

April 19, 2009

## ON HER TOES TAKES GRADE 3 SUNDAY BACK TO BEST TRIP OF 7 FURLONGS, NATIONAL YEARLING BUY STAYS UNBEATEN IN 3 STARTS AT SCOTTSVILLE, GRADE 2 KZN FILLIES GUINEAS COULD BE NEXT ON AGENDA OF AZZIE STAR

On Her Toes survived a late-race hiccup and a review of the incident in the stewards stand to claim victory Sunday in a record-run renewal of the Grade 3 Umzimkhulu Stakes going 7 furlongs on the downhill course at Scottsville.

Beginning from the number 1 post position on the rail, On Her Toes flashed first from the barrier under the distinctive colors of co-owners Anant and Vanashree Singh. Jockey Anton Marcus reeled her back and she tracked the pace in about fourth place for much of the run down the toboggan slide.



When Marcus was ready to produce the National Yearling Sale graduate, he steered her to the middle of the course and set her down. She easily motored to the head of affairs. When Marcus hit her with the whip in the closing stages, however, he “caught a flank,” which stunned the filly, and she reacted violently, hanging a sharp turn and tightening up matters considerably, so that second choice Loupe (trained by Mike de Kock) was forced to check when Asian Affair came over on her.



“Because On Her Toes did not touch another horse, the stewards left her number up,” said Mike Azzie, who was relieved when the original order of finish stood. On Her Toes finished half a length on top. She never opened a clear advantage before shifting ground late in the contest. Had she maintained a straight course, she most likely would have won in hand by just under 2 lengths. Final time of 1:22.92 was a new stakes record and 2 lengths slower than colts ran a race later in the 3yo male’s equivalent of the same race, in which the Grade 1 Cape of Good Hope Derby winner was beaten a half length in 1:22.50, so On Her Toes was smoking on Sunday.

Never worse than second in 9 outings, Asian Affair is a talented filly whose Merit Rating is certain to soar from 90, as she carried level weights with On Her Toes, who is pegged at 99.

She finished a head before Loupe, with a nose separating her from Cocoa Beach in the field of 12.

The Grade 2 KZN Fillies Guineas, previously won by Sally Bowles when Anton Marcus put up a brilliant ride aboard the Neil Bruss-trained longshot, looms in 3 weeks as a strong possibility for On Her Toes. Her final 3-year-old start will come in the Grade 1 Garden Province Stakes on July 4.