

August 27, 2011

DAVERON REMAINS UNBEATEN IN 2011 IN WINNING SARATOGA GRADE 2 TEAM VALOR YEARLING BUY CONTINUES TO IMPROVE AS A 6-YEAR-OLD GERMAN-BRED RELATIVE OF ANIMAL KINGDOM WINS THE BALLSTON SPA



Daveron continued her amazing improvement with age today when she roared to a 1 ³/₄-length score in the Grade 2 Ballston Spa Stakes at Saratoga, a prestigious middle-distance fixture carrying prize money of \$200,000.



The 6-year-old mare remained unbeaten in 3 outings this season, winning her second Graded event in New York, as earlier this season she accounted for the Grade 3 Beaugay at Belmont Park and was coming off a similarly sharp victory in the \$200,000 Dr. James Penny Memorial in Pennsylvania.

Having won back-to-back \$200,000 races, Daveron increased her career gleanings to \$457,642 and improved her race record in 16 starts to 7 wins. Since being transferred last fall to Graham Motion, she has won 4 times and placed second 2 times in 6 starts.

Jockey Eddie Castro has been highly instrumental in the mare's success, as he has managed to get the excitable mare to relax in her last two races, which allowed him to wait longer before allowing the mare to make her devastating late run.

Motion said "You know, Eddie came by the barn this morning. I said that he should consider riding her just like he did last time, but to see if he could wait just a little longer before turning her loose. And that is exactly what he did. It was wonderful to see him ride her like that and great to see how well the mare responded."

In the wordiest chart comment in recent memory, *DRF's* chart caller wrote "DAVERON (GER) brushed with DESERT SAGE at the start, settled into midpack and rated kindly off the inside stalking the front runners, continued along on the same scenario for nearly three-quarters, left the three-eighths pole just behind a wall spread out from the rail to the three path, started inching her way towards the inside when the rider took a quick peek back over his right shoulder, correctly gauged a positional edge over AVIATE and was let out a notch, picked up enough speed to snatch away the four path into the stretch, got straightened away and responded positively once given her cue, gained readily during the ensuing furlong, picked up ground even better leaving the eighth pole, drew on even terms with the runner up with about a sixteenth to go, went past that opponent a few jumps later and kicked clear under good handling."

Barry Irwin said “Eddie rode the mare with supreme confidence. He was able to win the race because of two key aspects. First, he got Daveron to submit to following a horse, which allowed the mare to save her energy and a lot of ground to boot. Secondly, when Eddie needed to grab a launching pad to make the winning move at the top of the lane, the mare was able to generate the requisite quickness to accelerate instantly. Once free, the race was in the bag.”



Daveron seemed to just be getting warmed up at the finish line.

Irwin further said that he considers Motion’s work with the mare to be nothing short of miraculous. “Daveron has always had the tools, but she has been so high strung, it has been difficult to get the best out of her,” Irwin pointed out. “But since we moved her to Fair Hill and Graham and his staff took over her training, she has improved seemingly from race to race. This race is perhaps the most shining example of why we bought a barn and moved our horses to Fair Hill and why we have our horses with Graham Motion. This mare’s improvement vindicates our decision to move our operation to Fair Hill with Graham. It is very gratifying to say the least.”

Barry Irwin, who is in Germany preparing for next week’s BBAG yearling sale near Baden-Baden, had bought Daveron at this sale as a yearling for 100,000 euros, which is about \$128,000. He bought only one other horse at the sale, a filly named Mona Lisa, a \$45,000 buy that won 6 races in Germany and America for Team Valor and earned \$101,678 while placing in two stakes events.

Daveron will be retired after making perhaps one more start this season, most likely in a Grade 1 race, such as the \$350,000 First Lady at Keeneland, or perhaps the Yellow Ribbon Stakes at Santa Anita.

Daveron’s dam and Kentucky Derby hero Animal Kingdom’s dam are sisters, so the mare now has considerable value as a broodmare prospect. “Don’t know whether we’ll keep her or sell her,” said Irwin. “We will take a vote of the partnership after her next start and make that decision then. I might be inclined at this stage to get a couple of foals out of the mare before deciding whether to sell her.”

