

TEAM VALOR INTERNATIONAL ADDS ZIMBABWE TO COUNTRIES WITH WIN, FILLY SCORES BY 5 ¾ LENGTHS TODAY AT BORROWDALE FOR LISA HARRIS, AFRICAN YEARLING BUY WHATSYOURSIGN NABS 55TH WIN FOR TVI IN 2009



When Whatsyoursign strolled home by 5 ¾ lengths on Saturday at Borrowdale race course, she became Team Valor International's first winner in the African nation of Zimbabwe.

Team Valor International this season has won races in the United States, Uruguay, England, France, South Africa, Italy, Germany and Saudi Arabia.

The victory was win number 55 this season for Team Valor, which is enjoying its second-best year in terms of winning races. Last year, the stable shattered its all-time record with 67 wins.

Whatsyoursign, bought as a yearling for the lowly figure of \$8,000 by Barry Irwin from the National Yearling Sale in South Africa, was a winner in South Africa that was transferred in the fall from her trainer in Durban to Lisa Harris in Zimbabwe.

A high-strung filly with some ability, Whatsyoursign was unplaced prepping in a sprint in her first outing in Zimbabwe, but proved too much for her competition on Saturday when stretched out over a mile in a conditions race.

"She won a brilliant race," said Lisa Harris, the leading trainer in Zimbabwe and conditioner in 3 of the last 4 years of the winner of the Triple Crown in her home country.

Barry Irwin said "Whatsyoursign is not a stakes horse, which is why we sent her to Zimbabwe. It is a good place to prove a horse in front of the local racing community and to find a buyer. There is not much of an export market for marginal stock in South Africa unless the horse is a gelding. So in taking her to Zimbabwe, we can find a new home for her. It was fun to win a race in the homeland of Ipi Tombe, who was the best horse we ever raced."



Lisa Harris leading in Whatsyoursign after Zimbabwe win.

"Team Valor has enjoyed a phenomenal success rate buying yearlings in South Africa, racing them there and sending the top ones abroad, while retiring some to our burgeoning broodmare band in South Africa. We currently have top Grade 1 racemares and Grade 1 producers in our broodmare band and plan to race and sell the offspring."