



in sharper focus.

Saturday, Saratoga

BALLSTON SPA S.-GII, \$200,000, SAR, 8-27, 3yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16mT, 1:40, fm.

1--**DAVERON (GER)**, 118, m, 6, by **Black Sam Bellamy (Ire)**

1st Dam: **Darwinia (Ger)**, by **Acatenango (Ger)**

2nd Dam: **Dynamis (Ire)**, by **Dancing Brave**

3rd Dam: **Diasprina (Ger)**, by **Aspros (Ger)**

O-Team Valor International; B-Carlton Consultants Ltd (GER); T-H Graham Motion; J-Eddie Castro;

\$120,000. Lifetime Record: SW-Ger, 16-7-3-1,

\$457,642. **Werk Nick Rating: A. Click for the**

[eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree.](#)

Click for the [brisnet.com chart](#), the [brisnet.com PPs](#) or the [free brisnet.com catalogue-style pedigree](#). [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made.](#)

Team Valor International President Barry Irwin was not on hand to see Daveron swoop to victory in Saturday's GII Ballston Spa S. at Saratoga. Irwin was on the other side of the Atlantic, checking out the catalogue for the BBAG Yearling Sale in Baden-Baden, which starts Friday.

It is fitting that he was in Germany for the victory, however. Not only is Daveron a Team Valor International-purchased graduate of the sale, bringing €100,000 in 2006, but the operation has had an outstanding season with horses connected to that country. In addition to the Ballston Spa heroine, GI Kentucky Derby hero Animal Kingdom (Leroidesanimaux {Brz}) is also descended from German stock.

It was with Animal Kingdom's dam that the appreciation of the German bloodlines began.

"In the fall of 2005, I saw a story in *TDN* about a racing/broodmare prospect named Dalicia (Ger) (Acatenango {Ger}) that was being sold in a German mixed sale," Irwin explained. "I researched her, liked what I saw, and had German agent Dirk Eisele phone me from the sale, where I had him make bids for me. We got her for about €400,000, which was a record price for a mare being sold at public auction in Germany."

What made her worth the price?

"I liked Dalicia because she was gorgeous, she was improving with age and she had form," he said simply.

Dalicia, bred in Germany by Carlton Consultants, took seven starts to break her maiden, graduating going a mile and a quarter, and going on to beat German Horse of the Year and GI Arlington Million runner-up Soldier Hollow (GB) (In the Wings {GB}) in the G3 Preis der Sparkassen-Finanzgruppe at Baden-Baden.

The mare made five starts in California, with a win and a fourth in the GII Beverly Hills H. under the tutelage of trainer Neil Drysdale. She joined the Team Valor International broodmare band, and her first foal was Animal Kingdom.

After Dalicia was retired, Irwin found himself heading to Germany.

"I attended the BBAG sale for the first and [until this year] only time, and landed on two fillies, one being Daveron and the other being [MSP] Mona Lisa (Ger)

(Spinning World)," Irwin recalled. "As is my style, I don't look at the catalogue until after I have inspected all the horses. I was thrilled to learn that Daveron's dam and Dalicia's dam were full-sisters. I bought her and left her in Germany with trainer Andreas Trybuhl, who in 2004 missed winning the [G1] German Oaks by a nose for us with a Monsun (Ger) filly named La Ina (Ger).



Daveron as a yearling

"Daveron trained and won like another German Oaks prospect, but she encountered some problems, needed a break, and missed the last half of her season at three."

The chestnut returned at four to win a listed event, then headed to the U.S. But she did not take to the American routine.

"We gave her to Christophe Clement and, although she won her debut brilliantly with a 95 Beyer number, she was an emotional wreck training at the racetrack, so I sent her to Graham Motion, who trains offsite at Fair Hill."

The move has proved profitable--Daveron has won four of her last five outings, and added the Ballston Spa to a win in the GIII Beaugay S. earlier this year.

Now Irwin is shopping in Germany once again, but he has no idea what the budget will be.

"I am back at the Baden-Baden sale for the first time since I bought Daveron and Mona Lisa," he remarked, adding, "When I attend any sale, I have no idea if I am going to buy any horses or a lot of horses. It all depends on what I find. I would like to buy a couple of German fillies, if I find something that I consider suitable for exportation at a later date."

For Irwin, there are pros and cons to the German market.

"I have found German breeders much like breeders in South Africa, in that they pay more attention to pedigree than conformation," he offered. "As an American racing man, I demand that the horses I buy have correct front legs and a good pastern angle. That is not easy to find in Europe outside of Ireland and sometimes England. So I am never really very hopeful of finding a lot of suitable looking animals for reasonable prices."

But, he continued, "The reason I have bought and hope to continue to buy German horses is that they are the offspring of drug-free parents, and they are very tough, sound horses. I admire the horses and the breeders, as they have strict standards."