

## TEAM VALOR STEPS UP TO SPONSOR RUSHAWAY STAKES AT TURFWAY SUPPORT ALLOWS KENTUCKY TRACK TO CONTINUE TRIPLE CROWN PREP STABLE SWEEP LAST TWO EDITIONS OF SPIRAL STAKES ON THE SAME CARD

Team Valor International, riding back-to-back wins in Spiral Stakes on the road to the Kentucky Derby, has joined forces with Turfway Park to restore the Rushaway Stakes to the Spiral undercard on March 23, sponsoring the \$75,000 event that stable CEO Barry Irwin sees as a valuable conditioner for the Triple Crown.

The sponsorship will go directly to the purse for the 1 1/16-mile Rushaway, which was not on Turfway's original stakes schedule for 2013. Team Valor captured the Rushaway in 1995 with Key Guy and finished second in 2011 with Crimson China. The stable has a pair of 3-year-old prospects this year in Cerro and Crop Report.



*Went the Day Well followed Animal Kingdom's hoofprints for back-to-back Spiral wins at Turfway Park last March. Team Valor also scored in Turfway's 2012 John Battaglia Stakes with State of Play.*

"We didn't want to see the Rushaway disappear so we stepped up," Irwin said. "It is nice to be able to support Turfway Park, which has been vital to our Triple Crown success over the last two racing seasons. Team Valor International races all over the world, but we are based in Kentucky and we want to do anything we can to bolster the local sport. It is no secret that Turfway has struggled and we wanted to do our part to pitch in."

Animal Kingdom and Went the Day Well both used the Spiral on Turfway's Polytrack surface as a springboard to the Kentucky Derby for Team Valor and trainer Graham Motion. Animal Kingdom captured the 2011 Spiral in his stakes debut. Six weeks later, he became the first horse to score in the Derby in his first start on dirt. Last year, Went the Day Well won the Spiral and nearly pulled off a historic double in the Derby, finishing a troubled fourth.

"We very much appreciate that Team Valor elected to partner with Turfway to maintain the Rushaway Stakes on our Spiral Stakes card", said Turfway general manager Chip Bach. "Team Valor's on-track and winner's circle contribution to Spiral Stakes day is well known, and their decision to bring their professional expertise to the day as a partner for the Rushaway Stakes is a wonderful opportunity for Turfway and for Kentucky racing."



Written for 3-year-olds, the Rushaway Stakes has been run continually since its establishment in 1986. The race is named for the winner of the 1936 Latonia Derby at the original Latonia Race Course, which offered racing in Northern Kentucky from 1883 to 1939 and was the inspiration for the opening of Turfway in 1959.

*Barry Irwin collected a familiar Spiral trophy alongside John Velazquez last year.*