

August 14, 2008

TEAM VALOR AND PARTNERS ENJOY HISTORIC NIGHT IN JOHANNESBURG, CAPTAIN'S LOVER AND RUSSIAN SAGE ARE VOTED CHAMPIONS AT AGE 3, "YEARLING BARGAIN" AND "IN-TRAINING" BUYS GARNER EQUUS AWARDS

Team Valor International and partners' Captain's Lover and Russian Sage won Equus Awards in ceremonies this evening in Johannesburg. Captain's Lover was voted the Champion Filly at 3 and Russian Sage the Champion Classic Colt at 3 in gaining status as the best runners of their generation in the Republic of South Africa.



Captain's Lover

Additionally, Gary Barber of Los Angeles and Larry Nestadt of South Africa, both of whom are partners with Team Valor in Russian Sage, made a clean sweep of the 3-year-old male Equus Awards by also receiving the nod for Pointing North as the Champion 3yo Miler.

On Her Toes and Stratos—both Grade 1 winners last season—were nominated for Equus Awards for Champion Filly at 2 and Champion Female Miler, respectively, but the awards went elsewhere. Both were trained by Mike Azzie.



Russian Sage

Captain's Lover, bought as a yearling by Barry Irwin for \$27,000, won 5 of her 7 starts in South Africa, chief among them the Grade 1 Cape Fillies Guineas. She was an unlucky third behind Champion and multiple Grade 1 winner Dancer's Daughter in the Grade 1 Paddock Stakes when her saddle slipped and she ran sideways down the homestretch.

Russian Sage had won the Grade 1 Cape of Good Hope Derby at Kenilworth prior to being acquired by a group formed by Team Valor, for whom he scored a courageous victory in Durban in the Grade 1 Daily News 2000, a triumph that undoubtedly secured his Equus Award, as he became the only 3-year-old colt to win a Grade 1 event in two different locales in South Africa.

Both Russian Sage and Captain's Lover were developed and trained by young Justin Snaith, who followed in his father's footsteps by winning the nation's most prestigious event—the Grade 1 Durban July—when his Dancer's Daughter dead-heated with Horse of the Year Pocket Power to claim a share in the 11-furlong classic run at Greyville.

Team Valor has already sent Captain's Lover to Europe, where she is in training at Chantilly in France with Andre Fabre, and Russian Sage is booked to be flown to Europe in October, where he will join the stable of Mike de Kock for an invasion of the United Arab Emirates for the 2009 Dubai Winter Carnival.