

VALOR PULLS AWAY DOWN STRETCH IN PARTNERSHIP STAKES-WIN RACE, VERSAILLES STABLE HAS 9-LENGTH LEAD INTO FINAL 7 WEEKS OF SEASON



Thanks to 3 Graded stakes victories last Saturday, partnerships formed by Team Valor International have won 15 black-type events in 2010, stealing a lead of 9 wins over its two nearest rivals among racing stables that operate public partnerships. Barry Irwin thinks it is entirely possible for the stable to add at least 2 more stakes wins before the end of 2010.

Public Syndicate Groups - Stakes Stats for 2010

	Stakes Wins	Stakes Winners	Graded Stakes wins	Individual Gr Winners
TEAM VALOR INTERNATIONAL	15	12	8	6
STARLIGHT	6	5	4	4
WEST POINT	6	5	1	1
I E A H	5	4	4	3
THREE CHIMNEYS	3	2	2	2
FUNKY MONKEY STABLE	3	2		
THOROUGHbred LEGENDS	2	2	2	2
PEACHTREE	2	2	1	1
WOODFORD RACING	2	2		
FANTASY LANE	2	2		
CLASS	2	1		
TEAM STALLION	1	1	1	1
DOGWOOD	1	1	1	1
VICTORY THOROUGHbreds	1	1		
CENTENNIAL	1	1		
PINNACLE RACING	1	1		
SOVEREIGN				
ELITE RACING				
PEWTER				
SACKATOGA STABLE				
BONGO				
PARTING GLASS				
TEAM VICTORY				
STARVIEW				

The quality of Team Valor's victories have been high, as more than 8 of the 15 wins have come in Graded stakes. Six horses have won Graded races for Team Valor in 2010, including Miss Singhsix, Gypsy's Warning and Pluck in North America; Gitano Hernando in Ireland; Brigantin in France; and Success Counts and Ebony Flyer in South Africa. Other 2010 stakes winners for the stable this season include Daveron at Belmont Park; Fantastico Roberto at Monmouth Park; and Motovato and Causeway's Kin at Calder.



Team Valor raced 3 horses last Saturday, won all 3 and each was Graded. At Churchill Downs in Louisville, Pluck won the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf, which is a Grade 2 race. At Kenilworth in Cape Town, Ebony Flyer won the Odessa Stud Fillies Championship, which is a Grade 2 race. And at Turffontein in Johannesburg, Success Counts won the Starling Stakes, which is a Grade 3 race.

Inquiring minds want to know if Barry Irwin had ever experienced quite as much success in so short a period of time.

"Yes we have," Irwin noted. "Over the years, we've won Graded races in clusters. One of the first big ones came on Memorial Day weekend in 1988, which saw us win the Grade 1 Hollywood Invitational Turf Handicap with Political Ambition (above), the Grade 3 Will Rogers with Word Pirate and the Grade 3 Honeymoon Handicap with Hot Option, the dam of Graded 3 winner Valor Lady (a Team Valor home-bred) and the grandam of Grade 2 winner Sailor's Cap (a home-bred).

"One of our biggest weekends came in 1989 when we won the Bradbury Stakes with Prized, the Santa Anita Handicap with Martial Law and the New Orleans Handicap with Galba. Martial Law paid more than \$103.00 for \$2 and Galba paid more than \$63.00 for \$2.

"In recent years, we won the Grade 1 Empress Club Stakes along with a couple of others the same weekend. But anytime you win 3 big races in one day and one of them is the Breeders' Cup and you win in such spectacular fashion, it is nothing if not special."



Irwin said that when Prized won the Breeders' Cup Turf in 1989 in his first try on the grass, that early in the day two stakes races were won by Mace and Samatha Siegel and people kept congratulating Irwin's partner Jeff Siegel (left), as they thought it was this Siegel that had won those races. After Irwin set the record straight with half a dozen of the well-wishers, Jeff Siegel finally piped up and said "Hey, stop doing that! If these people think we won another couple of stakes, don't cold water the notion. It all inures to our benefit!" So based on that theory, Irwin won 3 stakes races on the 1989 Breeders' Cup program!

Team Valor not only has given the slip to all of the other public syndicates, but it is highly ranked among all North American owners in terms of Graded stakes performers and wins, with TVI now having 6 Graded stakes winners that have won 8 Graded races. North America's leader in the category is Zayat Stable, which owns the exact same Graded stakes as Team Valor International.

Through last weekend, Team Valor has won 51 races, earned more than \$2,833,855, for a winning strike rate of 20.33 percent. Team Valor in 2010 is winning stakes at a 19 percent clip and finishing on the board in first, second or third in 50 percent of its stakes races.

Milestone-wise, Team Valor now has 70 Graded stakes winners (1 in every 6 runners), 144 Graded stakes horses (1 of every 3 runners), 112 stakes winners (better than 1 in every 4 runners) and 198 stakes horses (a whopping 47 percent).



Kathleen Irwin said "Next year we will go over the \$50-million plateau in earnings and the 200 mark in stakes horses. Next year will be the 25th in the syndication business for Barry."