TEAM VALOR HONORED AS TOBA'S SOUTHERN REGION OWNER OF YEAR STABLE IS ONE OF FOUR FINALISTS FOR NATIONAL OWNER OF YEAR MAJOR AWARD FOLLOWS ON HEELS OF ECLIPSE NOMINATION LAST WINTER

The Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association tracked Barry Irwin down in England to deliver great news that Team Valor International has been selected as the organization's Southern Region Owner of the Year.

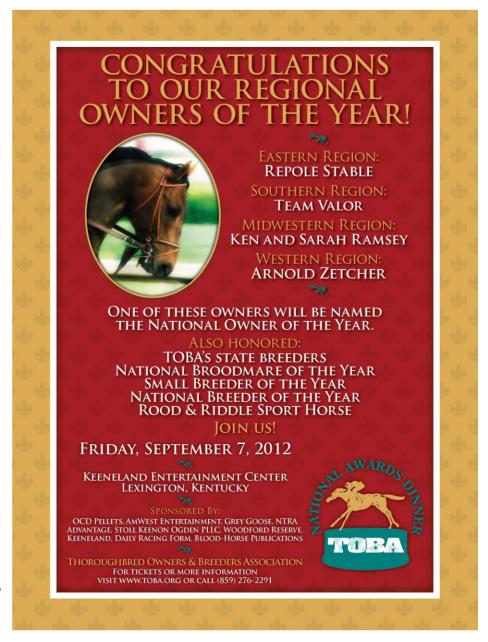
Additionally, Team Valor is one of four finalists for National Owner of the Year, which will be presented along with the regional honor next month in TOBA's annual awards dinner during the Keeneland September yearling sale.

This is the second major recognition on a national scale for Barry Irwin's Kentucky-based racing outfit in 2012. In January, Team Valor was a finalist for the Eclipse Award as outstanding owner.

Team Valor joins an impressive list of winners of TOBA's Southern Region award that recently has included Claiborne Farm and Adele Dilschneider, Charlotte Weber's Live Oak Plantation, WinStar Farm and Ken and Sarah Ramsey.

TOBA is the national trade organization for owners and breeders in the U.S., and it includes many individual members from Team Valor.

Also the owner of the *Blood-Horse* magazine, TOBA has played an important role in several recent drug reforms in American racing, notably through its Graded Stakes Committee. Besides establishing



TOBA announced the 4 regional award winners in this week's Blood-Horse magazine.

grades for the highest levels of racing, the committee enforces a uniform drug-testing protocol for races in its purview, including an influential ban on anabolic steroids.