

UNBRIDLED BELLE STROLLS HOME 4 LENGTHS ON TOP IN LAST NYRA RACE, DOMINGUEZ RIDES PLETCHER MARE TO VICTORY NUMBER 8 IN 24 STARTS, GLEANINGS IN PENULTIMATE OUT SWELL CAREER EARNINGS TO \$1,893,728



Unbridled Belle, making her final start in New York and her penultimate career outing, proved an easy 4-length winner of the \$109,000 Turnback the Alarm Stakes this afternoon when racing at Aqueduct for the first time.

The Broken Vow mare has made all but one of her 24 career outings and scored 7 of her 8 victories for Team Valor International. Prize winnings of \$65,400 increased her career earnings to \$1,893,728. Unbridled Belle was winning her second Grade 3 contest of the season, having earlier romped by 11 lengths in taking the Obeah Handicap for a second time at Delaware Park.

The 6-year-old mare, trained by Todd Pletcher, is scheduled to bow out of racing next month in the Grade 2 Falls City Handicap at Churchill Downs. The 17-hand dark bay mare will be vanned right after the Louisville race to Hill n Dale Farm, where she will be placed under artificial lightning with an eye to commencing her cycle in anticipation of the 2010 breeding season.

Medaglia d'Oro has been chosen as the mate for next season and the mare will be bred on an annual breeding right belonging to Team Valor principal Barry Irwin, who originally bought MDO on behalf of Audrey Haisfield, who started him out at Hill n Dale before starting her own farm, Stonewall Stallions, a year later. The El Prado stallion, the most talked about sire in the world today, was subsequently acquired by Sheik Mohammed to stand at Darley Stud in Lexington, Kentucky. Unbridled Belle will be offered for sale by her partnership in November of 2010 at the Fasig-Tipton November sale.

Sent off as the prohibitive 1 to 2 favorite for the Grade 3, Unbridled Belle broke with her field and was allowed by Dominguez to find her stride early, as a phalanx of three rivals raced ahead of her through pedestrian fractions of :24.74, :49.19 and 1:12.84.

There was but one anxious moment for UB's backers, as she raced pocketed in with seemingly no place to escape at the quarter pole. But as the field angled for home, Dominguez deftly maneuvered the huge mare through a narrow seam. He asked her to accelerate once straightened away for the drive and the mare went clear a furlong out and won with consummate ease.

Partners William Reck and George Loucas led the mare into the winners' circle at The Big A. The win in the Grade 3 followed such illustrious triumphs as the \$1-million Delaware Handicap and the Grade 1 Beldame Stakes, a race in which she also finished second and third at Belmont Park.

From *The Blood-Horse* comes the following:

Unbridled Belle Rings True in 'Alarm

by Jack Shinar



Unbridled Belle, as expected, made her final start in New York a winning one, drawing off to an easy four-length victory as the prohibitive choice in the \$109,000 Turnback the Alarm Handicap (gr. III) (VIDEO) at Aqueduct Oct. 31. Team Valor International's imposing 6-year-old daughter of Broken Vow is to start once more, in the Nov. 26 Falls City Handicap (gr. II) at Churchill Downs, before being retired, according to winning trainer Todd Pletcher.

"She's doing great," Pletcher said. "You always want to see them finish up their careers well. She's been so good to us for a number of years. It's nice to see her doing as well as she is. Hopefully, we can get one more."

Ridden by Ramon Dominguez, the grade I winner Unbridled Belle turned in her usual professional effort in the 1 1/8-mile Turnback the Alarm while clearly the class of the eight-horse field. Settled into fourth soon after the start while racing a few lengths off a pedestrian pace established by second choice Weathered, the favorite advanced on the final turn while slightly wide. She gradually wore down Way With Words and Weathered in the lane to gain the advantage at the eighth pole and edged away from there to win under easy handling. She clocked a final time of 1:50.20 over a fast track.

"It wasn't really the trip we thought we would get," Dominguez said. "I just wanted to come away nice; if she was in front I wasn't going to be surprised. She broke a little on the slow side, so I just tucked her behind horses. She was on the bridle the whole way. She gave me a good run and in the last eighth I just wrapped up on her."

A lifetime earner of \$1,893,728 with the victory, Unbridled Belle carried top weight of 120 pounds and spotted her rivals between five and eight pounds. Weathered, who led through quarter-mile fractions of :24.74, :49.19, and 1:12.84 for jockey Mike Luzzi, held second by 1 3/4 lengths over Way With Words and Eddie Castro.

In her previous start, Unbridled Belle ran a stubborn second to Music Note after setting the pace in Belmont Park's Beldame (gr. I), a race she won in 2007 for her only grade I victory. Her career record improved to 8-4-4 in 24 starts. The Turnback the Alarm victory was worth \$65,400. Bred in Kentucky by Joe Sutton and Laszlo Makk, the winning dark bay mare is out of Little Bold Belle, by Silver Buck.

Sent off as the 1-2 pick, Unbridled Belle paid \$3, \$2.40, and \$2.10. The New York-bred Weathered, on a one-week turnaround after her seventh-place finish in Belmont's Empire Classic for trainer Karl Grusmark, returned \$3.70 and \$2.80 and completed a \$10 exacta. New Jersey-bred Way With Words was \$3.40 to show.