

November 26, 2010

GYPSY'S WARNING STORMS HOME TO CLEAR WIN IN GRADE I MATRIARCH, SOUTH AFRICAN MARE DOMINATES FIELD FOR TRAINER GRAHAM MOTION, TEAM VALOR/GREEN LANTERN STABLE COMBINE FOR ANOTHER GRADE 1



For Team Valor International and Green Lantern Stable, the second time proved a charm with its Maryland invader Gypsy's Warning, as she roared home from 5 lengths off the lead at the top of the lane to mow down her field and score a clear-cut, daylight victory in the \$250,000 Matriarch Stakes, a Grade 1 fixture run under weight-for-age conditions over a mile at Hollywood Park this afternoon.

Trainer Graham Motion had sent the 5-year-old bay mare to California on October 2 for the Grade 1 Yellow Ribbon Stakes and she started favored at odds of 5 to 2. Mike Smith had just won race number 19 in a row aboard Zenyatta and Gypsy's Warning was his next mount. Smith had been asked to take the filly off the pace, but when she broke on top, the rider did not focus on the task at hand and wound up trying to win from the front. The mare ran a gallant race and finished third.

Tonight, it was a different story, as Joel Rosario was clued in during a quiet moment and he zeroed in on the task at hand. When the gates opened, the daughter of Mogok broke on top again, but this time her rider eased her back and took her off the rail, to make the turn in comfortable fashion and take up a position just off the rail in fifth place among the 7 runners for the Matriarch. Although Rosario was a little concerned when the mare acted like she wanted to accelerate earlier than planned before rounding the far turn, the mare came back to him and waited patiently until her rider set sail for home once in the lane. Gypsy's Warning was fifth at the quarter pole and still fifth at the eighth pole.

Rosario hand rode the winner through the final furlong, getting two moves out of her while resorting only to pushing on her neck. Gypsy's Warning made one move to catch the leader Wasted Tears and a second move to drive clear, while winning with her ears pricked in handy fashion. Gypsy's Warning ran the mile in 1:34 and must have come her final quarter-mile in :22-flat.

The win is nothing if not propitious, as Team Valor this month announced that Motion will train all of its American-based stock starting next spring out of a barn it is buying at Fair Hill training center near Elkton, Maryland.

Barry Irwin bought Gypsy's Warning privately in South Africa for the account of Team Valor International and the Green Lantern Stable of Richard and Sue Ann Masson. Earlier, the two stables combined to win Grade 1 races in South Africa and Hong Kong with Irridescence, who is now in The Masson's band of broodmares at their Central Kentucky-based Golden Age Farm.



Gypsy's Warning was winning her third Grade 1 race, second for her current partners and first in North America. In bringing her record in 16 starts to 7 wins and 7 thirds, she earned \$150,000 for the win, giving her a career total of \$491,862.