TRIPLE CROWN HOPEFUL WENT THE DAY WELL BREAKS MAIDEN WELL TEAM VALOR HOPES TO WIN PREP TO QUALIFY HIM FOR KENTUCKY DERBY GRAHAM MOTION-TRAINED COLT WINS ON DIRT AT GULFSTREAM PARK ENGLISH IMPORT STRONG ON MAIN TRACK LIKE HE WILL GET 1 1/4 MILES



Went The Day Well ran like the even-money choice he was today at Gulfstream Park, where he broke his maiden second time out on dirt and around two turns for Team Valor International and English resident Mark Ford.

Team Valor's Barry Irwin bought a majority interest from Ford last fall after the colt had finished a big second in his racing debut. The colt followed up with another good second on turf before being sent to the United States.

Went The Day Well warmed up beautifully for Javier Castellano prior to winning maiden.

A quarantine snag found the strapping Proud Citizen colt stuck in a stall for 10 days and upon release, he had lost his muscle tone and conditioning. Trainer Graham Motion was set with a task of getting the bay colt back in peak physical condition, as Team Valor had its sights on the Triple Crown.

"Sounds kind of nutty to be talking Triple Crown with a colt that couldn't break his maiden in two starts in England and had never even so much as jogged on a dirt track," laughed Irwin. "But the physical scope of the colt and his two strong efforts stamped him as a colt to be reckoned with over here."

Went The Day Well experienced a wide trip behind a slow pace in his dirt debut in February, but his numbers were so good enough he was bet down for today's 1 1/16-mile maiden race at Hallandale.

Once again there was no pace on and, although he had the rail and was able to save ground, the colt raced in a box from the beginning of the backstretch to the top of the lane, where Javier Castellano swung him wide for the drive to the wire in the short stretch at Gulfstream Park. Went The Day Well did not change leads until late in the stretch, but he was so full of energy, that when leading rider Castellano (he won 5 races on the card) turned him loose, he cut anyway, caught Nick Zito's best Triple Crown hopeful in Tiz Yankee and pulled away when he changed legs to win by 1 ¼ lengths.

Irwin said "He seemed to be just getting warmed up. Last time he ran a mile and an eighth and he was only getting into gear the final sixteenth of a mile. This sucker really wants a mile and a quarter." Motion and Irwin will put their heads together and come up with a race they think they have the best chance to win and place Went The Day Well where he figures to earn enough to make it into the cast for the 2012 Run for the Roses. The colt may have just one more run, but depending on how well he returns from his maiden win, he might be able to pull off two races, if he needs them.