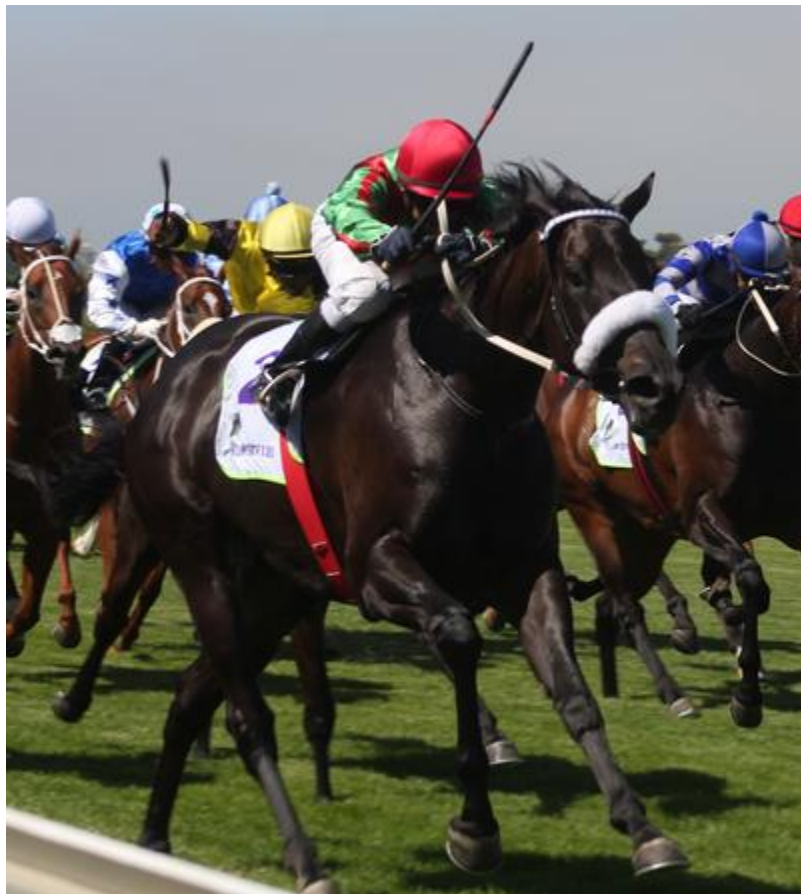


EBONY FLYER BACK IN GRADE 1-WINNING FORM TAKING THE MAJORCA AMAZON 4-Y-O FILLY POWERS TO 1 ¾-LENGTH VICTORY OVER ONE MILE CHANGE IN TRAINING TACTICS CREDITED WITH TURNING BIG FILLY AROUND



Felix Coetzee drives Ebony Flyer to Grade 1 Majorca Stakes score.

Team Valor International's gigantic 4-year-old filly Ebony Flyer erased the memory of her first poor effort last time out in the Grade 1 Queen's Plate by powering to an ultra-impressive victory today in the Grade 1 Majorca Stakes going a mile at Kenilworth race course in Cape Town, South Africa.

Owners Team Valor International, Anant and Vanashree Singh, and Gaynor Rupert—whose family-owned L'Omarins winery sponsored the Queen's Plate—were bitterly disappointed with the black filly's race in the Queen's Plate, when she failed to muster a challenge for the first time in her 9-race career. She was unplaced while turning in a non-effort.

Barry Irwin conferred with leading Cape Town trainer Justin Snaith and veteran international jockey Felix Coetzee. After receiving their input and analyzing the race, Irwin came to the conclusion that the filly was "flat" on the day and may have been asked to do too much between races.

"I didn't blame anybody, because there was nobody to blame," Irwin said. "Justin has the extremely difficult task of rendering dead fit a filly that carries a massive amount of condition on a frame that stands more than 17 hands 1 inch.

"It is quite understandable that he wanted to get her as fit and trim as possible for the Queen's Plate, because a win in that race meant a lot to the connections. But in doing this, the filly lost her bounce."

Snaith put the filly on a course of action—or in this case non-action—to get her as fresh as possible for the Majorca Stakes. Snaith personally drove Ebony Flyer in his van down to the beach several times and rode her himself through the sand and surf. Save a short blow out from the gate a couple of days before the race, Ebony Flyer basically walked, jogged, roamed a grass paddock and took it easy for 3 weeks between races.

The Grade 1 Majorca Stakes is the counterpart of the Grade 1 Garden Province run on the Durban July card at Greyville and stands as one of the two most important mile races devoted to fillies and mares over a mile on the South African calendar.

Ebony Flyer was positioned beautifully by Coetzee from his wide draw and placed her about fourth, in the clear, two horse paths off the race, for most of the race. The pace was fast and Ebony Flyer seemed to be just galloping to hold her position about 4 lengths off the pace at the most crucial stages in the stretch.

The Jet Master filly was just about 2 lengths in arrears when Coetzee called upon Ebony Flyer for her run inside the final furlong and she responded like a Champion, driving along the outside rail with a powerful late burst to wrest command and gradually draw away to win by nearly 2 lengths.

Irwin said "This was huge. Everybody knows that we operated on this filly's wind. What they don't know is that if she flopped again today, we were going to retire her to stud. Now she has shown us all that she still has what it takes to win the big ones and we look forward to winning the Grade 1 Garden Province Stakes with her. I am happy for my partners, Gaynor Rupert and The Singhs. And I am really thrilled that New Yorkers Dr. Alan Miller and Steve Karlin were able to attend the race and help lead her in. Fabulous day!"

Ebony Flyer from 10 starts now has 7 wins, 2 places and 1 unplaced and she now has won a pair of Grade 1 races, including the Classic Cape Fillies Guineas Stakes.



Dr. Alan Miller and Steve Karlin of New York (left) join other partners Anant Singh, Mr. Gaynor Rupert and Mrs. Vanashree Singh in leading in Grade 1 Majorca Stakes winner Ebony Flyer today at Kenilworth race course in Cape Town, So Africa.

The victory by Ebony Flyer was the fourth stakes race won by Team Valor International in January of 2012 and was the fifth win in the last 7 starts for the stable this month. Team Valor International is the North American is perennial leading owner of stakes winners among public syndicate stables.