

July 20, 2009

TEAM VALOR SETS RECORD FOR NUMBER OF STAKES WINNERS IN A YEAR, STABLE HAS WON STAKES WITH 11 DIFFERENT INDIVIDUALS THIS SEASON, WITH HALF A YEAR LEFT, STABLE COULD BREAK MARK FOR STAKES WINS



The 2009 season is barely half over, yet there Team Valor International folks has set a new stable record for number of stakes winners, hot damn it!

Through last weekend, the Kaintuck outfit ramrodded by that Barry Irwin guy has racked up stakes with 11 individual winners, one more than in 1993, when the stable set its long-standing record for number of stakes victories.

This season, 13 stakes have been won by 11 runners, King of the Roxy being the latest. Team Valor can get close to its record of 21 established in 1993.

“This is the most stakes winners we’ve ever had in a single season,” said Kathleen Jones Irwin. “The year we won the 21 stakes, we had 10 individual stakes winners. That season Star of Cozzene, Lady Blessington and Sambacarioca each won multiple stakes. So far this season, the only horses that have won more than one stakes race have been Gypsy’s Warning and On Her Toes in South Africa, both of which are multiple Graded stakes winners.”



This season Team Valor has a winning strike rate of 20.45 percent with 36 wins from 176 starters for earnings of \$1,292,112. Last season, when the stable broke its all-time win record with 67 tallies, the total at this same time of year was the same 36, with 183 starts, so in terms of winning races, Team Valor is on record pace again in 2009.

“We had a horrible bad streak starting with the demise of Sailor’s Cap,” said Mrs. Irwin. “But last week we won a lot of races and our win streak has survived the crash. Now it’s onward and upward.”

Stakes winners representing Team Valor this season are King of the Roxy (above, winning his comeback), Gypsy’s Warning (Grade 1), Unbridled Belle (Grade 3), On Her Toes (Grade 2), Hull (Grade 2), Joshua’s Mistress, Winning Point, Chiquita, Daveron, Sailor’s Cap (Grade 3) and Jazzy.

Team Valor International could add to its total of stakes winners prior to the end of the month of July, as it will be represented by Becrux at Del Mar, where he will try to win the Wickerr Handicap for the third time; My Kazzie in South Africa, where she will attempt to secure Champion Filly at 2 honors with a win in the Grade 1 Thekwini Stakes; Miss Singhsix at Calder, where she tries the main track for the first time in the \$75,000 Nancy’s Glitter Stakes.

“Based on the type of horses we have poised for the remainder of the season, I can see us winning stakes with as many as 18 individuals,” said Mrs. Irwin.