

**ANIMAL KINGDOM STARS IN A WHITE HOT HOLIDAY WEEKEND FOR TEAM VALOR
BARRY IRWIN'S STABLE SCORES 4 WINS IN 6 RACES, NIPPED AT THE WIRE IN A GRADE 3
ROSTER AROUND THE WORLD HAS KICKED OFF 2012 WITH A 30 PERCENT STRIKE RATE**

In a late January wave, Team Valor bunched together 6 wins in 7 days. Barry Irwin's international racing stable was right back at it over President's Day weekend, as reigning Kentucky Derby winner Animal Kingdom led a charge of 4 victories in 6 starts for the Team Valor roster, which has burst out of the gate with a 30 percent win clip over the first 7 weeks of 2012.



The combination of Team Valor, trainer Graham Motion and jockey John Velazquez was 3-for-3 over the weekend. (Megan Jones/Team Valor photo)

Animal Kingdom had the attention of the racing world—drawing headlines in the U.S., Canada, England, Japan and the United Arab Emirates—but he was not alone in bringing Irwin and his partners to the winner's circle at Gulfstream Park. Badlerobrown, from the same home-bred crop and sire as Animal Kingdom, emphatically nailed down his first win earlier in the card on Saturday, and M'Dearest broke her maiden on Monday.

Team Valor started off the big weekend with an allowance victory by Flaming Dame in South Africa on Friday.

Although Irwin and his team are far from greedy, they have to be aware that only a few twists and turns prevented a perfect weekend, as both Lucky Chappy and Thursby were unlucky to not win their races.

Lucky Chappy, in particular, ran far too well to lose after dueling through the stretch in the Grade 3 El Camino Real Derby and finishing second by a nostril.

For the year, Team Valor has already racked up 10 wins from 33 starts (30.3 percent) and \$346,343 across the world.

The U.S. roster has contributed 5 wins from 19 starts and \$246,935 in earnings, with a trio of graded stakes runners—Table Three Ten in the Grade 3 Rachel Alexandra Stakes, Hasay in the Grade 3 The Very One Stakes and Crimson China in the Grade 2 Mac Diarmida Stakes—lined up for this weekend.