

August 31, 2008

VISIONAIRE WILL SKIP BREEDERS' CUP RACES AT SANTA ANITA THIS YEAR, CONNECTIONS RECKON "THERE IS NO SUITABLE RACE FOR HIM" IN LINEUP, TEAM VALOR HAS OTHER CANDIDATES FOR THE TWO-DAY CHAMPIONSHIP



Visionaire, a stunning winner of the Grade 1 King's Bishop Stakes at Saratoga last week, will not be taken to the West Coast for the Breeders' Cup, as his connections want to keep him "doing what he does best," which they reckon are one-turn races over 7 and 8 furlongs on dirt.

Trainer Michael Matz and owners Team Valor International and Vision Racing LLC all feel that there is no suitable race for the 3-year-old Grand Slam colt at Santa Anita.

- **Sprint** – The 6-furlong sprint is considered to be too short for him. His last two races were wins going 6 ½ and 7 furlongs. The connections think that he is better over 7 or 8 furlongs.
- **Mile** – Because of the configuration of the Santa Anita track, which has no mile chute, this race will be run around two turns at a mile and 70 yards, and the connections think he is better around one turn.
- **Grass** – The most appealing race for the colt is the one-mile grass race, but the connections are in no mood to experiment this season. They may try him on grass next year.
- **Grass Sprint** – The distance and surface of the grass sprint is somewhat appealing, but the twisting and turning of the downhill turf course at Santa Anita is fraught with danger and the connections are in no mood to risk their horse on this layout.



Barry Irwin, of Team Valor International, said "It has taken us awhile to figure out exactly what this colt is most effective in doing and he is a terrific one-turn runner at distances just past a sprint. We look forward to following a traditional, tried-and-true path toward a career as a stallion, by shooting for the Jerome and Cigar Mile.

"Next season we look forward to racing him in the Carter and the Metropolitan Mile. This colt possesses the ability to be very explosive on the turn and we feel he will get even better with age. He is a very exciting prospect and is lightly race, having run only 10 times.

Visionaire storms home to win Grade 1 King's Bishop at Spa.

"Naturally, we would love to run him in the Breeders' Cup, because we think he would provide quite a bit of entertainment, but it just hasn't worked out for him. A one-turn mile would have been perfect for him or even a one-turn mile on grass."

Team Valor has several other candidates for the Breeders' Cup and races in the coming weeks will go a long way in determining the status of these runners, as follows:

- **Collegiate** ran third in the Grade 1 Spinaway Stakes and is a candidate for the BC Juvenile Fillies if she shows she can handle a bit more ground in her next start. She is bred to run on.
- **Fairbanks** comes off a 5 ³/₄-length romp in the inaugural Duke of Magenta Stakes at Saratoga, goes next in the Grade 2 Hawthorne Gold Cup and is a candidate for either the Breeders Cup Classic or the new Breeders' Cup Marathon.
- **Jazzy** will try a synthetic surface for the first time next month at Presque Isle and a good showing in this \$400,000 fixture could find her running in the Filly/Mare Sprint at Santa Anita.
- **Sailor's Cap** won the \$600,000 Colonial Turf Cup, has been given a freshener and returns at Keeneland for the \$600,000 Shadwell Mile, a good showing in which could find him returning in the Breeders' Cup Mile on turf.
- **Unbridled Belle** comes off a pair of third-place finishes in the Grade 1 Personal Ensign and the Grade 2 Delaware Handicap. She defends her title in the Grade 1 Beldame Stakes next and a run in the Breeders' Cup Ladies' Classic is a strong possibility.
- **Aquino** was the unbeaten Champion Colt at 2 in Uruguay and he showed why in his second start in the U. S. by romping by nearly 5 lengths at Saratoga last time out. He is a possibility for the Breeders' Cup Sprint.