

August 9, 2009

**RED DUST ASSUMES LEADERSHIP OF GENERATION WITH GRADE 3 SCORE, TEAM VALOR YEARLING PURCHASE NOW TOP RATED COLT IN URUGUAY, TWO THOUSAND GUINEAS IS NEXT ON ONCE-BEATEN COLT'S DANCE CARD**



Red Dust roared home up the inside rail in the final quarter-mile to power to a three-quarter length victory Sunday afternoon at Las Maronas racetrack to capture the Ensayo Stakes and take over the leadership of the 3-year-old generation in Uruguay.

The newly turned 3-year-old colt reversed a placing last time out with Super Talk, a Brazilian-bred colt that had taken the measure of Red Dust sprinting in a national Listed event, which marked the second outings for both colts, each of whom had won their sprint debuts with ease over the Las Maronas track.

*Red Dust mows down nemesis Super Talk to take over leadership of his generation in Uruguay with a victory in the G3 Clasico Ensayo.*

Super Talk was dispatched as the 7 to 2 second choice behind 2 to 1 favorite Escabroso, who wound up third, a further 2 lengths adrift of the runner-up in a field of 14 runners vying for the Ensayo prize over a 7 ½ furlongs. Super Talk showed his customary speed and at the furlong pole looked home and dried.

Trainer Juan P. Gonzalez had decided before the race to instruct jockey Gonzalez to restrain the colt early in about fourth or fifth, as a hot pace was anticipated. The rider followed the trainer's orders to the letter and gave Red Dust every chance to settle and not lose ground.

Jockey Mario Hampstead Gonzalez had saved ground by keeping 23 to 1 Red Dust on the inside, and when he swung his colt out for a run down the long Las Maronas stretch, suddenly the outcome became in doubt, as the Team Valor International colorbearer bore down and had the leader in his sights. Red Dust caught his nemesis, dug in for a final spurt and moved away in the final 50 yards, as Super Talk had little resistance against the winner.



*Victor Azambullo second from right after Ensayo Stakes on Sunday afternoon at Las Maronas.*



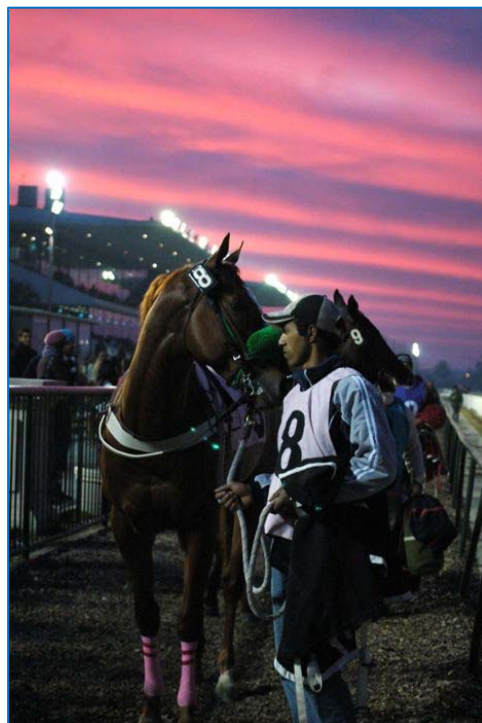
The victory was filled with emotion for the rider, as his brother—trainer Juan Gonzalez—had been in hospital the entire week. Mario said he had experienced difficulty concentrating during the races, but when the Ensayo was run, he forced himself to focus on the task at hand because he knew the onus was on him to do a good job for the family. Mario Gonzalez Sr., father of the jockey and trainer, kept things together in the stable while his trainer son was recuperating in the hospital.

Red Dust was immediately hailed as the new leader of the Classic generation and will certainly be a warm order for the Gran Premio Pollo de Potrillos, which is the Uruguayan equivalent of the Two Thousand Guineas over a mile at Las Maronas on September 12.

“The Ensayo, or the Test, and the Guineas, both were won by Invasor,” said Barry Irwin. “We are really looking forward to seeing him perform over a mile, because the manner in which he asserted himself in the final 50 yards of the Ensayo leads one to believe he should be even stronger over another half furlong.

“We have not formulated any long-range plans for the colt as of yet, but in the back of our minds all along has been a trip to Dubai if the colt proved worthy of the trip. We would like nothing better than to try for the Guineas and Derby in the United Arab Emirates.”

Red Dust is the first horse Team Valor International has raced in South America. The Ensayo is a Grade 3 in Uruguay, but internationally it is recognized by the cataloguing standards as a Listed race. So while it is not Graded internationally, it does count for black type in international sales catalogues. The Guineas is a Grade 1 event, but because Uruguay is designated by the international standards as a Part 2 country, the Guineas will also carry Listed status in international sales catalogues.



*Stunning shot of Red Dust in the Pink Dusk of Las Maronas track on Sunday.*

The latest stakes winner for Team Valor was bought as a yearling for Team Valor last year by the company’s Uruguayan representative Victor Azambullo, who has managed the colt’s career so far in Uruguay, selecting the trainer and keeping Team Valor up to date about the progress of the colt.





*Red Dust seemed only to be getting warmed up as he drove past the finishing post on Sunday when winning the Grade 3 Ensayo at Las Maronas. The Ensayo and this colt's next target, the G1 Two Thousand Guineas were won by Invasor.*

"Red Dust is a very professional colt for a lightly raced individual," Azambullo said. "He does every little thing the way you want. Today, I think the difference between our colt and Super Talk was clearly defined. When Super Talk won his debut, he had an easy race and plenty of time to recover. Our colt got off to a later start and ran back in only 15 days from his debut, which is why he could not handle Super Talk when they met. This time he was better prepared and he showed what he can do. He is just beginning to come to himself. He is definitely worthy of a trip to Dubai."

The winner was the second biggest horse in the race, weighing in for the contest at 1,130 pounds.

The international stable became interested in Red Dust because Team Valor raced his half-brother Aquino with success in New York last season, where he won an allowance race by 4 ½ length at Saratoga with a 3 ½ Ragozin Sheet figure before developing a respiratory ailment

Red Dust was bred in partnership by the TNT Stud of Goncalo Torrealba and Haras Don Alfredo. He is by the North American-raced sire Dubai Dust and out of a mare by the North American-raced Irish Fighter. Dubai Dust, a son of former leading North American sire Broad Brush, won the Indiana Derby en route to earnings of nearly \$270,000 and Irish Fighter ran third in the Arkansas Derby. Both sires have enjoyed Classic success with their offspring in South America.



*Red Dust is a spectacularly handsome, well-conformed individual with sensational grey coloring, which serves only to enhance his mystique.*

"He is a particularly fun horse for us," Irwin said, "because of his color. When we bought him he was a solid chestnut over his front end and his hind end, while his barrel was flecked with a considerable amount of white hairs. As he has matured, the white hairs have begun to spread over his hind end. He looks like a work of art in progress. It is really interesting to see how he changes."