

May 31, 2008

**ON HER TOES FASHIONS DEADHEAT FOR GRADE 1 SCORE IN SOUTH AFRICA, JUVENILE FILLY IS NATIONAL YEARLING SALE TRIUMPH FOR BARRY IRWIN, MIKE AZZIE/WEICHONG MARWING COMBINE FOR SECOND 2008 GRADE 1 WIN**



*Weichong Marwing balances filly on line for dead-heat win in Grade 1 Allan Robertson Fillies Championship on May 31 at Scottsville course.*

On Her Toes, in her third career outing, became a Grade 1 winner today when she came back on after momentarily losing command to post a dead-heat victory in the prestigious Allan Robertson Fillies Championship at Scottsdale race course in South Africa.

The Grade 1 win came over 6 furlongs on a downhill straightaway.

Runner-up Geepee S., invading from a secondary racing circuit in Port Elizabeth, nearly pulled an upset at odds of 20 to 1 when finishing in the dead-heat, even though on Merit Ratings she was on 95, the same figure as On Her Toes.

Favorites Thin Red Line and She's a Winner, both of which were pegged at 93, failed to sparkle and filled the last two finishing positions in the field of 11 juvenile fillies.

On Her Toes, under Weichong Marwing, was first away from the gate and set most of the pace.

Trainer Mike Azzie, who combined with the rider to win the Grade 1 Empress Club with Team Valor International's Stratos earlier this year, said "With less than 50 meters remaining, Weichong switched his stick. The filly shut down for a few strides and lost some momentum. When Weichong got her going again, she came up for the win and was doing her best work at the end."



*The Singh family greet Weichong Marwing and Mike Azzie in winners' enclosure.*

On Her Toes, bought at the National Yearling Sale last year in Germiston by Barry Irwin from the consignment of Graham Beck's Highlands Stud, had won on debut over the Scottsville course. In her only other outing she was finishing up well when second in the Grade 2 SA Fillies Nursery Stakes at

Turffontein race course behind the flying Australian import Merlene de Lago, who has won all 3 of her starts, two of them being feature races.

This latest Grade 1 winner joins the season's Cape Fillies Guineas heroine Captain's Lover and last season's Empress Club victress Little Miss Magic as Grade 1 winners bought as yearlings by Barry Irwin from the National Yearling Sale.

Celebrated South African motion picture producer Anant Singh and his wife Vanashree have shared ownership of the yearlings over the past few racing seasons, and the Durban residents were on hand today for the big race.

On Her Toes is from the third crop of yearlings bought and syndicated for racing purposes by Team Valor. The previous crops have included other Graded winners such as two-time KwaZulu Natal filly Champion Sally Bowles, winner of the Grade 2 KZN Fillies Guineas, and Stately, winner of the Grade 3 Strelitzia Stakes.

From *Tabonline.co.za* comes the following:

### **Exciting Dead Heat Finish in Allan Robertson**

Mike Azzie-trained On Her Toes (9-2) and Nic Claassen's Geepee S (25-1) fought the finish of Saturday's Grade 1 Allan Robertson Fillies Championship at Scottsville and the judge's photo could not separate them at the line.



Weichong Marwing (On Her Toes) and Bernard Fayd'Herbe (Geepee S) threw everything at their mounts, but in the end had to share the winning trophy. So did the trainers and the respective owners Anant and Veneshree Singh and Team Valor (On Her Toes) and Brian Miskin and Albert Rapp (Geepee S).

*On Her Toes dead-heats for win in Grade 1 Allan Robertson Championship.*

This was a special day for Nic Claassen, who celebrated his 82nd birthday and came away with a Grade 1 winner. He said: "Her times in Computaform were good and I wouldn't have brought her all the way from Port Elizabeth to look at the bluegum trees!"

Azzie commented: "People thought I was mad when I predicted after her debut win that On Her Toes would be an Allan Robertson candidate, but here we are in the winner's box. I am proud to share it with Nic Claassen because he trained in the days of my grandfather and my father."

From *GoldCircle.co.za* comes the following:

### **Grandstand Finish to Allan Robertson**

In a grandstand finish to the Allan Robertson Fillies Championship (Gr I), the first of four Grade I events to be run at Scottsville today, the judges were unable to separate Port Elizabeth raider Geepee S and the Michael Azzie-trained On Her Toes, declaring a deadheat.

Trainer Nic Claassen, who was celebrating his eighty second birthday, is not stranger to the Scottsville winner's enclosure, having won the Gilbeys Stakes with Forest King, but very few punters gave the diminutive Geepee S a chance considering the quality of the field. However, under a tremendously powerful ride from Bernard Fayd'Herbe, the daughter of Gold Keeper got up to share.

Michael Azzie, was always bullish about the chances of his charge On Her Toes, after a good second to Merlene de Lago in the SA Nursery and after showing good speed throughout she just held on long enough for the deadheat.

Rock Concert, a full sister to previous Allan Robertson winner, Rock Opera showed good pace throughout and stayed on for third.

Disappointments were Thin Red Line and She's A Winner. Both fillies were in contention with two furlongs to run but both failed to go on with their efforts and finished second last and last respectively.