

October 14, 2008

**CAPTAIN'S LOVER WILL RUN NOVEMBER 30 IN HOLLYWOOD PARK GRADE 1, ANDRE FABRE READIES FOR \$500,000 MATRIARCH UNDER WEIGHT FOR AGE, SOUTH AFRICAN CHAMPION TO JOIN TODD PLETCHER BARN AFTER RACE**



*Captain's Lover won the Classic Grade 1 Cape Fillies Guineas at 3 when she was voted the Champion Filly of her generation in her native South Africa.*

Captain's Lover will launch a North American campaign on November 30 when French trainer Andre Fabre ships the South African Champion to Hollywood Park for the Grade 1 Matriarch Stakes, reports Barry Irwin of Team Valor International.

Champion Filly at 3 in her homeland, where she won 5 of 7 starts including the Grade 1 Cape Fillies Guineas, the 4-year-old Captain Al filly won her French debut over 7 furlongs in the Group 3 Prix du Pin and was beaten a head for third in the Group 1 Prix de la Foret over the same Longchamp course and distance in her only other start outside of South Africa.

"We think her next race will be her best in this form cycle," noted Irwin. "Andre likes the timing between races. The filly showed last time that 7 furlongs is too short for her best. She actually can get 9 furlongs. A mile may be her best trip however. We like the fact that this race is run under weight-for-age conditions."

Captain's Lover stalked the pace in the Prix du Pin around one curve at Longchamp, went to the lead in the final furlong and a half and bravely pulled out a win of about a length over the veteran Miler Spirito del Vento, who flattered the form by returning to take the Group 2 Daniel Wildenstein going a mile on the same afternoon that Captain's Lover was fourth in the Group 1 Prix de la Foret. Team Valor is hopeful the dark bay filly will be better for the race and improve in the Grade 1 Matriarch.

Best in 5 of 8 outings, Captain's Lover will be turned over to trainer Todd Pletcher following the \$500,000 Matriarch. "Todd is a top trainer and he has the ability to successful raid anywhere in the country, which will be important with this filly," noted Irwin.

"Normally, we would have sent her to Dubai. But we have Russian Sage, who also was voted Champion Colt at 3 in South Africa, who will shoot for the \$5-million Dubai Duty Free. This weighed heavily in the decision-making process and is probably the main reason we decided to bring Captain's Lover to America."

Captain's Lover, a \$27,000 National Yearling Sale bargain for Barry Irwin, will arrive on the eve of the Hollywood Park race, in which she figures to face some of the top female grass performers in North America.