

July 4, 2011

DAVERON EXPLODES TO WIN \$200,000 DR. JAMES PENNY MEMORIAL STAKES GERMAN MARE RUNS WITHIN FOUR-HUNDREDTHS OF 17YO COURSE MARK BARRY IRWIN YEARLING BUY HITTING HER BEST STRIDE AS 6-YEAR-OLD

Daveron ran what Barry Irwin referred to as the “first fully realized race of her career” when she split rivals entering the stretch at Parx Racing, exploded once she changed leads in the lane and roared to a 2 ¼-length victory in the \$200,000 Dr. James Penny Memorial Stakes.



In ringing the bell in Philadelphia on Fourth of July to glean \$120,000, the German import increased her career earnings by about 50 percent in one fell swoop and confirmed her improvement under Graham Motion at Fair Hill, as it followed a neck score in her only other 2011 start in the Grade 3 Beaugay Stakes at Belmont Park on Kentucky Derby day.

Since being transferred to Fair Hill and Motion, Daveron has run 5 times for 3 wins and 2 seconds. The mare now sports a career record in 15 starts of 6 wins, 3 seconds and a third for earnings of more than \$337,000.

“Today she finally put it all together,” said Irwin, who was on hand with fellow partners Chip Bradley of New York and Mike Cavanagh of Colorado. “For the first time in her career, she did not fight her rider during the early stages of the race. She was tractable. Never thought I’d ever see it!”

Eddie Castro rode the mare for the fourth time and he won on her for the third time. His only non-winning effort aboard the chestnut came when he was second in the Grade 3 Long Island Handicap last year going a mile and a half. The 27-year-old Panamanian-born rider has a special relationship with Daveron and he outdid himself in the Penny.



Daveron had to spend a lot of time standing in the gate—perhaps as long as 3 or 4 minutes—as the “other” Motion, actually named Check the Label and not “The Other Motion” to the surprise of some horseplayers on hand, threw a fit and would not load.

When the gates sprung open, Daveron broke smartly, but unlike in her other races, she did not try to run off because she had a lot of daylight in front of her and this time was amenable to a rating ride.

Castro saved every bit of ground, riding the rails throughout. In the middle of the far turn, it was obvious that Castro still had a lot of horse. It was good to race boxed in under cover, as it helped to relax the mare, but as the field was ready to slingshot into the lane, no openings were apparent.

Just before the quarter pole, Castro sensed that Desert Sage was starting to drift a bit while pressing the pace of Trix in the City and Castro jacked up his mount before room actually materialized. When Daveron reached a point where a hole needed to open, it did and, try as he might, Jose Lezcano could not hold his ground aboard favored Desert Sage and keep Daveron pinned in.

Once Daveron extricated herself from the box, saw daylight and sensed her freedom on this national day of Independence, she exploded and rocketed into a lead of some 4 lengths. Castro allowed the mare to finish on her own, as Gitchee Goomie was ridden hard to finish second and cut Daveron’s lead in half in the final 70 yards. Gitchee Goomie had been second to Daveron in the Grade 3 Beaugay Stakes at Belmont in May.

Barry Irwin bought Daveron as a yearling in Germany and it was partially because he liked her so much that he subsequently bought her close relative Dalicia, whose first foal is Kentucky Derby winner Animal Kingdom.



“We don’t have any plans yet,” Irwin said. “She likes to have plenty of time between races. Graham has done a superb job with her and this mare is a brilliant advertisement for exactly why we put together a group to buy a barn at Fair Hill and move our horses there. Two of our barn investors also own an interest in Daveron, who must be worth a pretty penny right about now.”

Daveron ran a 92 Beyer figure (best since the 94 she got in her U. S. debut) and came within four one-hundredths of a second of the course record set way back in 1994.