

August 19, 2010

TEAM VALOR COMPLETES VALIANT PASSION PARTNERSHIP IN 48 HOURS, THE SPA'S MOST TALKED ABOUT MAIDEN VICTRESS WINS BY 9¼ IN DEBUT, GRADE 1 SPINAWAY AND BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE FILLIES ARE ON TAP



Saratoga-based 2-year-old filly phenom Valiant Passion cruised to a 9 ¼-length victory in her racing debut, overcoming lots of traffic.

Valiant Passion was fully syndicated in 48 hours by Team Valor International this week. The response from participants was strong and rapid. The diverse group includes those with their own racing operations, a major Kentucky farm owner and many of the stable's stalwarts.

Not surprisingly, 2009 "Follow the Valor" winner Tom Furey has elected to use his prize of selecting a 5-percent interest in any Team Valor horse syndicated in 2010 for up to a value of \$1 million. Furey bought an additional 2.5 to bring his interest up to 7.5 percent.

"We are thrilled that Tom is able to latch on to such a wonderful racing prospect," said Barry Irwin, CEO of Team Valor International. "Tom has been one of the very strongest supporters of our stable for several years, he brings a lot of knowledge and experience to the table and is, simply, a first-class human being. His wife, Julie, is no slouch, either, and his mother Peg is a real pistol, not letting her advanced age of 94 slow her down in attending and handicapping the races at the track."

Valiant Passion became Saratoga's most talked about 2-year-old maiden winner two Thursdays ago when she was able to overcome trouble in her racing debut and win by 9 ¼ lengths for Team Valor's former private trainer Ralph Nicks.

She comes not only with all of the promise of her scintillating victory, but with a live pedigree, as her sire is the hottest 2-year-old sire in the U. S. Earlier in the week his unbeaten Kantharos won the Grade 2 Special at Saratoga. Valiant Passion is out a half-sister to 2010 stakes winner Fifteen Love, whose dam Nidd was a Group winner in France or Juddmonte Farm from the immediate family of current \$505,939-earner and Grade 1 Eddie Read Handicap hero Monzante.

The new filly is being pointed by her new trainer Todd Pletcher for the \$250,000, Grade 1 Spinaway Stakes on September 5 over 7 furlongs at Saratoga. Team Valor has retained the services of Julien Leparoux for the race. Over the years, the stable has finished 1-2-3 in the Spinaway with Cashier's Dream, Brac Drifter and Collegiate.



Kantharos came off the pace to romp by 7 ¼ in G2 Special S.