

November 6, 2010

SUCCESS COUNTS SHOCKS GRADE 3 STARLING STAKES FOR EASY TRIUMPH, TEAM VALOR YEARLING PURCHASE WINS GUINEAS PREP IN GUTSY STYLE, FERRARIS FILLY BENEFITS FROM IRWIN-ENFORCED WINTERTIME RESPITE

Success Counts was sent postward a decided longshot, a situation that was not helped by the fact that on the eve of the contest, veteran international rider Antony Delpech “spun” Ormond Ferraris and defected to a filly trained by Mike de Kock.

Ormond Ferraris is an irascible and cagey veteran who tolerates instead of coddles his riders, referring to them the “bane of my existence.”

The “Flying Filly” Success Counts!



The classic trainer tends to be a bit of taskmaster and he loves to use young jockeys, because he reckons they are more likely to listen to his instructions. An intimidating figure, Ferraris tends to get the most out of riders, as he has a reputation for verbally abusing them. His demeanor suggests to them that it is not wise to mess with Mr. Ormond Ferraris!

Noreesh Juglall, age 18, was the lad chosen for the job of riding the 3yo filly Success Counts in the Starling Stakes, a first-time Grade 3 after being contested for several years as a Listed prep for the Grade 2, Classic Gauteng Fillies Guineas. The 7-furlong contest has served up some very important winners and runners and has been quite a reliable guide to class in the sophomore filly division.

The story of the race is easily told: Success Counts, well drawn inside, remained inside throughout, was well placed in a stalking position, was swallowed up and without room about a furlong and a half out, found room to rally along the rail, exploded to literally bound to the front, where she took command and held sway by nearly 2 lengths from Happy Archer, the top-rated 2-year-old filly and Grade 1 winner last season of the Grade 1 Thekwini Stakes at Clairwood for Larry Nestadt, who also races horses with Team Valor and Gary Barber.

Barry Irwin bought the filly at the National Yearling Sale. She showed excellent potential last season, then lost her way and Irwin told Ferraris, against his wishes, to stop on her for at least 3 or 4 months, because she was bred to run farther than a sprint and she was being raced too much at 2 over short distances.

“The respite was all she needed,” said Irwin. “Count Dubois, her sire, has speed, but the family and the dam were stamina-type runners with Oaks credentials. This is a very satisfying result for me.” From *Racing South Africa* comes the following:

SUCCESS IN GRADE 3 STARLING STAKES FOR TEAM VALOR AND THE SINGHS

By Ada van der Bert

Success Counts became the latest South African stakes winner for Barry Irwin's Team Valor International when she lowered the colours of some big names here, notably Gr.1 winner Happy Archer.

Her victory was the second leg of a magnificent graded Stakes treble for the international racing outfit, which had started fifteen minutes earlier at Kenilworth with unbeaten Ebony Flyer's dominant Gr.2 romp in the Odessa Championship, and concluded some hours later across the Atlantic when homebred Pluck, out of South African-bred Gr.1 performer Secret Heart, scored a heart-thumping last-to-finish triumph in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf at Churchill Downs.



When Ormond Ferraris was spun by a jockey that switched to a filly trained by Mike de Kock, he chose apprentice Noreesh Juglall, who wore the now famous silks of Anant and Vanashree Singh that beautifully mirror the hues of the flag of the Republic of South Africa that they love so dearly.

A big-striding, white-faced chestnut, Success Counts seized the initiative from the trail-blazing Vestal Virgin and sealed victory in a matter of strides as she quickened clear at the 250m mark. She was never in danger of relinquishing her lead and crossed the line comfortably ahead of Happy Archer, who came charging up the outside. Previously unbeaten Nova Zembla rallied late to snatch third place on the line.

This was the winner's second overall victory and first at stakes level. As a juvenile, she cracked her maiden at second time of asking, but failed to feature behind Waywest Goddess in both the Ruffian and Fillies Nursery.

A promising third over 1200m in her seasonal debut behind deadheaters Nova Zembla and Fair Rosalind served as an ideal prep for this event and on this performance, the one mile Fillies Guineas should be well within her scope.

Barry Irwin struck late on the final day of the 2009 National Yearling when securing the filly for R600,000 from the Maine Chance draft. She is the tenth stakes winner sired by Count Dubois, who is best known for such outstanding fillies as Asylum Seeker, Zaitoon and Countess Corlia.

Her dam Quest For Success also showed talent on the track, running second in a pair of Gr.2 events, the Gold Circle Oaks and Golden Bracelet. Success Counts is her first stakes winner from four runners, all of which have won.

Bred in Australia, Quest For Success is an own sister to Gr.3 Rubiton Stakes hero Stalk, and a half-sister to Italian stakes winner Creese (Kris). The third dam Round Eye is an own sister to Isolt, the dam of the immortal antipodean stallion Sir Tristram.