

August 3, 2012

## EBONY FLYER VOTED TWO CHAMPIONSHIP HONORS FOR 2011-2012 SEASON SOUTH AFRICAN AMAZON HANDED AWARDS AS TOP OLDER FILLY/MARE CAPE BREEDERS/WESTERN PROVINCE RACING CLUBS FETE GRADE 1 HERO

Ebony Flyer, who ended the 2011-2012 racing season in South Africa that ended on July 31 with Grade 1 victories going 6 furlongs and a mile, was honored this evening in ceremonies at a black-tie affair at Kenilworth race course in Cape Town, South Africa.

Racing in partnership for Team Valor International, Drakenstein Stud (Gaynor Rupert) and Anant and Vanashree Singh and trainer Justin Snaith (r), the 17 hands 1 inch daughter of leading sire Jet Master was honored with a pair of awards.

Ebony Flyer was cited twice as Champion Older Filly or Mare, both by the Cape Breeders Club and again by the Western Province Racing Club.



Racing at 2, 3 and 4 in a career interrupted twice because of a necessity to undergo surgery to deal with breathing problems, Ebony Flyer ended her season on a good note, winning back-to-back Grade 1 races and finishing fast for second in the Grade 1 Garden Province Stakes.



Ebony Flyer closed out the season with career totals from 12 starts of 8 wins, 2 seconds and 1 third. She lost twice to males and only once to a filly, when second last time to the Champion 2 and 3yo filly Princess Victoria. She is a Classic winner of three Grade 1 races, including the Cape Fillies Guineas, a race also won by her half-sister Captain's Lover.

Team Valor International CEO Barry Irwin "bought" Ebony Flyer twice, first privately as a foal, along with her double Classic-producing dam Sunshine Lover.

Irwin also bought her when she was offered as a yearling at the National Yearling Sale, where B. Eye bid her in and syndicated her among his clients at Team Valor. Later, just before the Guineas, he sold a one-third interest to Mrs. Rupert. The Singhs have been partners from the very beginning.

Irwin said "Our plan had been to retire the filly following the Garden Province, because we know it is just a matter of time before her throat goes wrong again and I wanted to send her to the breeding paddocks while her glowing reputation was very much intact. However, in deference to my racing partners, I have decided to have the filly scoped while moving fast on a treadmill and video tape the throat to see how it looks. If the vets think the throat looks good, we very well may race her again next season. If not, she will visit Mrs. Rupert's stallion Trippi. The test is later on this week."