

January 1, 2013

TUTTIPAESI STRIKES AS FIRST AMERICAN RUNNER FOR VALOR LADIES FILLY GLIDES TO CLEAR WIN IN GINGER BREW STAKES AT GULFSTREAM ITALIAN IMPORT IS SPOT-ON IN FIRST START WITH GRAHAM MOTION FEMALE PARTNERSHIP HAS 26 MEMBERS, BENEFITS KOMEN FOR THE CURE

Tuttipaesi carried the Valor Ladies colors straight into the Gulfstream Park winner's circle in a big splash for the filly and for the new female-focused partnership, appropriately enough on New Year's Day.



Tuttipaesi had been training up a storm in South Florida and she ran like it in the Ginger Brew Stakes, thundering through the stretch under a hand ride from Alan Garcia.

A product of Ireland who made stops in Italy and England in her young career, Tuttipaesi introduced herself to American racing as a potential star in the making with a breathtaking performance in the \$75,000 Ginger Brew Stakes for freshly minted 3-year-old fillies.

Tuttipaesi, whose name appropriately enough is Italian for "every country," rocketed through the stretch in impressive fashion, scoring by 2 lengths with what appeared to be plenty left to offer in her first start since September 14.

The steel grey filly delivered a sweet reward for the all-female group who stepped up to the plate with general partner Megan

Jones to launch Valor Ladies last summer. Jones, the Director of Client Relations for Team Valor International, envisioned Valor Ladies as a unique and fun way to bring woman together in a racing venture and contribute to a worthy cause, as 25 percent of the partnership's net operating profits will be donated to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure charity

Barry Irwin, Team Valor's founder and CEO, embraced the concept and searched long and hard for the right filly to get Jones and her vision started. He settled on Tuttipaesi, who was the highest-rated 2-year-old in Italy at the time after winning 3 of her first 4 starts, including a pair of stakes.

The initial goal was for Tuttipaesi to run straight off the plane from Europe in the Grade 1 Alcibiades Stakes at Keeneland in early October, but that plan went awry, starting with a prep race in Doncaster, England. Tuttipaesi had an emotional meltdown and finished down the course in the tough Group 2. She proceeded on the trip to the U.S. 3 weeks later but arrived in quarantine highly agitated and with early signs of colic. She was treated successfully for the painful stomach condition without surgery but Megan Jones and Graham Motion decided to give her body and mind a break.

Motion has worked wonders with several high-strung fillies for Team Valor, including Summer Soiree and Daveron, and one of his key assets is the calming environment at Fair Hill Training Center, his base in Elkton, Maryland. Tuttipaesi did very little in her first weeks with Motion besides jogging through Fair Hill's lush back fields. In early November, Tuttipaesi was one of the first horses to ship into Palm Meadows Training Center in South Florida for the winter, and by the time the facility swelled to its peak horse population, she had already settled into a comfortable training routine.

As Tuttipaesi picked up weight on her slight frame, she delivered a series of impressive workouts that put the 1 1/16-mile Ginger Brew on Motion's radar for her U.S. debut. He put together a plan for her mental comfort that included placing cotton in her ears in a few training sessions and for the race. Motion also shipped Tutti over to Gulfstream for a schooling session last weekend. She was purposely not walked in the paddock before the race—she stayed behind in the saddling enclosure and joined the other horses as they passed through the tunnel.

The extra steps worked, as Tuttipaesi stayed composed heading to the gate, never turning a hair or displaying any sweat.

Jockey Alan Garcia said before getting a leg up that Tuttipaesi looked just like Lucky Chappy, another Italian import who finished third in the Grade 1 Hollywood Derby for Team Valor in November. Garcia rode Lucky Chappy 4 times in 2012, and he had a point—both Tuttipaesi and Lucky Chappy are small, slight of build and grey. The filly also echoed Lucky Chappy in the race, unleashing a serious turn of foot with her ears pinned back.



Tuttipaesi is another poster child for the calming influence of Fair Hill Training Center. She trained in a quiet back field most of the month of October after a colic bout.

Tuttipaesi went against the grain of the Gulfstream course, which played to speed earlier in the day, as it often does. Garcia's instructions were to let the filly find her own rhythm and not to force her into anything. It worked out perfectly. The daughter of Clodovil broke tardily and settled into tenth place, about 7 lengths off the pace, through the first half-mile. She advanced a bit along the backstretch but was still 3 ½ lengths back curving for home, where she encountered traffic momentarily.

When Garcia cued Tuttipaesi to switch leads from two paths wide, she took off with a decisive burst, rumbling to the front in about 10 strides. She cruised home under a hand ride and galloped out well ahead of the rest of the field, which included 3 recent stakes winners.

Tuttipaesi was obviously proud of herself as she joined an excited group of admirers in the winner's circle. Valor Ladies syndicated Tuttipaesi within a week in July among 26 women. A few of them were existing Team Valor partners, some were the wives of partners and others were entirely new clients. Peg Furey joined the group at 96 years young and watched the Ginger Brew on TwinSpires.com. Mrs. Furey, an ace handicapper who has attended 56 consecutive years of racing at Saratoga, is the mother of long-time Team Valor partner Tom Furey.

They all have a lot to look forward to with Tuttipaesi, who will be considered for the Grade 3 Florida Oaks on February 2 at Tampa Bay Downs, depending on how she bounces out of her big New Year's Day debut.

Links

[Thoroughbred Daily News](#)

[Gulfstream Park website](#)

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Wednesday's TDN newsletter:

AROUND THE WORLD

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2013



in sharper focus.

Tuttipaesi Scores First Win for Valor Ladies

When Tuttipaesi sailed home first in Tuesday's Ginger Brew S., it marked the maiden victory for the fledgling Valor Ladies syndicate. The syndicate, made up entirely of female partners, was the brainchild of Team Valor's Director of Client Relations Megan Jones.



Megan Jones

"I just thought, whether it was women partners or the wives and daughters or partners, the girls were having a lot of fun racing," explained Jones yesterday. "I just thought it was something different that would be fun and would bring positive publicity to the sport and would bring new people in. And we could always use that."

The syndicate got started last summer when Team Valor CEO Barry Irwin purchased Tuttipaesi privately and the new initiative proved instantly popular.

"She sold out in the first week and the partners have been really great and really supportive," Jones said. "She has 26 partners and 10 are totally new partners to us. Of the other 16, probably 10 are women partners that were with Team Valor and then maybe six that are daughters or wives of partners."

As an added bonus, 25% of Tuttipaesi's net profits during her racing career will be donated by the partnership to the Susan G. Komen For the Cure breast cancer research foundation.

"I think breast cancer is something that affects all women, in fact a lot of times it transcends gender, because everyone knows someone who has fought breast cancer," Jones said. "That meant a lot to me and I thought it was certainly something that would mean a lot to all women. I thought it was the right call."

Tuttipaesi was purchased in Italy and shipped to England, but things didn't immediately go to plan.

"She was in Italy and she went to England first to Marco Botti and he was preparing her to run at Keeneland," Jones said. "But she didn't handle the ship very well, so we decided to just take our time and be patient with her. The partners were all so supportive and so wonderful and so on board with everything we were doing and [trainer] Graham [Motion] did an amazing job with her. He has done a great job teaching her to relax and building her confidence."

The results proved worth the wait as the filly drew away to an impressive win Tuesday, setting off a major celebration.

"She had four partners there today, plus myself," Jones commented. "They were screaming and jumping up and down. They were so excited. They were really great."

As for what is next for Tuttipaesi, Jones said, "We will see how she comes out of this race and talk to Graham, but I would say a logical step could be something like looking at Tampa and the [Feb. 2 GIII] Florida Oaks."

Tuttipaesi is the only horse in the Valor Ladies partnership at the moment, but Jones expects additional horses to be available in the future.

-Jessica Martini

A # will distinguish first-time stakes-winners, a @ will indicate first-time graded stakes-winners, a ▲ will denote a first-time Grade/Group 1 winner, a + will indicate first-time starters, an (S) will be used for state-bred races, a (C) will be used for maiden-claiming races and an (R) will be used for other restricted races.



Valor Ladies in the winner's circle
A Coglianese