite Zirconium.

Strydom urged Gypsy's Warning into the lead inside the final 400m with Zirconium and Johnny Geroudis flying down the middle of the track. However, the second favourite ran out of steam in the final 100m and Gypsy's Warning won by an easy two lengths to give Barry Irwin (right) his 200th stakes success since 1987. Sweet Theresa kept on well for third ahead of outsider Kiribati.



Jockey Piere Strydom, who had told anyone who would listen before the meeting that his filly was the one to beat, said: "I don't normally boost their chances, but if I think one of my horses has a decent chance, I say so. This filly is probably one of the best three-year-old fillies in the country at the moment. She's easy to ride, I can get her a nice position and she gives you a real good kick."

He was full of praise for Keagan Teetan, who rode the pacemaker. "Well done to the kid who went to the front. It was going to be an absolute crawl but he used his brains and decided to go a decent gallop. It allowed me to get cover and into a winning position."

Added Ferraris: "It was a nice ride by Piere. I was a bit worried when the youngster went to the front - that he would set a hell of a hot pace. It wasn't intended. I just wanted him to lay up handy. It worked out okay and that's the main thing."