

## **ANSHODA ROARS HOME BY 1 ¾ LENGTHS IN GROUP 3 PRESTIGE STAKES EARNs FREE PASSAGE, ENTRY TO BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE FILLIES TURF IRWIN: "SHE WON ON THE TOUGHEST CIRCUIT IN THE WORLD OF RACING"**

Anshoda faced an ideal scenario to land a spot in the starting gate for the November 1 renewal of the \$1-million, Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf over a mile at Del Mar when she suited up for Saturday's Win and You're In, Group 3 Prestige Stakes going 7 furlongs at Goodwood.

Morning rains had reduced the field from 11 to 7 runners, most importantly among the missing being a pair of brilliant debutante winners representing top-flight connections in Cheveley Park Stud and Juddmonte.

***Anshoda draws off rapidly to score by 1 ¾ lengths.***



Horseplayers landed on Kodiak's daughter Royalty Bay as the 5 to 2 favorite, given that she had managed to win on debut over soft grass and was coming off a bang-up second at Deauville for the Group 3 Prix Six Perfections.

Knotted at 4 to 1 as the co-second choices were Anshoda, making her third career start and first for the new combine of Team Valor International and Gary Barber, and Merrily, a Coolmore-owned, Aidan O'Brien-trained Naas maiden winner by top-flight Coolmore Stud-based juvenile sire No Nay Never.

Nobody knew whether Anshoda would act on the soft footing, but she was second in her previous start on ground rated as good to soft. Her trainer hoped that she would act in the soft going, but he could not be sure.

The morning of the race, the journeyman jockey that had ridden her twice for a win and a Listed second in both of her starts took the initiative to phone both the trainer and the filly's new rider Billy Loughnane with a solitary message. "This filly has twice hit a flat spot with me in the latter stages of her races. My advice to you is not to give up on her, press on and ride her through the flat spot, because she will give you a second run."

Says Barry Irwin "That advice won the day for us and we are grateful to that jockey for piping up. Very professional of him to reach out to our connections."



Anshoda broke well from the center of the field and raced fourth in much of the early running, one off the rail and not far off the leaders. When the field tacked over from the outer towards the inner rail on the tricky undulating course at Goodwood, Anshoda held her position well, as 18-year-old Loughnane (no relation to trainer David Loughnane) basically sat chilly in the saddle.

As the field approached the 2-furlong pole, 5 of the 7 runners basically were in a line spread across the track, with only Merrily (inside) and eventual last-place finisher Ryka (outside) not in the firing line. Anshoda was still in the middle.

Speed trainer Archie Watson's recent Ayr maiden winner Duty First, under the brilliant Hollie Doyle, set a measured pace throughout and dictated the proceedings to the quarter-mile pole. A furlong and a half from home, Anshoda duly hit her flat spot and looked as though she was about to get squeezed right out of contention by the pacesetter, until Duty First drifted left, thereby providing the opening that Loughnane was able to exploit and eventually ride through to victory.

Loughnane used all the tools in his kit to wake up Anshoda, she responded with one run to reach contention and yet another burst to draw clear in the end and beat the pacesetter by nearly 2 lengths on the wire in a brave and convincing triumph.

Says Barry Irwin "She turned in one run to reach contention, and that likely would have been enough to claim victory. But then she unexpectedly found another gear to draw off and clear the field inside the final furlong for a fully authoritative triumph."

[Video](#) of race.

Sporting Life story "[Breeders' Cup Very Much on the Radar for Anshoda](#)"