

OLEKSANDRA UP IN TIME UNDER ROSARIO TO WIN BELMONT ALLOWANCE DRYSDALE'S MOVE EAST PAYS DIVIDENDS IN WINNING \$85,000 GRASS DASH AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL KINGDOM HOME-BRED IS BIG LAST-TO-FIRST WINNER



The stars were in alignment today at Belmont Park for Team Valor International and partners, as when its Australian home-bred Animal Kingdom mare Oleksandra came from last to first to win an exciting race, the excitement was only just beginning, as joining the lone Oleksandra partner Steve Karlin of Long Island in the winners' enclosure at Belmont Park today were 32 retired New York high school principals on hand for a day at the races as arranged long-time TVI partner Rich Morrel.

In a field reduced to only 5 runners, Joel Rosario broke from the rail and allowed his extra tall filly a chance to settle, but she wound up racing closer to the pace than Neil Drysdale wanted. However, the early splits of about :23 and :46 left the Dominican-born jock with no choice.

When he brought her into the stretch, he chose the best path, turned her loose and wore down the dueling leaders to win by a neck with a 6-furlong clocking of 1:07.80 and a final furlongs in less than 11 seconds. That's smoking fast.

Oleksandra officially won by a neck and earned \$46,750 bringing her earnings in the U.S. to about \$112,000. In 5 U.S. starts, she now has 3 wins.

"We can still improve this mare," Neil Drysdale said. "She is versatile, too. I still think any one-turn race from 6 furlongs to 8 or 8 and a half will work for her." Drysdale trained the mare's South African dam to win the G3 Monrovia H. at Santa Anita for Team Valor, which has the mare in Australia.

