

TEAM VALOR INTERNATIONAL SCORES WIN NUMBER 66 DURING THIS YEAR, NEW STABLE RECORD BESTS PRIOR WIN TOTAL BY STARTLING 50 PERCENT, GRADE 1-WINNING ON HER TOES FASHIONS RECORD WIN IN HER 3YO DEBUT



On Her Toes made her 3-year-old debut a winning one this afternoon at Clairwood in Durban, South Africa and in the process provided Team Valor International with win number 66 on the season, a total of 22 wins greater than in any other year.

In winning 50 percent more races than in any other previous season, Team Valor International reached yet another important milestone. Horses syndicated by Barry Irwin since 1987 twice had won 44 races in a year. The International aspect of the stable has been much in evidence during the 2008 campaign, as wins have been recorded in England, France, Germany, South Africa and the United States.

In fashioning its best record to date for victories, the stable has been able to maintain a winning strike rate of 20 percent. The stable also has achieved its second-best season on record in terms of earnings, with the stable to date gleaming more than \$3.5 million, an amount exceeded only by the \$3,888,233 it won in 2007.

On Her Toes was winning for the third time in four races. She won the 7.5-furlong race by 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ lengths on soft turf. Last season at 2, the filly overcame her own greenness by taking hold late to win her debut at Scottsville. After running second in the Grade 2 Fillies Nursery Stakes to the fastest sprinter of her generation in Merlene de Lago, On Her Toes returned to Scottsville to land a dead-heat triumph in the Grade 1 Allan Robertson Fillies Championship. The filly suffered an ankle chip preparing for a Grade 1 in Durban and underwent surgery to remove the bone fragment last year.

“I was desperate to find a suitable race for her comeback,” revealed trainer Mike Azzie. “There was nothing for her in Gauteng. I consulted the racing officials and begged them to put something up for her, but they were unmoved. So I was forced to send the filly by truck from Johannesburg to Durban for this small race.

“She needed the exercise badly, but she won well enough, with her ears pricked at the end. I am very pleased with how she did it and now I can move forward with my plans for her, depending on how she comes out of the race. Anton (Marcus) rode her brilliantly and I would love to have him up next time.”

Azzie hopes to win the Grade 1 Empress Club Stakes with the National Yearling Sale graduate, as he did last year with Team Valor International’s Stratos. Team Valor had won the prestigious Turffontein feature with another 3-year-old, when Little Miss Magic accomplished the feat for Mike de Kock.

On Her Toes races for Team Valor International and internationally acclaimed motion picture producer Anant Singh and his wife Vanashree of Durban. The couple missed the win, as they were in Dubai at an international film festival. On Her Toes wore The Singhs distinctive silks that are comprised of the colors of the flag of the Republic of South Africa.