

Insiders' Bulletin

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Identifiers of Talent

December 1, 2011

ALL-TIME EARNINGS RECORD BROKEN FOR BARRY IRWIN PARTNERSHIP SUMMER SOIREE'S \$50,000 FOR GRADE 1 SECOND PUTS STABLE OVER TOP TEAM VALOR NOT DONE IN 2011, AS LUCKY CHAPPY EYES FINAL GRADE 1

The seasonal earnings record for Team Valor International was broken Friday evening when Summer Soiree ran second in the Grade 1 Matriarch Stakes, her \$50,000 payday boosting Barry Irwin's stable of partnership owned runners to reach \$3,916,429.

Team Valor went \$28,196 past the former record established in 2007, when the stable had 45 more starts than the 208 this season.



Summer Soiree runs second in the Grade 1 Matriarch Stakes.

Kathleen Irwin said "We are not done yet. Lucky Chappy will run in the \$750,000 CashCall Futurity at Hollywood Park in mid December and he could add to the total in a big way."

Team Valor will start a few other runners at home and abroad, so the \$4 million plateau appears to be definitely within reach for the Lawrenceburg, Kentucky based stable.

The stable is having a typically good season, having won 17 different stakes races with 13 individual stakes winners, the most notable being Animal Kingdom, who was a dominating victor of the Kentucky Derby and was second in the Preakness Stakes as well.

Team Valor International currently ranks ninth among all owners in North America this season in stats published by Equibase and reported on their website. However, those statistics are incomplete, as they do not include all of Team Valor's partnership-campaigned runners.

The Equibase stats show 20 wins in 74 starts and earnings of \$3,175,870 for ninth position, just slightly behind Live Oak Stable and slightly ahead of owner Maggi Moss.

Statistics compiled in house by Team Valor International's own statisticians for North American earnings show 26 wins in 121 starts and earnings of \$3,480,294, which would place Team Valor International in eighth place just about \$13,000 shy of seventh place if the records reflected all of the stable's starts.

Among racing partnerships, Team Valor International as usual is the leader of the pack. John Fort's Peachtree Stable is having a good year and ranks 14th nationally with earnings of more than \$2.6 million and a winning at a strike rate of 22 percent with 100 starts.

West Point Stable, 31st on the list, has the same number of wins as TVI, but they have had twice the number of starts and less than half of Team Valor's earnings. But they are making a late season surge, as last week they won a Graded stakes at Aqueduct and their winning strike rate has risen from 10 to 11 percent.

Team Valor International racing in North America this season has contested 48 stakes races and won 12 for a winning rate of 25 percent. The stable's winning strike rate in all races has hovered between 23 and 22 percent for the last 6 months.

In addition to Lucky Chappy, Team Valor has some other big guns that could make some noise before season's end, as Ebony Flyer will not run December 17 at Kenilworth in the Grade 2 Diadem Stakes sprinting 6 furlongs. Another horse that could add to the stakes-winning total is State of Play, who has a stakes on the same weekend at Lucky Chappy and Ebony Flyer, as he will contest the Dania Beach Stakes on the turf at Gulfstream Park. That race carries a purse of \$100,000.

Below is the chart of statistic for stakes racing among the partnership stable and Team Valor once again will dominate the log when the season wraps up at the end of the month.

Public Syndicate Groups - Stakes Stats for 2011				
	Stakes Winners	Stakes Wins	Individual Gr Winners	Graded Stakes Wins
TEAM VALOR INTERNATIONAL	13	17	6	9
CLASS RACING	4	7	0	0
WEST POINT	4	5	2	3
PINNACLE RACING	2	6	2	2
PEACHTREE	2	5	2	4
STARLIGHT	2	5	1	4
THREE CHIMNEYS	2	2	2	2
BLINKERS ON	1	3	1	3
DOGWOOD	1	2	1	2
FANTASY LANE	1	2	0	0
MAGDALENA RACING	1	1	1	1
MAJESTIC RACING	1	1	1	1
THOROUGHBRED LEGENDS	1	1	1	1
CENTENNIAL	1	1	0	0
VICTORY THOROUGHBREDS	1	1	0	0
WINNERS CIRCLE PARTNERS	1	1	0	0
FUNKY MONKEY STABLE	1	1	0	0
BONGO	0	0	0	0
ELITE RACING	0	0	0	0
I E A H	0	0	0	0
PARTING GLASS	0	0	0	0
PEWTER	0	0	0	0
SACKATOGA STABLE	0	0	0	0
SOVEREIGN	0	0	0	0
STARVIEW	0	0	0	0
TEAM STALLION	0	0	0	0
TEAM VICTORY	0	0	0	0
THOROUGHBRED FUTURES	0	0	0	0
WOODFORD RACING	0	0	0	0

**HULL WILL ENTER STUD NEXT SEASON AT STONEWALL FARM IN FLORIDA
GRADE 3 KENTUCKY DERBY TRIAL HERO WILL BE OWNED BY PARTNERSHIP
HOLY BULL SCION COMES FROM SIRE LINE DEVELOPED IN SUNSHINE STATE**



Hull won the Grade 3 Derby Trial Stakes on a loose rein by 4 real gone lengths at Churchill Downs in the manner of a monster in the making, but his career, for all practical purposes, ended right there.

Hull will enter stud next season as the property of a partnership at Stonewall Farm in Ocala, Florida and stand alongside Leroidesanimaux, sire of Kentucky Derby hero Animal Kingdom.

On the best day of his racing career, Hull was a 4-length of the Derby Trial a week before the Kentucky Derby. He drew off under the Twin Spires to win the 7 ½-furlong stakes impressively and look like a 3-year-old with a brilliant future.

The unbeaten sophomore colt had broken his maiden sprinting while earning a stunning 5 on the Ragozin sheets and then cat-hopped to a facile sprint score at Turfway Park. He improved his record to 3 wins in 3 starts in the Derby Trial.

However, in the ensuing 2 years, he first developed bone bruising of his hind cannon bones, then he experienced trouble with his feet and finally he bowed a tendon recently.

The deal to stand the strapping stallion prospect was transacted by Barry Irwin. Under the terms and conditions of the arrangement, Hull will stand for the first three years at no expense to Team Valor International and Gary Barber. All expenses and income will be earmarked for Audrey and Richard Haisfield. Commencing in year 4, all expenses and income will be distributed on a pro rate basis.

Stonewall Farm is having a stallion show on Saturday morning that is expected to draw a sizeable crowd of Florida breeders and The Haisfields were anxious to wrap a deal in advance of the show, so that they could parade him in front of the local breeders. Irwin is trying to arrange travel to attend the open house at Stonewall.

Irwin said “He is a great looking horse and he is in good shape, except for that tendon. The Florida crowd will be able to relate to his sire line. His sire, Holy Bull, counted 7 Grade 1 wins among his 13 tallies from 16 career starts. Horse of the Year and Champion at 3, he was inducted into the Hall of Fame in Saratoga.

“The sire line doesn’t get any more Florida than this, as his sire Great Above was a son of Minnesota Mac, who was a won of Rough’n Tumble, who was the horse generally credited with putting Florida on the map by siring several top runners, the most famous of which was the incomparable Dr. Fager. Great above was a double New York stakes-winning sprinter and Minnesota Mac culminated a 4-race winning streak with a victory in the Chicagoan Handicap.

“Rough’n Tumble stood for Tartan Farm, as did Great Above and Minnesota Mac, and gained everlasting fame as the sire of Dr. Fager, who is among the half-dozen most accomplished racehorses in the history of the North American Stud book.”

EBONY FLYER CRUISES BY 3 AT KENILWORTH IN QUEEN'S PLATE PREP AMAZON MARE SKIPS CLEAR IN LOADED ALLOWANCE RACE ON SUNDAY SNAITH/IRWIN TO DECIDED ON WHETHER SHE NEEDS ONE MORE TRIAL

Ebony Flyer cruised to a 3-length victory Sunday going 7 ½ furlongs in a race that looked more like a Grade 1 than a Kenilworth allowance prep for the Grade 1 Queen's Plate. The one-turn event was run at a slow tempo into a stiff headwind down the homestretch. Although the Amazon had the benefit of a debut run at 4 this season over the Durbanville bullring in October, she broke sluggishly Sunday, being ahead of only one of her 5 rivals when the gates sprung open. Veteran reinsman Felix Coetzee, however, soon had the filly balanced, as she took up a wonderful position one horse width off the rail and right behind forwardly placed In Like Flynn.



Ebony Flyer was not able to stretch out into her prodigious stride until Coetzee swung her out wide before reaching the lane.

The horses raced in a tightly bunched pack around the turn. Sensing the slow pace, Coetzee made a somewhat premature move to ease the odds-on favorite out towards the middle of the straight, in order to avoid a rival from stealing a march on him when the field arrived in the lane.

“She wasn’t even able to stride out because the pace was so slow and she was so cramped for space,” Coetzee said. “When I moved her out, it allowed her to use her full action.” In a matter of a few strides over perhaps 40 meters, Ebony Flyer caught the leaders and moved out to a clear advantage.

Ebony Flyer never felt the whip, as Coetzee rode her with heels and hands, as the black filly strode away to a sizeable lead well before the final furlong had been reached. From there, Ebony Flyer simply cruised to her sixth victory in seven outings. The Grade 1 winner’s lone defeat came last year, when she was a magnificent third in the Grade 1 Queen’s Plate, becoming only the second 3-year-old filly in the 150-year annals of the mile race to finish in the top 3. It is that same race, sponsored in the modern era by L’Ormarins wines, which is her seasonal goal during the Cape summer season.

Ebony Flyer is owned in partnership by Team Valor International, Anant and his wife Vanashree Singh and Gaynor Rupert. The Jet Master filly will fly Mrs. Rupert's light blue and white silks in the Queen's Plate, which is sponsored by the winery owned by Gaynor and husband Johann Rupert.



Gaynor Ruper and Anant Singh lead in the magnificent Amazon warrior Ebony Flyer after her facile triumph over a Grade 1 quality field in a Queen's Plate allowance prep.

Trainer Justin Snaith said "She has bounced right back to her best, even though it was a slowly run race. She had a good blow because of the headwind." Snaith and Coetzee put their heads together after the race and both agreed that the filly would need another race in the 6 weeks between Sunday and the Queen's Plate. She's still carrying too much weight and she was really blowing after this race. If we are serious about winning the Queen's Plate, we must run her again, if for no other reason than to get some weight off and get her dead fit."

Racing Manager Barry Irwin said "I completely agree with Justin and Felix. I originally had thought two preps would be enough for the Queen's Plate, because last season the filly ran best when fresh. This year, however, she has grown and filled out into that enormous frame and she requires a lot more work to attain her to peak fitness. I was not impressed with her comeback win, I have to admit. This race, however, fully restored my confidence in her. She's the best South African racehorse we've ever owned and that includes Ipi Tombe, Irridescence and Gypsy's Warning. In fact, she's the best filly or mare we've ever raced!"

Snaith and Irwin looked over the options for another race and the choices were a race against females over a mile—the full distance of the Queen's Plate—and the Grade 2 Diadem Stakes, which is a 6-furlong dash up the straight at Kenilworth on December 17.

Stable manager Jono Snaith said "It won't be easy, because What a Winter had this race on his dance card and he was supremely impressive winning his comeback right after Ebony Flyer ran on Sunday. What a Winter is perhaps the most gifted sprinter in all of South Africa and he has the ability to stalk and pounce very effectively. The colt was coming off of knee surgery and we have heard a report that he was stiff the day after the race. The interesting thing about the Diadem is that nobody will be expecting Ebony Flyer to win, but we will be trying to win and I for one think she will win!"

Irwin said "Normally I cannot see dropping a horse from a mile to a sprint in order to prepare for a mile, but this is a special circumstance. I actually think this is a good idea. For one reason, the filly broke slowly in the mile, so she could use some speed work and some gate work, as well. In the past, she has always been smartly away from the gate.

"Also, she has raced behind some slow paces in her comeback races and had her competition over a barrel. In a sprint, she will feel the heat and that is important, because the Queen's Plate will be a very serious, tense affair, and if she can feel the heat beforehand, it will tune her up for the big one."

From the *TDN* comes the following:

Star Filly Shows Her Class by Sarah Whitelaw



One of South Africa's most talented and exciting fillies, Ebony Flyer (SAf) (Jet Master (SAf)), scored a fluent win at Kenilworth Saturday to establish herself as the probable favorite for the Jan. 7 G1 L'Ormarins Queen's Plate. The huge black superstar--who stands a monstrous 17.1 hands--won a conditions race over 1500 metres, defeating Street Cry (Ire)'s smart daughter Hollywoodboulevard by a stylish three lengths.

The winning margin flatters the runner up, as Ebony Flyer was barely ridden out by winning jockey Felix Coetzee. Ebony Flyer has now won her last two in a row since returning from a throat operation.

The champion is owned by Gaynor Rupert's Drakenstein Stud in partnership with Team Valor and movie producer Anant Singh and his wife Vanashree. She has now won six of her seven starts, with her lone loss coming in last year's L'Ormarins Queen's Plate, where she was third as a three-year-old filly, considered remarkable in that she was taking on older superstars such as Mother Russia (SAf) (Windrush) and South African Horse of the Year Pocket Power (SAf) (Jet Master {SAf}).

International champion jockey Felix Coetzee remarked that the more the filly runs the cleaner her breathing seems to be.

A phenomenal specimen, big and powerful, Ebony Flyer is a half-sister to French G3 winner and former champion South African three-year-old filly Captain's Lover (SAf) (Captain Al {SAf}). "She is the best filly I have ever raced, anywhere, period," said Irwin. "She kind of broke sluggishly Saturday; she's very big, but she usually breaks great, but this time she didn't. She sat just behind the leaders, and they don't post fractional times at the track, but the final time of the race was really slow, so I have to think they were going slow. The guy wheeled her out early, before they hit the stretch, and she opened up three lengths in 40 yards."

Irwin said she would have one more start prior to the Queen's Plate in the Dec. 17 Diadem S. "It will be 3 weeks after her last race," said Irwin. "The reason we're going to do it is we want to get her sharp. Our main goal is to win the Queen's Plate and we'll do what we have to do to get it done." The filly won her first four races in a row, culminating in a game win over subsequent Horse of the Year Igugu in last year's Cape Fillies Guineas. After her Queen's Plate run last January, Ebony Flyer was sidelined due to breathing problems. She only returned to the track in October, where she made a winning return in the Diana S.

SUMMER SOIREE STEPS UP WITH NARROW MATRIARCH LOSS ON FRIDAY TVI SPEEDSTER NEARLY STEALS PRESTIGIOUS GRADE 1 AGAINST ELDERS SAEZ, WAR FRONT FILLY PRIMED FOR BIG 2012 IN RACES AROUND A MILE

Reunited with jockey Gabriel Saez, Summer Soiree nearly ran away with the Grade 1 Matriarch Stakes last Friday at Hollywood Park in a dead-game effort that affirmed Barry Irwin's conviction that a mile would be her best distance.



Team Valor International 3yo Summer Soiree nearly joined Claire Marine from 1989 as the only gate-to-wire winners in the Matriarch's 31 editions.

Summer Soiree finished a strong second by a half-length to Star Billing, reversing the top two positions in the Grade 1 Del Mar Oaks in August. The 3-year-old fillies overshadowed a group of older runners that included Eclipse Award candidate and heavy favorite Never Retreat and defending winner Gypsy's Warning, whom Team Valor and partners sold three weeks earlier for a seven-figure price.

"Summer Soiree proved that a mile is her best distance and next season she will stick to that distance or around that distance," Barry Irwin said. "After she ran 9 furlongs at Keeneland, I made up my mind immediately afterwards to drop her

back to a mile for this race. Twice in the last 2 weeks Graham questioned the idea of racing the filly a) against older runners and b) again this season. I had faith in Summer Soiree and felt strongly that she was better than Daveron, Gypsy's Warning and Unbridled Humor."

With the lights-out performance, Summer Soiree also vindicated Irwin's decision to place her back in the hands of Saez, after Graham Motion initiated a switch to Ramon Dominguez that resulted in a fifth-place finish in the Grade 1 Queen Elizabeth II at Keeneland.

"Saez is her rider from here on out," Irwin said. "I put him back on because he fits her. She is a free-running horse and Dominguez does not fit that type of horse in most instances."

For the Matriarch, Dominguez was instead paired with Unbridled Humor, Graham Motion's third entrant in a field of eight and Summer Soiree's main opposition on paper in a peculiar pace quandary that placed two speedy barnmates side by side from the rail out.

In reality, Dominguez wanted no part of Summer Soiree in the early going, and Irwin correctly sensed that Saez would have the lead to himself. The Peruvian youngster guided Summer Soiree through six uncontested furlongs in 1:12.60. At the head of the stretch, Unbridled Humor made a mild bid from the outside, which prompted Saez to come off the rail and pack her out.

Unfortunately, that left late-running Star Billing with enough room to slip through along the rail and engage Summer Soiree. Inside the final sixteenth, Summer Soiree turned back an initial challenge,

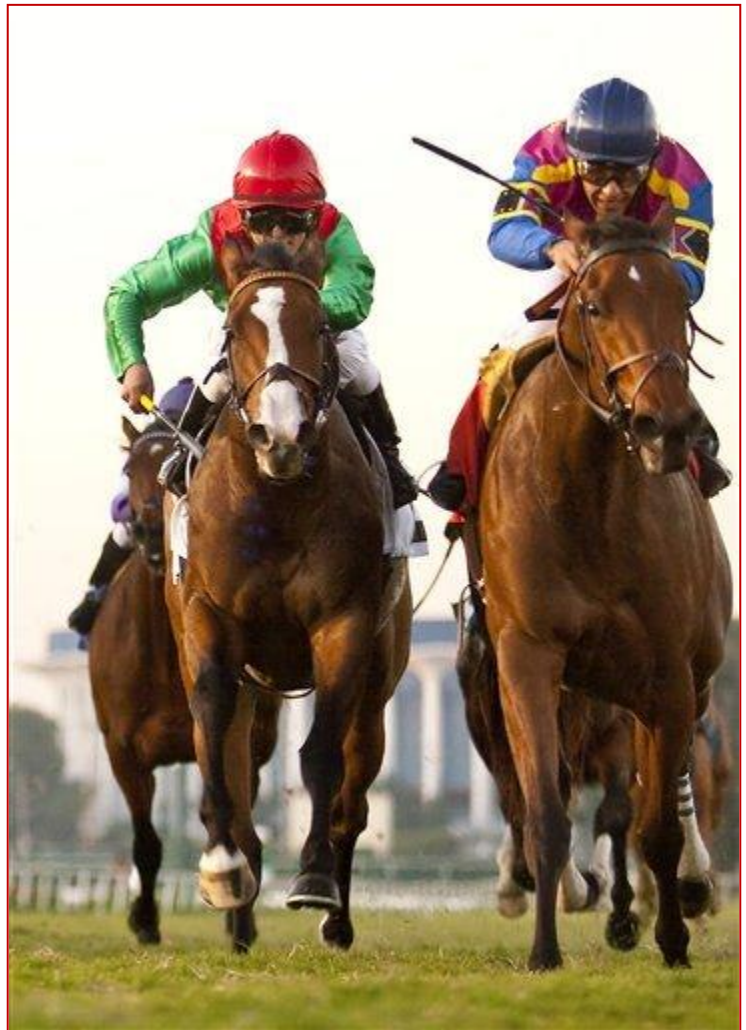
but gave way in the final yards. She finished 2 ¼ lengths clear of third-place finisher Never Retreat, who beat Queen Elizabeth II winner Together, Daveron, and Gypsy's Warning in the First Lady.

Star Billing also rebounded from the QEII, in which she finished sixth, one place behind Summer Soiree.

"Once Summer Soiree pulled away in the stretch, I thought we had pulled it off! So close," Irwin said. "We earned \$50,000 and an important Grade 1 second in a very prestigious race. I am so glad that we did not sell Summer Soiree, because I really think her best days are ahead of her. I look forward to trying her on Polytrack at Keeneland as well, because let's not forget that 1:09 1/5 workout she tossed in prior to the Kentucky Oaks.

"We have a very valuable filly and we can still enhance her value while enjoying racing her next season, and perhaps the one afterwards as well."

Look for Summer Soiree to return next spring at Keeneland and make her 4yo debut in the Grade 1 Vinery Madison sprinting 7 furlongs on Polytrack, a surface over which Graham Motion and Barry Irwin want to run her over.



Saez put the whip away with 40 yards remaining, thinking he had the race won, but Star Billing surged a second time to win.

From the *Blood-Horse* comes the following:

Star Billing, advancing along the inside for Victor Espinoza, edged away from front-running Summer Soiree for her first grade I victory -- a 10-1 upset in the \$250,000 Matriarch Stakes (gr. IT) at Hollywood Park Nov. 25.

With her half-length triumph, movie theater chain owner George Krikorian's 3-year-old homebred daughter of Dynaformer reversed the order of the Del Mar Oaks (gr. IT) this summer when Summer Soiree edged Star Billing by a half-length. The victory was the third on the day for trainer John Shirreffs, who earned his first Matriarch crown.

"It was great to finally see her get the grade I," Krikorian said. "She's come close before. I'm very proud of her." Espinoza guided Star Billing to victory with a ground-saving trip, using left-handed urging in the final furlong to boot her home. The final time for the one-mile event for fillies and mares was 1:35.45 over firm turf. Star Billing became the sixth 3-year-old to win the Matriarch in 30 renewals. Odds-on choice Never Retreat finished third.

Up In Time dropped jockey Martin Garcia after clipping heels coming out of the final turn. Neither appeared to be injured in the incident and stewards made no changes when they ruled the videotape was inconclusive.

Defending Matriarch champion Gypsy's Warning, one of three starters in the field sent out from Maryland by trainer Graham Motion, finished fifth. Motion's other runners were runner-up Summer Soiree and Unbridled Humor, who ran fourth.



Saez was aboard Summer Soiree in 12 of her 13 career starts. The lone exception was her fifth-place finish at Keeneland.

Star Billing was overlooked in the wagering following her faltering sixth-place finish in the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup (gr. IT) at Keeneland Oct. 15. The bay filly picked up her first victory since the Senorita Stakes (gr. IIIT) over the same course and distance as the Matriarch in her second start May 7.

"She's run really well on this course," said Shirreffs, whose two other wins Friday came for owners Jerry and Ann Moss. "The track was a little soft, a little loose for her at Keeneland. She didn't handle it very well."

Summer Soiree, as expected, outsprinted her rivals for the early lead along the inside and posted relatively soft quarter-mile fractions of :24.82, :48.97, and 1:12.60.

With Gabriel Saez letting her out a notch, Summer Soiree aggressively tried to leave the field behind rounding the final turn and she took control in the stretch while leaving the rail open. Challenged past the furlong marker as Star Billing progressed on the inside, Summer Soiree battled back gamely. But in deep stretch Star Billing put her head in front and inched away in the last strides.

"When I rode her last time there she didn't handle the track at all. I knew you could just forget about that race. She was really unbelievable today. When I got alongside (Summer Soiree), my filly got a little bit intimidated, but I hit her left-handed one time and she just took off. It worked out perfectly."

Seeking to give Motion his second grade I win at Hollywood Park in less than a week after an easy score by Sanagas in the Hollywood Turf Cup Nov. 19, Summer Soiree was a clear second by 2 1/4 lengths.

"I tried to open up a little bit on the turn, but these are good horses," Saez said of the runner-up. "She was trying to come back on. She galloped out very strongly."

Never Retreat rallied mildly for third under Julien Leparoux after failing to handle the final turn very well.

Star Billing ran her career mark to 3-2-1 in seven starts with earnings of \$355,067.

Under weight-for-age conditions, she carried 120 pounds and paid \$23.40, \$9, \$3.80 as the fifth choice. Team Valor International's Summer Soiree, a four-time winner during the 2011 campaign for Motion, returned \$7 and \$4 and rounded out a \$143.20 exacta. Team Block's Never Retreat, sent off at 7-10 odds, was \$2.40 to show.

CHANGINGOFTHEGUARD BEATEN A HEAD IN THREE-HORSE PHOTO FINISH ODDS-ON FAVORITE UNCHARACTERISTICALLY WINDS UP SETTING PACE GRADE 1 DERBY IN DOUBT WHEN COLT RETURNS WITH SENSITIVE SHINS



Bet down to odds of 3 to 5 on the South African Tote, Changingoftheguard was expected to deliver his customary closing blow and deliver a knockout punch to a group of seasoned older allowance runners in a one-turn mile race at Kenilworth on Sunday.



When the gates opened, though, the colt caught a flyer and jockey Richard Fourie found himself in front with a handful of horse. To his credit, young Mr. Fourie did not panic and immediately went to work settling down the sophomore son of Go Deputy. Fourie did a good job of relaxing the colt on the lead and he was able to slow the pace to what has become known in the parlance of the South African Turf as the “Cape Crawl.”

Changingoftheguard (shadow roll) misses head bob.

This was all well and good under normal circumstances, but things were far from normal on Sunday, when the “Cape Doctor” made a house call at Kenilworth. Again, in the parlance of the local Turf, the “Cape Doctor” is a wicked headwind also known as a Southeaster. Consequently, making the pace into that headwind required extra effort for the inexperienced colt.

Changingoftheguard, who became a talking horse for the Grade 1 Cape of Good Hope Derby in late January when he employed a devastating turn of foot to account for the Racing Association Stakes in his most recent outing, was challenged first on the outside by a pace presser and then on the inside by the only two horses that figured in the mix. Fourie went from having a comfortable hold on the Go Deputy colt to riding for his life in a matter of an instant. The colt became discombobulated and switched onto his incorrect lead when Fourie went to his left handed stick. Changingoftheguard floundered for several strides before Fourie was able to get him balanced again.

Changingoftheguard was half a length back with just a few jumps remaining in the race and he was able to extend his stride enough so that on the wire he was just a head shy of victory, while saving second by a nose. A stride past the head-bobbing finish, Changingoftheguard has miraculously regained the lead, but alas, the race was over.

Fourie came under a criticism for his ride. Barry Irwin said “Hey, given what occurred at the break, I give the kid full credit. He did a good job under adverse circumstances. I’m proud of the colt and have lost no confidence in him. I think both the colt and the jockey learned something from the race and both will benefit next time when he returns over 9 furlongs in the Politician Stakes (January 7, 2012).”

Trainer Justin Snaith said “This was a needed wake up call for this colt, because he is still very green and very much a playful colt that needs to get serious. It is not all fun and games out there and today he learned that sometimes one has to lay the body down and fight. This was good for him. One thing, though, he came out of the race with sore shins again, so I don’t know if he can make the Derby at the end of January, because we’ve already pin fired them and I don’t know what else I can do for him at this stage of the game.” The colt has 2 wins and 2 seconds from his 4 lifetime outings.

COMTESSE DUBOIS TAKES ON SOUTH AFRICA'S TOP SPRINTER IN GRADE 2

From *Sporting Post* in South Africa comes the following:



The Fillies Guineas tops Kenilworth's bill on Saturday, but creating just as much interest will be the seasonal debut of the flying filly Val De Ra in the Gr2 Southern Cross Stakes, writes Steve Furnish. Beaten just once in 10 outs, the speedy Val De Ra (left) is at her best over 1000m. Indeed, she's won all six starts. In gaining back to back Gr1 wins in her two most recent outings she has proven herself to be a top sprinter and she does hold the best of her opposition here on those runs. She's been off the track for six months since winning the Gr1 Fillies Sprint in May and that has to be a bit of a concern. Her stable has been in good form

since arriving in Cape Town for the season though, and with the weights clearly in her favour here, she should take a lot of beating here if anywhere near her best.

Covenant

Rated second highest by the handicapper is Covenant. Mike Bass' charge progressed rapidly after landing this event last year, winning both the Gr2 Sceptre Stakes and Gr1 Majorca Stakes. Those two successes along with her only subsequent win in the listed Sweet Chestnut Stakes in April were all achieved over further than she races today and it could be that she would prefer the extra now. That Southern Cross win was her latest over today's distance though and she has won three from five over the trip. She too returns from a break here, but with champion jockey Anton Marcus having been booked to ride it would suggest that all is well. Strictly by the book she is held by Val De Ra as she was beaten 2,5 lengths on 1,5kg better terms by Dennis Drier's charge in the Fillies Sprint. She was running on at the finish in that event though and she is now playing at home so as to speak.

State Blue

Marginally the highest rated of Justin Snaith's 4 runners is State Blue. She was at the top of her game prior to a recent 3-month break picking up both the listed East Cape Breeders Stakes and the Gr3 Champagne Stakes over 1200m at Kenilworth. Usually one to run on from off the pace, she's more often than not seen out over further. She has won twice over the minimum trip though and significantly, she was finishing strongly after being hampered when only beaten 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ lengths by Covenant in this race last season. State Blue may well have needed the outing when a 4,45 length tenth in the Merchants last time out and sure to strip fitter here, should be involved in the finish.

Dance With Al

The Captain Al Mare Dance With Al has finished behind State Blue in each of her two most recent outings, but there is very little between them. She's also won twice over 1000m, and interestingly, one of those successes was victory in this race back in 2009. Clearly suited by further nowadays though, Dance With Al is without a win since beating the boys in the Merchants a year ago. She would undoubtedly be thereabouts if at her best, but having not raced over this short a trip in the past twelve months, she'll more than likely find this too sharp now.

Lake Drawsko

Sparingly raced since making a winning debut, the Lake Coniston filly Lake Drawsko has been coming along nicely and usually one to race up with the speed, she could well be at her very best over today's trip. Lake Drawsko has her third run after the rest here and further improvement looks sure to be forthcoming. She does now take a significant jump up in class here though and at the weights will do well to make the frame.



Comtesse Dubois

Making up the quartet of runners from the stable of Justin Snaith is the most lightly raced runner in the field Comtesse Dubois. One of just two 3yo's in the event, this daughter of Count Dubois showed real potential in her first three starts as a juvenile and since returning from a four month break in September she's won two from two, both over today's distance. Comtesse Dubois could still improve considerably in this her third run after the rest and with Richard Fourie taking the ride it would suggest that a big run is expected.

Captain's Emblem

After shedding her maiden tag at the fifth attempt, Vaughan Marshall's charge has progressed quickly and has now won four from twelve. Those successes have all been gained over 1200m though and interestingly, this will be her first outing over the minimum trip. She can still improve, but held by Lake Drawsko on her latest outing, and out at the weights to boot, she clearly has a very stiff task here.

Varushka

Usually very quick into stride, Mike Stewart's charge can normally be found at the head of affairs early on and must be a fun horse to own. She's as honest as they come, but she has only managed to hold on to the finish in three of her twenty four starts and now considerably up in class and badly out at the weights to boot here, she cannot be seriously fancied.

Nova Zembla

As with Captain's Emblem, Joey Ramsden's charge will be racing over 1000m for the first time here. She showed promise early on in her career, but she has been well beaten in each of her two outings since returning from a seven month break in October and having been not persevered within the one and reported as coughing in the other, she is best just watched for now.

Princess Alberta

The only other 3-year-old in the race besides Comtesse Dubois, Princess Alberta progressed quickly at 2 and after winning a Juvenile Plate she went on to land the East Cape Fillies Nursery. She was clearly below best when running down field in each of her two subsequent outings in Cape Town features last season though and having again finished down field on her return from a six month break just three weeks ago, she is another who is perhaps best just watched here.

Amongst plenty of candidates for the role of front runner one would normally expect to see Varushka at the front. In a race where a brisk pace is assured though, even she will battle to match the gate speed of Dennis Drier's charge. The classy Val De Ra is clearly best in at the weights here and should keep her unbeaten record over the distance intact without any anxious moments.

BADLEROIBROWN BEGINS ANEW WITH LAUNCH OF GULFSTREAM MEET HOME-BRED COLT OOZING WITH POTENTIAL RETURNS ON TURF SATURDAY CHESTNUT 3-YEAR-OLD WILL START OFF AT ONE MILE WITH JEREMY ROSE

The perilous journey of Badleroibrown may finally reach a long, smooth and brilliant stretch on Saturday when he returns from a 13-month layoff in Gulfstream Park's opening day card. The talented but troubled home-bred has been on the shelf since he invited great expectations at Churchill Downs last October, when he had the tall order of beginning his career at 1 1/16 miles and was nipped at the wire in a powerful performance that awed jockey Robby Albarado.



Wayne Catalano trained Badleroibrown last year and thought he was better than Animal Kingdom.

"This is a serious horse," Albarado said at the time, speaking with the authority of a veteran who was the regular rider for Horses of the Year Mineshaft and Curlin and also was just days removed from guiding Animal Kingdom to his first career win at Keeneland. "He has the size, the stride, the power, the mind and the talent of a top horse. He was just a little green out there today and things didn't set up just right for him. But in terms of what I experienced, I am going to tell you right now that this one of the nicest young horses I've been on in a long, long time."

The experience only boosted the high esteem Barry Irwin already had for Badleroibrown, whom he bred himself, and made it all the more disappointing when the colt went to the sidelines soon thereafter. A tweaked ligament and paralyzed wind flap knocked Badleroibrown out for a long spell. He came back at full throttle this summer and was entered for a race at Laurel Park on September 24, but rain forced it off the turf and he was scratched.

The experience only boosted the high esteem Barry Irwin already had for Badleroibrown, whom he bred himself, and made it all the more

Before Graham Motion could find an alternative, the Leroidesanimaux colt came down with a respiratory bug that also afflicted State of Play and Standing O, who were stabled near him at Fair Hill Training Center. Badleroibrown missed a month of serious training. He would have been ready to return at Churchill last month, but Motion found no suitable races on the grass there.

Instead, Badleroibrown will help kick-off an early opener at Gulfstream, which is beginning its meet a month earlier than usual. Albarado is based at Fair Grounds in New Orleans this winter, so Motion turned to one of his Mid-Atlantic regulars, Jeremy Rose, for the mount from post nine in a field of 12. Carded as race 6, the one-mile contest is scheduled for 3:01 p.m.

The word was out for Badleroibrown's debut, as he was pounded down to the favorite's role at 9 to 5, but he may be somewhat overlooked on Saturday, with the long break between races and a workout pattern that shows the recent one-month gap between breezes and then a 5-furlong drill in 1:05.40 with the "dogs up" (small cones spread around the turf course to preserve the inside lanes) at Palm Meadows on Monday. Motion's team clocked it a second faster in 1:04.40, and Megan Jones captured a video [here](#) that shows him moving beautifully.

Todd Pletcher has White Hill switching from dirt to turf off a second-place finish first-time out at Monmouth, and Thomasquito will carry in the top Beyer Speed Figure, a 73 for a close second-place finish at Calder last month.

BADLEROIBROWN: WILL THE LEGEND TAKE FLIGHT AT THIS LATE STAGE?



Based on evidence of his morning trials, Badleroibrown just may be the most talented horse ever owned by a partnership formed by Barry Irwin.

Saturday the colt will take his second step forward in trying to transfer his legendary status from the training track to the race course at Gulfstream Park. So what exactly is the Legend of Badleroibrown?

Well, to start with, last season as a 2-year-old, he regularly outshone Animal Kingdom when they worked for trainer Wayne Catalano. If Animal Kingdom went five-eighths in a minute, Badleroibrown would go in 59 seconds.

Barry Irwin bred Badleroibrown from his South African import Ginger Sea, by Western Winter.

Badleroibrown bucked his shins, so he was a month behind Animal Kingdom in terms of race readiness. AK debut around two turns on Polytrack at Arlington, placing behind subsequent hotshot Willcox Inn. AK then broke his maiden going 9 furlongs at Keeneland like the Kentucky Derby prospect he not only was, but turned out to be. Team Valor was very excited about AK when he hacked up at Keeneland on Polytrack.

A week later Badleroibrown made his debut and, like Animal Kingdom, ran a tremendous second going long on turf at Churchill Downs. Team Valor expected him to win and win impressively, but he was just a bit short on the day and a bit green.

Naturally, Barry Irwin asked Robbie Albarado, who had now ridden both colts, which one was better. Albarado cocked his head, looked Irwin in the eye and offered an expression that translated into "What? Are you kidding me?" Albarado said that Animal Kingdom was a very nice prospect, but that compared to Badlerobrown, AK wasn't even a Thoroughbred!

Badleroibrown suffered another minor setback. When he began training for Graham Motion last spring, the trainer was sickened to hear a noise emanating from the horse's throat. Although Motion suspected the colt was becoming a roarer, the son of Leroidesanimaux was still working fast. Irwin had a Dynamic Scope test done on the colt and it showed that his left vocal chord had become completely paralyzed.

But the legend continued. Horses that are "windy" can work a half, but they falter at five-eighths. In the five-eighths test, Badleroibrown went his half in 48 seconds. Most roarers would not have been able to complete the five-eighths in better than 1:03 or 1:04. Badleroibrown—completely paralyzed—did it in 1:00 2/5, a work that would have been fast for a normal horse. The vet said that she had never seen anything like it.

Badlebroibrown worked brilliantly this fall with Aruna (Grade 1 Spinster) and Unbridled Humor (NY Graded stakes winner) and was ready to run again at Churchill before he became sick with the same bug that got State of Play. He has been cranked up yet again and is slated to run on Saturday.



Robbie Albarado worked both Badleroibrown and Animal Kingdom and in his opinion, there was no comparison between the two, that Badleroibrown was much better.

TEAM VALOR TO HONOR STANLEY BERGSTEIN WITH WRITING AWARD STABLE CEO BARRY IRWIN TO SELECT WINNER OF ANNUAL \$25,000 PRIZE WINNER WILL “REFLECT HONOREE’S NO-HOLDS-BARRED WRITING STYLE”

The Stanley Bergstein Writing Award has been instituted by Team Valor International in order to foster the type of writing engaged in by the recently deceased horse racing giant and author of hard-hitting racing journalism. (Stanley Bergstein Obituary [New York Times](#))

CEO Barry Irwin, a former Turf Writer who greatly admired Mr. Bergstein’s *Daily Racing Form* columns, will select the winner from a list of stories chosen for consideration by a group of 5 panelists to be named next year. Four panelists will be appointed each year by Jeff Lowe, who was an award-winning Turf Writer prior to joining Team Valor as media director. Lowe will serve as the fifth panelist.

Writers may also submit their own pieces for consideration. There are no restrictions as to where the pieces are published, whether in print or on-line, in newspapers, magazines or blogs. More information is available at www.teamvalor.com.

Stanley Bergstein passed away last month in Tucson, Arizona. He was an influential Op/Ed writer on important issues facing horse racing.



Team Valor will announce the winner at 11 a. m. on December 4, 2012 in Lexington, Kentucky at a luncheon in the Thoroughbred Club of America adjacent to Keeneland, where the recipient will receive a trophy commemorating the achievement, as well as a check in the amount of \$25,000.

Irwin began in racing as a writer with *The Blood-Horse*, later editor of *The Thoroughbred of California* and wrote a syndicated column for *Daily Racing Form*. The past 15 years he has contributed editorial pieces to *The Blood-Horse*, *Thoroughbred Daily News* and the *Paulick Report*.

In explaining his desire to reward Turf Writers for journalistic excellence, Irwin said “There was a time in the 1990s when I felt singularly alone in tackling some of the sport’s most daunting issues. When Mr. Bergstein began to write his columns for *Daily Racing Form* and Andy Beyer wrote similarly in the *Washington Post*, I was relieved and I greatly appreciated their content.

“In the current climate of a drastically shrinking amount of space devoted to coverage of racing in the print media, I think it is important to lend support to those writers still plying their trade, by establishing a path for them to take on the important issues facing the sport, in hopes that by doing so they will move racing’s participants to effect positive changes.

“Not all writers and publications seem interested in this sort of thing. Now that Mr. Bergstein has departed the scene, I want to do something to encourage Turf Writers to pick up where he left off and establish a trend.

“Hopefully, the Stanley Bergstein Writing Award will encourage Turf Writers to branch out and take a different look at what is going on in racing that requires some attention in the press.”

BARRY IRWIN WANTS TO ENCOURAGE WRITERS TO SHARPEN THEIR FOCUS TEAM VALOR CEO SEEKS TO KEEP STANLEY BERGSTEIN'S FLAME BURNING



Barry Irwin was hit hard by the recently death of Stanley Bergstein and it prompted him to inaugurate an award in his memory that will reward an enterprising writer with a \$25,000 prize each year.

“Stan is not the type of writer that can be easily replaced,” Irwin said. “He was in a unique position to write about what was on his mind, as he was a respected leader in racing in North America and he was old enough not to have to worry about repercussions if he ruffled some feathers.

“Most leaders in his field are not inclined to write about things considered to be politically incorrect because they have been part of The Establishment for far too long. But Stan was cut from a different cloth and he had the courage of his convictions.”

Irwin established the Stanley Bergstein Writing Award to motivate writers to produce articles and Op/Ed pieces in the tradition of the honoree and for writers to get out of their usual comfort zone and stretch themselves.

“My wife Kathleen M. Irwin, who is an award-winning fiction writer, says ‘There are two ways to deal with uncomfortable things. One is to sweep them under the carpet and hope nobody notices. The other way is to shine a light on them in hopes that it will better the situation.’ I think that pretty much sums up why we are offering this writing prize,” commented Irwin.



Irwin hopes that the amount of money, which represents one of the largest cash prizes for a writing award in North America and by far the largest ever offered for a Turf Writer, will motivate journalists to come forward with pieces that will make a difference.

“Stan made a difference when he wrote,” Irwin said “because he not only got people to think, he got them to act. He pointed out problems, but he offered solutions. The press has a role in our society that should be taken seriously. It isn’t called the Fourth Estate for nothing!”

Irwin himself has been a writer of articles and Op/Ed pieces that have shined a light on things that needed changing. “I quit working for *Daily Racing Form* in 1978 when it was more of a house organ for the racing industry than the fine publication it is today,” he recalled. “The first article I wrote after I quit was a lengthy piece in *New West*, a general circulation magazine in California.

“It was during the time when a minor Mafia member went public in *Sports Illustrated*, revealing how he fixed races. He named names of trainers and riders. My purpose in writing in *New West* was to point out that if racing journalists did their jobs, they might shine a light on bad guys and end some unsavory practices.

“In my article, I also revealed practices that took place at racetracks in Southern California. I pointed out what was they did and I named names. I ruffled a lot of feathers, because I mentioned practices used by the biggest names the game.

“Fans and horseplayers loved it, but some racing participants took it badly. I was biting the hand that fed me, I was told. But you know what? Many of the practices I mentioned began to change and eventually disappeared. By establishing this writing award, I want to encourage others to consider taking this path.”

Stanley Bergstein Writing Award



Honoring Stanley Bergstein's tradition and style of writing

What: Stanley Bergstein Writing Award

Who: Writer of any piece that appears in print or on-line

When: Winner announced December 4, 2012

Where: Thoroughbred Club of America, Lexington, Kentucky

Why: Encourage journalism in tradition of the honoree

Win: Trophy (above) and \$25,000

STANLEY BERGSTEIN WRITING AWARD/FAQ

Q: What is the deadline for submissions of entries?

A: Links to stories should be submitted by November 1 to Jeff Lowe at jeff@teamvalor.com

Q: What time period do the entries cover?

A: Stories must be published between November 1, 2011 and November 1, 2012 in a racing or non-racing publication.

Q: What is the minimum and maximum number of words for entries?

A: There are no restrictions as to length.

Q: Must stories be non-fiction or is fiction under consideration for the prize?

A: Strictly non-fiction.

Q: Can anybody enter a story for consideration?

A: Everybody but writers employed by Team Valor International.

Q: Where can I learn more about Stanley Bergstein?

A: Try this [link](#).

Q: Where can I read an article written by Stanley Bergstein?

A: Try these [Link 1](#) [Link 2](#)

Q: How and when will the winner be notified?

A: Winner will be notified by e-mail prior to November 15, at which time Team Valor will arrange for transportation of the winner to Kentucky.

Q: Is attendance mandatory at the award ceremony?

A: No. If the winner is unable to attend, Team Valor will try to arrange a video taped acceptance speech at winner's location.

Q: Are submissions restricted to publication in North America?

A: Yes they are.

Q: Are submissions restricted to articles about horse racing?

A: Yes.

Q: Are submissions eligible that are published on-line or just in print?

A: Articles, Op/Ed pieces, columns, blogs and stories are eligible if they have been published, whether in print or on-line and there are no restrictions as to the type of publication in which they appear.

LUCKY CHAPPY ATTRACTING ATTENTION FOR HOLLYWOOD ADVENTURE ITALIAN IMPORT RETURNED TO WORK TAB LAST SATURDAY AT FAIR HILL

The circumstances of Lucky Chappy's third-place finish in the Bourbon Stakes and fourth-place finish in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf have not gone unnoticed beyond the purview of Team Valor and Graham Motion, as the gutsy colt has made a few headlines regarding his upcoming trip to Hollywood Park for the Grade 1 CashCall Futurity on December 17.

Unlucky in both his starts in the U.S., Lucky Chappy covered a half-mile in :49 on the synthetic Tapeta track at Fair Hill on Saturday in his first workout since the Breeders' Cup. He will race on synthetic footing for the first time in the \$750,000 Futurity, although Graham Motion sees little difference between Hollywood's main track and a conventional dirt strip.



Motion has participated in five Grade 1 races in Southern California over the past year and has racked up three wins—two with Team Valor—and a strong second-place finish from Summer Soiree last weekend at Hollywood in the Matriarch Stakes.

From Hollywood Park's website comes the following:

Four turf stars trained by H. Graham Motion were flown back from California to his training center in Maryland Sunday morning but Motion plans to send another before the Hollywood Park meet ends next month.

Motion indicated that he would ship Lucky Chappy west for the \$750,000 CashCall Futurity, a Grade I test for 2-year-olds at 1 1/16

Lucky Chappy galloped on the Churchill Downs main track during Breeders' Cup week and has breezed on the dirt at Fair Hill.

miles on Cushion Track, on December 17.

Lucky Chappy, an Irish-bred colt owned by Team Valor International, finished a closing fourth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf under Joel Rosario in his last start November 5 at Churchill Downs.

By High Chapparral, Lucky Chappy won two of three starts in Italy this summer before joining the Motion stable and finishing third in the Bourbon Stakes at Keeneland on October 9.

Owner Arnold Zetcher, whose unbeaten So Brilliant won the \$100,000 Hollywood Prevue Stakes, said the colt would join Liaison, winner of the \$100,000 Real Quiet Stakes, in the Futurity.

Both Zetcher-owned colts are trained by Hall of Famer Bob Baffert, who is also considering Secret Circle and Sky Kingdom for the Futurity. Baffert has won the Futurity a record five times.

"I'm planning to bring Secret Circle over next week and work him," said Baffert of the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Sprint winner, based at Santa Anita. Sky Kingdom was an impressive winner here Thursday.

Daily Racing Form had a similar story [here](#) about Lucky Chappy from Thanksgiving Day.

MOTION SINGLES OUT DAVERON IN TRAINING STRATEGIES FEATURE QUIRKY FORMER TEAM VALOR MARE THRIVED WITH MOVE TO FAIR HILL

From the print edition of Thoroughbred Times magazine comes the following monthly feature on training strategies with Graham Motion:



This picture of Daveron from her victory in the Dr. James Penny Memorial Handicap in July at Parx appeared on the front page of Thoroughbred Times in a tease for a training strategies feature with Graham Motion.

The flight response is the core of equine behavior. Because horses are prey, not predators, in a natural setting survival depends on lightning-fast reaction time and the ability to flee rapidly and sustain that speed. Horses with the quickest responses and the best turn of foot were the ones that lived to pass on their athletic ability to their offspring.

This genealogy produces our best racehorses. In horse racing, the flight response is cultivated to produce outstanding runners. But sometimes that edginess also produces behavioral problems, which may start as spooking at something and then turn into quirks such as bolting for the gap, spinning around (wheeling), stopping abruptly (propping), and others.

“If you have a horse that’s difficult, it probably shows several of those traits,” said H. Graham Motion, winning trainer of this year’s Kentucky Derby Presented By Yum! Brands (G1). “Usually one comes with the other. If you have a horse that wants to run out the gap, it’s probably learning to do some of those other things, as well.”

While some chronic behavior problems may arise from a single incident that may not have been handled appropriately at the time, Motion believes most quirky behavior is rooted in the horse’s personality.

“Every now and then you have a horse come along that’s just not a follower and has an independent way of thinking, and they can come up with tricky quirks,” he said. “I’ve had horses that have not wanted to come of the gate or they come out of the gate and make a left-hand turn.

“Everybody deals with these kinds of issues to some degree. I don’t think it’s necessarily anything someone has done [to make the horse act that way]. I think it’s about the horse’s individual personality.”

Every variable in a horse’s routine presents opportunities for it to act up. Some horses may accept change and go on training normally; others may use it as an opportunity to display their quirks.

Motion explained that some quirky horses take advantage of the diverse environment at training centers, such as his home base at Fair Hill, Maryland.

“Sometimes in an environment like Fair Hill, when the horses have so many options, sometimes I find the difficult horses can actually be a little trickier,” he said.

Fair Hill Training Center offers several different options for training a horse that include going to the track or exercising in a large field.

A difficult horse may seize every opportunity to react to the change in routine and setting by finding ways to misbehave.

On the other side of the coin, having the option at a training center to switch a horse from a setting that is troublesome to one where the horse can relax is a positive.



Left to right, Summer Soiree, Master Shade, and Daveron trained together in the field “out back” at Fair Hill last month, prior to Daveron’s sale for \$750,000 on November 8.

“If I’m stabled on the racetrack and I have a horse that likes to run off, I’m kind of stuck,” Motion said. “I either have to go the right way and let him run off or go the wrong way and go real steady and let him jog. There’s no in-between.

“At Fair Hill, if I have a runaway horse that likes to bolt every time he gets to the track, I don’t have to take him to the track,” Motion said. “I can go out back in the field. ... I have several horses that very rarely see the racetrack because they’re so difficult on the track, meaning they’re almost unmanageable to gallop. Daveron (Ger) would be one of those. She’s a very high-strung mare who’s tough to gallop, but I don’t need to take her to the track every day, and she’s much more manageable when we get her out back in the field.”

Daveron tendered her worst performance, a seventh-place finish, beaten by 9½ lengths, in the 2010 De La Rose Stakes at Saratoga Race Course. The chart noted Daveron as “rank being rated, tired.” Daveron was moved to Motion’s stable after that race. Two months later, she won her next stakes appearance, the Scoot Stakes at Belmont Park, in which rider Eddie Castro was able to keep her relaxed throughout the race until he asked her to make her move at the quarter pole.

Motion’s strategy for the high-strung mare was a success.

For most horses, the racetrack’s familiar routine provides comfort and security.

“When they’re at the racetrack, they’re in a routine. They go the same way to the track every day. They do the same gallop every day,” Motion said. “Horses are very much creatures of habit, creatures of routine. So once they get in that routine, they seem to do well.”

Motion said he always pays close attention to a horse that develops behavior problems, especially a horse that normally has been well mannered. Horses that will not stand for the farrier, ones that are resistant to training, and ones that try to bolt off the track may be in pain. Horses that spook at everything may have vision problems.

“Sometimes the horse is trying to tell us something,” Motion said. “It always crosses my mind—what could be making the horse not want to do this or run out the gap? I think as a trainer, you have to be attuned to those things because horses can’t talk, so you have to be sensitive to their quirks.”

FOLLOW THE VALOR CONTEST WIDE OPEN WITH MONTH REMAINING STABLE'S 48 WINS IN 2011 HAVE 45 PARTNERS IN HUNT FOR FIRST PLACE HERRICK MAY BE IN CATBIRD'S SEAT, UNLESS HIS OWN HORSE WINS G1

Team Valor International received 121 entries for its popular Follow the Valor contest that challenged partners to predict the stable's win total for 2011. With a month left in the season, 45 partners are within close range of the moving target.

The stable has collected 48 wins this year, which was the projection from nine partners. As a tiebreaker, the contest also called for a prediction of the annual stable earnings, which stand at \$3,923,779. At this point, John Kelly is closest to the mark—he projected 48 wins and \$3,850,001 in earnings.

Fifteen entries pegged 49 wins, and Gerry Shaikun and Laurie Smith are the closest from that group with an earnings prediction of \$3,985,000.

Assuming the Team Valor roster is good for a couple more wins by the end of the year, Norton Herrick may be in the best position of all—his forecast was 50 wins and \$3,875,000. Ironically, Herrick could be knocked out by his own horse if Lucky Chappy prevails in the \$750,000 CashCall Futurity on December 17.



Would Norton Herrick root against his own horse or his own prediction in the CashCall Futurity?

A selected look at the candidates for victory in the Follow the Valor Contest:

Partner	Wins	Earnings	Partner	Wins	Earnings
Rob Byrne	48	\$3,675,500	Rodger Weismann	49	\$3,737,000
Bill Canfield	48	\$3,620,000	Paul Cheng	50	\$2,800,000
Steve and Keeley DeSalvo	48	\$3,100,000	Norton Herrick	50	\$3,875,000
John Kelly	48	\$3,850,001	Warren/Darlene Moessner	50	\$3,493,239
Carol Maggio	48	\$2,750,000	Will Picciotti	50	\$5,000,000
Mike Marshall	48	\$3,455,000	Greg Sterck	50	\$4,385,500
Lee Midkiff	48	\$2,850,000	Gene Whitmire	50	\$3,200,000
Bill Theodore	48	\$4,100,000	Ray Bouchard	51	\$4,624,000
Robert Voth	48	\$3,650,000	Shaun Cavanagh	51	\$3,203,750
Ari Benjamin	49	\$2,875,000	Mark Galsky	51	\$2,900,000
Chip Bradley	49	\$3,809,125	Steve Karlin	51	\$3,149,000
Bryan Cipoletti	49	\$2,850,000	Chris Ruhnke	51	\$3,800,000
Joe Coughlin	49	\$6,347,982	Mark Shevick	51	\$3,315,315
Bill DeRunk	49	\$3,758,109	Daniel Wong	51	\$4,000,000
David Dillon	49	\$4,145,000	Joan Bull	52	\$2,887,758
Frank Michelsen	49	\$3,430,000	Michael Cundari,	52	\$3,123,058
Candace Mortenson	49	\$3,684,000	Alan Miller	52	\$3,900,000
Bob Okrzesik	49	\$3,860,000	Al Panzarella	52	\$4,100,000
Carky Rubens	49	\$3,862,440	Bob Schneider	52	\$2,675,000
Gerry Shaikun and Laurie Smith	49	\$3,985,000	Rich Schweitzer	52	\$3,484,787
Marc Sulkes	49	\$2,500,000	Ed Weil	52	\$3,939,393
Ron Susmarski	49	\$3,281,481	James Wulforst	52	\$3,100,000
Michael Tighe	49	\$3,850,000	Bruce Zoldan	52	\$4,100,000

BARRY IRWIN'S HANDICAP RATINGS OF TEAM VALOR RACEHORSES

Barry Irwin maintains ratings of the top Team Valor runners. Ratings are done in pounds much like Timeform ratings and are changed weekly to reflect the basic quality of each animal. Codes indicate the current status of a runner's form. Comments are always up to date. Grid does not contain all of Team Valor's runners or horses in training, merely the ones with a minimum rating of 90 or better.

Runner	Desc	Rating	Code	Comment
Animal Kingdom	3c	126	++	Galloping at Fair Hill
Brigantin	4c	121	+	Melbourne Cup 2012
Ebony Flyer	4f	120	+++	Back in winning form
Summer Soiree	3f	118	+++	Top 3yo filly Miler
Pluck	3c	115	=	Rehabbing at Vinery
Lucky Chappy	2c	114	+++	HollyPark G1 next
State of Play	2c	114	+++	Gulf sod stakes on tap
Meistersinger	3c	110	++	Galloping
Hasay	4f	108	+++	Palm Meadows soon
Went The Day Well	2c	105	++	Jogging at P.M.
Badleroibrown	3c	104	+++	Saturday return
Valiant Passion	3f	104	+	Florida soon
Master Shade	3f	103	+++	Palm Meadows soon
Changingoftheguard	3c	103	+++	Shins still a bother
Humadea	3f	103	=	South Carolina rehab
Comtesse Dubois	3f	102	+++	Faces SA's top femmes
Lelaps	2c	102	++	Spring return in GB
Toboggan Slide	4c	102	=	Staying at Fair Hill
Psaltery	3f	101	+++	Greyville Friday night
Crimson China	3c	100	+	Palm Meadows
Visionaria	2f	100	+	Trains again in month
Howe Great	2c	98	+++	Mid-month sod route
Minute Limit	5m	98	+	Tamp on tap
M'Dearest	2f	97	+++	Just missed under Spires
Lord Tarzan	2c	97	++	Breezing at P.M.
Syncopate	4f	95	=	Out with splint
Flaming Dame	4f	94	++	Return best ignored
Autumn Mist	3f	94	++	Needs the lead

* Notes + on upswing, ++ substantial progress, +++ near top of game, = holding steady, -- going wrong way



From the Desk of

AMY COLLINGSWORTH

When you get a phone call that your horse is colicking your heart just stops and everything else around you becomes a blur. But you can only stay in this state for a moment before you spring into action notifying all the correct parties making sure your beloved friend gets the best care possible.

Colic is to be taken seriously. It means pain in the abdomen and can range from mild to life-threatening and fatal. This unfortunately has happened to us twice this year with Pluck and Visionaria. Both of these young racehorses suffered 360 degree full torsion colic. A section of their large intestine did a full 360 degree twist on itself.

The horse's large intestine is about three to four meters long and lies in a double-U formation, one "U" stacked on top of the other. Food material has to travel through about 180 of these "Us" or flexures to make it to the very end. Amazingly, the large intestine is only connected to the body wall at the very beginning and end predisposing a horse to intestinal displacements and torsions. When the intestine twists on itself it creates a complete blockage and cuts off the blood supply to that area. Surgery needs to be done within the first few hours if the horse has any chance to survive.

It is very important to know your horse and what is normal for them. Team Valor's trainers noticed the signs of colic and distress and reacted quickly to get Pluck and Visionaria to the vet clinics. Because it was caught early, neither one had to have a section of their large intestine removed, just untwisted. Several signs to look out for are if your horse is colicking are:



- lying down more than usual
- getting up and lying down repeatedly
- standing stretched out
- standing frequently as if to urinate
- turning the head towards the flank
- repeatedly curling the upper lip
- pawing the ground
- kicking at the abdomen
- rolling more than usual

Even though our horses' colic was caught early they had several secondary complications due to the torsion that take several weeks to overcome. These complications included persistent colic symptoms, loose manure, loss of protein through the intestinal tract, Salmonellosis, and an infection of the incision.

It is quite common for a horse to lose protein through its intestinal tract (protein losing enteropathy) after suffering a torsion colic. Due to the severity of the torsion it can take months for a horse to recover from the protein loss. While recovering the horse's body metabolizes protein at a higher rate and causes muscle breakdown and wasting.

Horses that suffer colic are also more likely to shed the naturally occurring salmonella bacteria found in their digestive system when stressed. After colicking a horse will have its feed changed, antibiotics will be introduced, and their exercise regimen is reduced all which allow this opportunistic bacteria to overtake their system. When this happens the horse is unable to clean its system on its own and will need medical treatment. A horse can get Salmonellosis from its environment as well and it's very hard to determine the source of infection once ill. It's almost impossible to determine origin of Pluck and Visionaria's Salmonellosis.

Depending on the severity of the colic and complications that can follow a horse can still go on to have a successful racing career. Ultimate Eagle proved that over this past weekend when he won the Grade 1 Hollywood Derby. His owner Mike Pender said. "He had colic as a 2-year-old and was basically pronounced dead on the table. Somehow, by an act of God, he was brought back to life." Another famous horse, Left Bank, won 2 Grade 1 races a year after having 12 feet of his small intestines removed.

Due to the timing of Pluck's colic surgery and the start of the Southern Hemisphere breeding season, Pluck will be retired from racing to start his stud career. Visionaria recently got her clean bill of health and has been turned out in a paddock for another month at Wilhelmina McEwan's Fenwick Farm near Rembert in South Carolina. She will begin her training in South Carolina before being returned to Graham Motion in late winter or early spring.. She will continue her race career in 2012 and hopefully add a Graded race victory to her record.

TEAM VALOR BROODMARES AND MATING PLANS

Mares	2011 cover	Status	2012 Cover
United States			
Captain's Lover	Giant's Causeway	In foal, bred 9-28	SA Bound
Chantilly Nayla		Maiden	Uncle Mo
Dove Cry	Quality Road	In foal, bred 3-4	
Ginger Sea	Harlan's Holiday	In foal, bred 4-19	Leroidesanimaux
Jacaranda Jane	Proud Citizen	In foal, bred 4-18	Leroidesanimaux
Joshlin	Proud Citizen	In foal, bred 3-13	Leroidesanimaux
Junia Tepzia	Henrythenavigator	In foal, bred 4-30	Giant's Causeway
Let's Toast	Warrior's Reward	In foal, bred 7-11	Selling
Minute Limit		Maiden	Leroidesanimaux
Mona Lisa		Maiden	Selling
Secret Heart	More Than Ready	In foal, bred 4-6 (colt)	Kitten's Joy
Southern Law	War Chant	In foal, bred 5-13	Leroidesanimaux
Star of Taurus	Yes It's True	Barren	Yes It's True
Stately	Fairbanks	In foal, bred 4-16	Fairbanks
Sweet Theresa	Leroidesanimaux	If foal, bred 3-16	Leroidesanimaux
Tiz Maie's Day	Discreet Mine	In foal, bred 4-20	Proud Citizen
U.K./France			
Little Miss Magic	Duke of Marmalade	In foal, bred 3-27	So Hemisphere
Princess Sonia	Dylan Thomas	In foal, bred 5-1	Selling
Turfquelle (GER)	Monsun	In foal, bred 5-31	
Whatamiss	Refuse to Bend	In foal, bred 6-1	
Australia			
Alexandra Rose	Redoute's Choice	In foal, bred 11-10	
South Africa			
Chiquita	Captain Al	Bred 11-23	
Fuselage	Visionaire		Selling
Joshua's Princess	Count Dubois	In foal, bred 10-20	
Lipton Cup	Russian Sage		Selling
My Kazzie	Visionaire	Bred 9-8	
On Her Toes	Captain Al	In foal, bred 9-13	
Ribbons for Thee	Trippi	In foal, bred 9-29	
Royal Purse	Visionaire		Selling
She's On Fire	Western Winter	Bred 11-22	
Spring Garland	Visionaire	Kahal filly 10-6	
Sting Operation	Visionaire	Bred 9-20	
Success Counts	Visionaire		
Sunshine Lover	Western Winter	In foal, bred 9-3	
Temair	Visionaire	Kildonan filly 9-26	
Twin Aspens	Russian Sage		Selling



NOTES

STATE OF PLAY will make one more start as a 2-year-old in the Dania Beach Stakes on December 18 at Gulfstream Park. Graham Motion is eager to push forward instead of waiting for something after the start of the year. "The horse kind of went off the boil when he got sick and then Graham finally got him going good again, and he doesn't want to have to stop and then start over," Barry Irwin said. "The horse is doing well, and Graham thinks he can run well and hopefully win it." If State of Play performs to expectation, Motion and Irwin would then like to try him on the dirt and see if they have another Soldat on their hands. Soldat, a War Front colt like State of Play, was an excellent 2-year-old on the grass in 2010 and then switched over to the Triple Crown trail at Gulfstream last winter when he romped in a dirt allowance race and then captured the Grade 2 Fountain of Youth Stakes. "I think it's a good idea," Motion said. "I want to run him on the turf first so we can make sure he is the same horse he was before he got sidetracked when he got sick this fall. I wouldn't want to run on the dirt first and then we don't know where we are with him." The path might be easier for State of Play this winter as Gulfstream has installed a second finish line that will allow the track to run races, including the Fountain of Youth, at 1 1/16 miles for the first time since 2004. The last seven seasons at Gulfstream, horses had to make the tough transition from a one-turn mile to 1 1/8 miles around two turns.



MINUTE LIMIT worked with State of Play on the turf at Palm Meadows Training Center on Monday. They both went an easy half mile with the cones up along the inside, and they received an identical time of :53.94. Motion thought about entering Minute Limit this weekend but decided against it. "He's not that happy with her yet and wants to see a little more out of her before he runs her," Barry Irwin explained.

BIBBETY BOBETTY lost Weichong Marwing when he took ill and was ridden by a no-name apprentice, who failed to take advantage of a great draw in the 2 hole going 1 1/16 miles today in a handicap at The Vaal. The filly got left, losing a few lengths at the break, and the apprentice made matters worse by rushing her up to gain a mid-pack position. The pace was hot, with the front runner bounding clear by 6 lengths. Had the jockey simply sat still and waited instead of rushing the filly, she would have won. As it was, Bibbety Bobbety did well to split horses in the final 50 yards and finish an excellent third beaten three-quarters of a length. Yet another horse that has been salvaged from the junk yard of horses that had been compromised by former Team Valor trainer Neil Bruss. Ormond Ferraris has done a very good job with the filly. Barry Irwin said "She has desire and talent and that is all you can ask of any horse. She will win some races for the old man now."

PLUCK is now safely ensconced at The Vinery in Lexington, Kentucky and he begins rehab from having had a bout with colic a day before the Breeders' Cup.



PSALTERY runs tomorrow evening at 3 p. m. EST at Greyville in a one-mile race. The 3yo filly faces older rivals and is in tougher spot than the race she was contest earlier in the week that was called off due to inclement weather. In a bit of a twist, Anthony Delpech replaced Anton Marcus in the saddle, because Marcus cannot do the weight. Charles Laird says that the filly is fine, but not at her peak, as there has been so much rain of late, he has been unable to train her much Psaltery faces two horses that are vying with her for favoritism at odds of 7 to 2 in what looks like a wide open affair. As of this morning Psaltery is the

slight favorite with the bookies. The Team Valor filly has the field's best Merit Rating at 91 and received 14.4 pounds from the Dance to the Stars, who figures to be the one to beat. Psaltery is extremely well drawn in the 2 hole.

DELOVELY also is at Palm Meadows, and she is scheduled to head to Tampa on December 10 for a maiden race on the grass there. She may race there a few times this winter, and Motion will shift her back and forth as she shuffles the ten stalls he has at Tampa Bay with assistant trainer Heather Craig.

M'DEAREST has started back in light training at Palm Meadows, and she will get ready for another dirt maiden race at Gulfstream Park.

MINOTAUR showed up on the work tab on Monday but it was an error with the clockers at Palm Meadows, who mistook him for another horse. Graham Motion said the Flashy Bull colt is almost ready for his first workout since late August.

LORD TARZAN is slated this weekend for his first breeze since arriving at Palm Meadows.

TWO MANY LAWYERS, the yearling half-brother by Lawyer Ron to Terwilliger and a Grade 1-winning grass horse in Brazil, "is just about as tall as Terwilliger, but not as massive or heavy and he is light on his feet and has a big old stride on him," reports Gold Mark Farm trainer Todd Quast. "Barry Irwin and I talked about it and we are going to go on with him for awhile and once he has learned some of his lessons, we will turn him out, because he is going to be a big, late developing sort and neither of us wants to rush him."

VAPOUR MUSING (right) is three weeks away from a breeze at Gold Mark Farm near Ocala, Florida. Trainer Todd Quast said "Her ankles, from which chips were taken out, are cold and tight and smooth to look at. She has matured with age and looks nice. Last season she was sort of a gawker and not very focused. Hopefully, she will be more interested in the game at 3!"

MEISTERSINGER has been jogging as part of his quick recovery from throat surgery, and he will be ready to resume galloping later this week.



HOWE GREAT will target a turf allowance race going 1 1/16 miles on December 15 at Gulfstream. Barry Irwin retained 50 percent of the home-bred half brother to Badleroibrown and plans to offer another 40 percent once the colt establishes his form. "I'm reluctant to do it before the horse shows what kind of quality he has," Irwin said. "I want to make sure he is a good horse and not just sell him to sell him."

STANDING O stepped up to 5 furlongs in a workout in 1:03 on November 25 at Fair Hill, and he will go the same distance this weekend.



ANIMAL KINGDOM topped out at 1,300 pounds during his convalescence and Graham Motion and his team are working hard to get him back to an adequate level of fitness before he starts into serious training later this month, which is why they are supplementing his daily gallops with continued trips to the water treadmill. Terry Ford submitted a recent photo (left) of the Derby hero galloping in company with a pair of stablemates that the National Thoroughbred Racing Association distributed as its "Fan Photo of the Week." Ham that he is, Animal Kingdom was looking at the camera.

CLASSY BROAD, the Tiznow yearling bought at the Saratoga Summer Sale, is doing exceptionally well so far at Gold Mark Farm near Ocala, Florida reports trainer Todd Quast, who said "She is aggressive, but not at all intractable. She is big, she knows she is big, but she doesn't throw her weight around, if you know what I mean. She fits the name, believe me. She oozes quality."

ELUCIDATE is a home-bred yearling full sister to Miss Singhsix, who was a Graded stakes winner for Team Valor before being sold in November in foal to More Than Ready for \$485,000. Bred and owned by Dave Munro of Highfield Stock Farm of Canada and Barry Irwin of Team Valor International. this filly is small, but Todd Quast of Gold Mark Farm in Florida says she does everything well so far in her initial stages of breaking and training. The English-bred filly only arrived last month from Great Britain.

THREE HEARTS, the yearling half-sister to Pluck by leading freshman sire Hat Trick, is already galloping at Gold Mark Farm, where trainer Todd Quast said "I am extremely ecstatic about her right now. She moves like a dream and is doing everything right. She is very easy on herself. Barry (Irwin) has asked me if I thought she would do better in Europe, and I will answer that question in due course, but right now I see no reason why she wouldn't cut it at a high level right here in the United States."

HARMONIA (right), the Elusive Quality yearling filly out of Champion race filly Possibly Perfect, is doing well for Todd Quast at Gold Mark Farm in Florida, where she is jogging. "So far so good," said Quast. "She is a very pretty filly and has a good attitude so far."



POLLS UPON POLLS. If you have not done so already and are game for another round of not one but two more surveys, the *Blood-Horse* and *Thoroughbred Times* have rival elections on their websites. Animal Kingdom is listed as a candidate for the *Blood-Horse*'s most intriguing horse [here](#), and Barry Irwin is among those in the running for most intriguing people [here](#). In the *Thoroughbred Times* "Best of 2011," Animal Kingdom is a candidate in three categories including best horse and best 3-year-old, Graham Motion is up for best trainer, and Team Valor is among the choices for best owner. Participate [here](#).

ELUSIVE BEAT breezed three-eighths this week at Gold Mark Farm in Florida for trainer Todd Quast, who said of the rehab horse "His front ankles, especially the troublesome left one, go up on day and down the next, but this is exactly what Dr. Doug Herthel told me would happen, so I am not worried. At some point I might want to inject both of them. He doesn't need that right now. I have gone slowly with him because he is fragile, but so far so good. I jogged him, then I galloped him for an extended period of time, then I 2-minute licked him, breezed him a quarter and then the three-eighths. Interestingly enough, in his slower paces he is not much to look at in terms of movement, but when I breezed him both time, he moved much better than when he galloped. I think he is going to make it back to the races." Based on the current progress of the horse, he could be back to the races in January at Gulfstream Park.



WENT THE DAY WELL is now jogging at Palm Meadows.

ALEXANDRA ROSE, after multiple visits to leading Australian sire Redoute's Choice, has been confirmed as pregnant in a routine 15-day scan. She will be checked again in about a week.

VISIONARIA (right) is being turned out in a field at Fenwick Farm near Rembert, South Carolina and will return to training next month.

FLAMING DAME was "in for the air" when racing against Ebony Flyer in an effort that was designed to just get her around the track prior to her first serious race for Justin Snaith.

SYNCOPATE has been completely backed off of in terms of training due to a problematic splint bone that continues to nag her. Ormond Ferraris rarely uses a vet, so you know it is bad. Barry Irwin spoke to the veterinarian and they decided to keep her in the stable, but to turn her out for most of the day. Nothing can be done except to give the filly some time. She has won her last 3 races, but has been unable to get back to the races.

MASTER SHADE has a juvenile full brother that in 3 starts has a win and two seconds in which he lost in photo finishes. His next Italian start comes in a stakes race.





BRIGANTIN is back in his stall in Chantilly, France, where Andre and Elisabeth Fabre are giving him his customary winter break. Barry Irwin has told Fabre that next season the Melbourne Cup is the main goal and to treat him like a horse that is heading in that direction. Barry Irwin said “That whole Breeders’ Cup Marathon was a complete fiasco from the get-go and now the horse will be readied for what he wants to do—run 2 miles in Australia! When I see how easily we handled Americain, the winner of the race last year and a winner of other races this season in Australia before and after the Melbourne Cup, I become emboldened to send our boy down there. In fact,

truth be told, I would like to leave him there, because the competition sucks and the purses are fantastic. I can see campaigning him down there as a 5, 6 and 7 year old.”

RACE GRID

Horse	Date	Track	Trip	Class	Purse
Psaltery	Dec 02	Greyville	8 T	Allowance	\$9,000
Badleroibrown	Dec 03	Gulfstream	8 T	Maiden	\$51,500
Comtesse Dubois	Dec 03	Kenilworth	5 T	Southern Cross-G2	\$25,000
Trondor	Dec 09	Laurel	8.5	Claiming	\$12,000
Agra	Dec 10	Kenilworth	4 T	Maiden	\$6,300
Delovely	Dec 10	Tampa	8 T	Maiden	\$20,000
Howe Great	Dec 15	Gulfstream	8.5 T	Allowance	\$53,500
Ebony Flyer	Dec 17	Kenilworth	6 T	Diadem S.-G2	\$36,000
Lucky Chappy	Dec 17	Hollywood	8.5 AW	CashCall Futurity-G1	\$750,000
State of Play	Dec 18	Gulfstream	8 T	Dania Beach S.-L	\$100,000
*Changingoftheguard	Jan 07	Kenilworth	9 T	Politician S.-L	\$15,000
Ebony Flyer	Jan 07	Kenilworth	8 T	Queen's Plate-G1	\$200,000
*Changingoftheguard	Jan 28	Kenilworth	10 T	Investec Derby-G1	\$75,000
Agra	Jan 28	Kenilworth	5 T	Summer Juvenile-L	\$15,000
*Ebony Flyer	Jan 28	Kenilworth	8 T	Majorca S.-G1	\$60,000
Animal Kingdom	Mar 31	Meydan	10 AW	World Cup-G1	\$10,000,000

PERFORMANCE GRIDS FOR UNITED STATES, SOUTH AFRICA AND EUROPE

Top Ragozins & Beyers			
Runner	Desc	Best Ragozin	Best Beyer
Animal Kingdom	2008 c	3.25	103
Meistersinger	2008 c	4.25	94
Minute Limit	2006 f	4.25	95
Evasive Beat	2006 c	4.25	94
Toboggan Slide	2007 c	5	94
Summer Soiree	2008 f	5.25	99
Valiant Passion	2008 f	6.25	88
Crimson China	2008 c	7.5	88
Humadea	2008 f	7.75	83
Hasay	2007 f	7.75	88
Lucky Chappy	2009 c	8.25	88
Pluck	2008 c	8.25	86
Master Shade	2008 f	11.75	82
Badleroibrown	2008 c	12.75	66
State of Play	2009 c	13.75	80
Lord Tarzan	2009 c	14.5	n/a
M'Dearest	2009 f	16	66
Howe Great	2009 c	17	67

Top Timeform & Racing Post Ratings			
Runner	Desc	Timeform	RPR
Animal Kingdom	2008 c	125	126
Brigantin	2007 c	118	114
Summer Soiree	2008 f	117	114
Pluck	2008 c	114	113
Lucky Chappy	2009 c	109	n/a
Lelaps	2009 c	87	n/a
Went The Day Well	2009 c	86	n/a

Top South African Merit Ratings			
Runner	Desc	Best	Current
Ebony Flyer	2007 f	107	107
Changingo fheguard	2008 c	94	94
Comtesse Dubois	2008 f	94	94
Psaltery	2008 f	91	91
Flaming Dame	2007 f	91	91
Syncopate	2007 f	88	88
AutumnMist	2008 f	82	82