ON HER TOES RETIRED FROM RACING IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, GRADE 1 WINNER AT 2 AND GRADE 2 GUINEAS WINNER AT 3 WON 5 OUTINGS, WESTERN WINTER MARE WILL BE COVERED BY CAPTAIN AL THIS SEASON



On Her Toes, dead-heat winner at 2 of the Grade 1 Allan Robertson Fillies Championship at the Scottsville race course in South Africa, has been retired from racing. She raced for the partnership of Team Valor International and Anant and Vanshree Singh.



On Her Toes was a particularly consistent performer and for a time was practically unbeatable in KwaZulu Natal, where she scored in the Grade 1 Fillies Guineas. The Grade 1 winner earned a top Merit Rating of 104. The well-made chestnut mare has been booked for the season to leading stakes sire Captain Al who stands at Klawervlei.

The Western Winter mare retires as the winner of 5 of 14 outings, with 1 second and 1 third. She was a top juvenile, winning the Allan Robertson coming down the hill at Scottsville. She was equally adept at 3, winning the Grade 2 KZN Guineas in Durban.

An extremely consistent performer, she placed at 2 in the Grade 2 Fillies Guineas at Turffontein and at 3 in the Grade 3 Three Troikas Stakes at The Big T. She raced well in the Grade 1 Garden Province, finishing a close-up fourth beaten a length.

Barry Irwin, who bought her at the National Yearling Sale from the Highlands Stud draft, said "She was a standout on looks as a yearling and developed nicely for trainer Mike Azzie. Although she raced well in Gauteng, she had a particular fondness for KwaZulu Natal and was very difficult to peg back there.

"Unfortunately, she injured two joints and had to undergo surgery. I probably should have retired her, but she started to act like she could race again. In retrospect, I think she was just such a classy mare that she was able to cope better with her ailments than ordinary athletes.

"She raced 4 times this season and only featured once when finishing strongly for fifth beaten about 3 lengths in the Grade 1 Majorca Stakes for Neil Bruss."

On Her Toes has been sent to the Klipdrif Stud of Benny Marais and will be bred in 2011 to Captain Al, a cross that has worked out splendidly for another Team Valor runner in the unbeaten stakes winner Sting Operation, a Listed winner in her 3 starts this year and last for TVI and Markus Jooste.

Eventually, the mare will join most of Team Valor's other broodmares at Summerhill Stud and produce yearlings for the market. Team Valor maintains a select band of mares that includes the likes of the dams of Grade 1 winners Ebony Flyer, Captain's Lover and Cataloochee, as well as the top racemares She's on Fire and Joshua's Princess.