

December 3, 2013

JUVENILE COLT ORANGE GROVE (GB) SYNDICATED IN LESS THAN 2 HOURS SEVEN-LENGTH ALL WEATHER ENGLISH MAIDEN WINNER HEADED TO U. S. BIG CHESTNUT HAS SIMILARITIES TO GRADE 1 SCORER GITANO HERNANDO

Orange Grove, a tall chestnut that reminds Team Valor of its Grade 1 Santa Anita hero Gitano Hernando, was sold out in less than 2 hours yesterday afternoon when offered by the stable.

A robust son of French Derby winner Hernando, Orange Grove like another son of Hernando, broke his maiden on November 15 at Wolverhampton on the all weather surface like a colt with a future. The other Hernando son to win on the exact same day, albeit it 5 years earlier, was \$2 million earner Gitano Hernando.



Orange Grove reminds Team Valor International a lot of Gitano Hernando. The new colt seems to be a bit speedier than his stamina infused predecessor.

Orange Grove won by 7 lengths going 7 furlongs and Gitano Hernando won by 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ lengths going 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ furlongs.

Barry Irwin said “They are very similar, in that both horses began their career with exciting maiden wins that promise a lot in the future.”

Gitano Hernando missed much of his early season at 3, but more than made amends with a victory at Santa Anita in the Grade 1 Goodwood Stakes. He was later sold by Team Valor for \$3 million and was eventually retired to stud as a double Grade 1 winner.

Orange Grove will be flown next month to Palm Meadows, where young Englishman Toby Coles will train him out of the Team Valor barn and prepare him for an assault on the Grade 1, \$750,000 Blue Grass Stakes in April at Keeneland. He is expected to prep at Gulfstream Park in the Grade 3 Palm Beach Stakes. If he performs well enough, he will be tried on the dirt with an eye on the Triple Crown.

“Right now we are not looking at him as anything but a talented colt with a lot of potential,” Irwin said. “But if he performs well and gets past the Blue Grass in the right way, we will certainly give him his chance to show what he can do on a dirt track.

“My own vision of this colt is that he turns out to be good enough and develops into one that we can run in the World Cup in Dubai in the coming years. He has a high cruising speed, yet he can pick it up at the end, which is exactly what one needs at Meydan, as we found out just this season.