

February 18, 2011

## **PLUCK ON SONG FOR 3-YEAR-OLD DEBUT ON KEENELAND'S OPENING DAY, BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE TURF HERO IS TRAINING WELL IN SO FLORIDA, IRISH OR FRENCH TWO THOUSAND GUINEAS IS HIS 2011 SEASONAL GOAL**



*Pluck (bay) breezing this morning at Palm Meadows in company with Animal Kingdom*

Pluck has been training well this winter at Palm Meadows for trainer Graham Motion and is on schedule for his major prep in advance of a trip to Ireland or France for the Irish Two Thousand Guineas at The Curragh or the French counterpart at Longchamp. Both races are contested over a mile on grass in May and as the races near, Team Valor will make a decision as to which of the Classics the homebred son of More Than Ready will contest. His major prep will be the Grade 3 Transylvania on Keeneland's opening day on April 8 in Lexington.

Pluck was transferred from trainer Todd Pletcher to Graham Motion following his dramatic victory last season in the \$1-million Breeders' Cup race going a mile at Churchill Downs. Team Valor decided to buy a training barn at Fair Hill in Maryland and transfer all of its American-based horses and some of its foreign-based racehorses to Motion.

After being let down at Fair Hill for 6 weeks, Pluck was vanned from Maryland to Florida, where he has been breezing once a week at Palm Meadows, usually in the company of Animal Kingdom, another Team Valor International homebred that is preparing for racing at Keeneland, where he won a maiden race on Polytrack second time out, after having finished second to Wilcox Inn in his debut. Animal Kingdom is being prepared to contest the Grade 1 Blue Grass Stakes in Lexington.

This morning the pair turned in their usual sparkling effort, going off slowly and gradually picking up the tempo to come home very fast. Final time of 1:03.90 was one of the slower works of the day, but the manner in which both colts finished up put a smile on Motion's face.

"Super work," he said. "Both of these colts are in fine form right now and it was just what I wanted."

Pluck this week was made eligible to both the Irish and French Guineas.

Barry Irwin, CEO of Team Valor International, said "We will keep an eye on both races and make a decision when it gets closer to the day. The French race is usually easier to win and is generally run with some give in the ground, which suits our boy. We will be keeping a close eye on what Frankel does and where he goes. That will figure mightily into our final decision."