

LA SARDANE ESCAPES TRAGEDY IN FALL ON SANTA ANITA'S GRASS COURSE FRENCH IMPORT UNABLE TO AVOID BROKEN DOWN HORSE IN GRADE 3 DRYSDALE REPORTS TEAM VALOR MARE MAY HAVE BRUISED A SHOULDER

Multiple Graded stakes winner La Sardane, using today's Grade 3 San Simeon at Santa Anita as a prep for Churchill Downs' Grade 2 Distaff mile on the Kentucky Derby undercard, was unable to avoid falling over a broken-down horse after the field crossed the dirt path.

Bet down to the 5 to 1 second choice behind odds-on Conquest Tsunami, La Sardane raced towards the rear of the field down the hill in the 6½-furlong turf feature and had just commenced a rally as she came off the hill onto the course proper. Arms Runner, which was positioned just in front and to the mare's outside, began to drift dramatically crossing the dirt and eventually fell in front of La Sardane.



La Sardane was unable to avoid a collision, but the big mare athletically rolled after she landed hard on a shoulder. Initially she was walking soundly while cooling out at Neil Drysdale barn. However, as the adrenalin dissipated it became evident that she was walking short on her left front leg. Veterinary examinations discovered that the mare appeared to have what has been diagnosed as a bruised shoulder.

Team Valor International CEO Barry Irwin said "She is reported by Neil to be comfortable in her stall. We will give her a week and do a nuclear bone scan in an effort to ascertain if she requires X-rays."

Irwin added "The first race I ever won at Santa Anita was with a filly sprinting down the hill. That was more than 40 years ago. I cannot tell you how many horses we've raced down that course and how many stakes races we've won on it, but this is the first incident that I ever recall involving one of our horses. I don't blame anybody for what happened today. I am thrilled for our racing partners that the mare escaped with her life intact. At this point, anything further is just a bonus."