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MISS SINGHSIX BECOMES GRADED STAKES WINNER IN \$150,000 OBEAH S., IRISH-BRED GIVES TEAM VALOR ITS THIRD SUCCESSIVE WIN IN STAKES, VALOR LEADS ALL NORTH AMERICAN SYNDICATES WITH 5 STAKES WINS



Miss Singhsix wins the Obeah Stakes to give Team Valor its third such victory in succession.

“I cannot remember the last horse to carry our colors that put in a run like she did around the far turn,” marveled Barry Irwin. “I was sick to my stomach when she bobbed at the break and my mood didn’t change a whole lot when she was 8 lengths back in last place at the half-mile pole. But that move she put in took my breath away. It was pure exhilaration.”

Miss Singhsix built up such a head of steam around the turn, she floated herself about 5 or 6 wide coming off the bend. But she was motoring so fast she did not lose a lot of momentum. The liver chestnut looked to be in with a chance once she was straightened out for the stretch drive, but when the jockey began to whip her, she pinned her ears and started to hang. When the rider put the stick away and went back to hand riding the mare, she dug in again to reach the winner and eventually pass her a couple of strides in front of the wire.

The Irish-bred mare, bought privately by her owners while she was racing in the United Kingdom, won by a neck over Morena, the 7 to 2 second choice. First prize of \$90,000 swelled the mare’s career earnings to \$317,138 with her fifth win and second stakes victory from 19 career outings. Earlier this season, Miss Singhsix was shipped from Florida to Laurel Park, where she easily won the Maryland Racing Media Stakes.

Miss Singhsix became a Graded stakes winner for the first time when she was able to overcome a stumble at the break and justify favoritism by scoring a hard-fought neck victory in the \$150,000 Obeah Stakes at Delaware Park.

Sent off as the 5 to 2 public choice in spite of an absurd morning line of 8 to 1, the 5-year-old mare ran the race of her life for the Calder-based wizard Marty Wolfson.



Jockey Jose Valdivia is mining a rich vein with the Team Valor outfit, as he was winning his second consecutive Grade 3 with a foreign-bred mare in the last 2 weeks, as weekend before last he was victorious at Monmouth Park with Gypsy's Warning (right, Valdivia up) in the Grade 3, \$150,000 Eatontown Handicap.

"When I asked her (Miss Singhsix), she really came on and I thought I was going to blow by Morena, but she really put up a great fight," said winning jockey Jose Valdivia. "With my mare, I saved ground until about the middle of the turn and then I took to her out. We had to lose a little bit of ground, but she was really running on.

"It was a dogfight for the last eighth of a mile. She is a really nice mare and she showed she can run against some tough quality horses. She handled this track well today and I think this race will set her up perfect for the Delaware Handicap.

"The Obeah has now been won the last 3 years in a row by a Team Valor mare, as Unbridled Belle won the last 2 renewals. She went on to win the \$1-million Delaware Handicap. Miss Singhsix has that same 10-furlong race on her schedule, unless either Zenyatta or Rachel Alexandra show up.

"At a mile and a quarter, she will be in her element," insists trainer Wolfson, who inherited the mare from a California trainer and completely turned her around. "She wants a true test of stamina. She is just getting warmed up at anything short of a mile and a quarter."

Team Valor will be looking at the Grade 1 Personal Ensign late in the meeting at Saratoga during the summer as another likely spot to exploit the full limits of her stamina.

In taking the Obeah, Team Valor International was winning stakes number 5 and Graded stakes number 2. Its 5 stakes wins tops all North American public syndicates in number of stakes victories for the current season and its 2 Graded stakes wins is tied for first.

In winning the Delaware added-money fixture, Miss Singhsix provided Team Valor with win number 26 for the season and improved the stable's gleanings for the year to \$1,052,182.

The win proved to be a bonanza for Barry Irwin of Team Valor and Dave Munro of Highfield Stock Farm, who acquired the dam of the winner a few seasons ago. She was bred just recently in England to Epsom Derby hero Authorized and has a yearling filly by Halling and a suckling full sister to Miss Singhsix by Singspiel.

Team Valor has always had in mind offering the Halling yearling for syndication and now that Miss Singhsix has become a Graded stakes winner, Barry Irwin will no doubt now move ahead with these plans.

