

April 19, 2009

**TEAM VALOR COULD BE HEADING INTO RECORD TERRITORY THIS SEASON, STABLE HAS NOW WON 6 STAKES RACES AND HAS 10 STAKES PERFORMERS, WITH 23 VICTORIES, THE WINNING STRIKE RATE RESIDES AT 26.4 PERCENT**



Team Valor International is about to complete the opening trimester of the 2009 season with an eye on some of the stable's all-time records.

Last season Team Valor set a stable record for wins with 67. With 23 wins already under its belt this year, the stable has a new standard in its sights. The winning strike rate at present is 26.4, well above the 20-percent mark with which it ended its 2008.

So far this season, Team Valor has sent out 10 runners that have won or placed in a stakes race, 8 of which have won or placed in a race carrying Graded or Group status.

Team Valor has been represented by the winners of 6 stakes races, the latest coming on Sunday when On Her Toes captured her initial added-money victory of the season. She was a Grade 1 winner at 2 last year in South Africa, where she scored a dead-heat triumph in the Allan Robertson Fillies Championship. In 1993, Team Valor won a stable record 21 stakes.

"We are heading into the Championship season in South Africa," Barry Irwin said. "Next weekend is the final big one of the season in Johannesburg, one of the three major zones where racing takes place in the Republic. After that, the focus shifts to the East Coast, where the fall season in Durban has its season-ending races at Greyville and Clairwood race courses.

"Our youngsters are just beginning to run and we expect big things from My Kazzie, our only juvenile starter to date. She broke her maiden last week by 8 ½ lengths. Her immediate goal is the Grade 1 Allan Robertson Fillies Championship.



*Yearling Buy My Kazzie looks a special juvenile filly.*

"We have an unraced 2-year-old filly named Ribbons For Thee that trainer Justin Snaith thinks can make some noise in Durban as well.

"Our big horse this year is Gypsy's Warning," Irwin said. "She will look to win her second consecutive Grade 1 in the Woolavington Stakes and hopefully use it as a springboard to the Grade 1 Durban July, which is the most famous race in the land. When Ipi Tombe won that race in 2002, she became the first 3-year-old filly to do it in about 50 years. We are hoping Gypsy's Warning is in that same league."

Next week things figure to begin heating up for Team Valor domestically, when Hull goes postward in the Grade 3 Derby Trial and \$2.2-million yearling buy Kinsella returns at Churchill for his second career outing, followed the following week when Unbridled Belle debuts in 2009 under the Twin Spires in the Grade 2 Louisville Distaff. A week later South African Champion and French Group winner Captain's Lover will make her debut at Belmont Park in a prep for the Grade 1 Just a Game.