

FORMER TEAM VALOR MARE PRODUCES BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC WINNER DROSSELMEYER ADDS \$5-MILLION RACE TO VICTORY IN BELMONT STAKES GOLDEN BALLET SWEEP SANTA ANITA'S 3-YEAR-OLD FILLY STAKES IN 2001



Drosselmeyer, winner of today's \$5-million Breeders' Cup Classic, was produced by former Team Valor runner Golden Ballet.

In staking his claim as a viable candidate for Horse of the Year and Champion older male runner this season, Drosselmeyer ended a racing career that included a Classic victory in the Grade 1 Belmont Stakes and retires to stud in New York with career earnings of \$3,735,670.

Team Valor bought Golden Ballet as a 2-year-old filly just after she broke her maiden in taking a sprint stakes at Hollywood Park.

Barry Irwin said "When I saw her, my first thought was 'Wow, she looks like a female Secretariat, and she's only a 2-year-old filly!'"

Golden Ballet won a pair of sprint stakes at 2 and suffered a setback at Del Mar, but when Santa Anita opened for the annual winter-spring meeting, trainer Jenine Sahadi had her ready. She had a spectacular meet, duplicating a task previously only accomplished by the all-time leading female earner at the time, Serena's Song.

The golden filly swept Santa Anita's series of three races for sophomore fillies, first winning the Grade 2 Santa Ynez going 7 furlongs around one turn, then taking the Grade 1 Las Virgenes Stakes and completing the troika by winning the Grade 1 Santa Anita Oaks, disposing of the supposedly invincible Juddmonte Stable and Bobby Frankel-trained filly Flute.

Golden Ballet then ventured to Keeneland, where she put on a very good display to finish second in the Grade 1 Ashland Stakes. Back on the West Coast, she won the Railbird Stakes over her best trip of 7 furlongs, but bowed a tendon when she stumbled coming out of the gate.

She was retired, eventually sent to Kentucky and sold for \$1.6 million as a broodmare prospect. She later was resold for \$1.4 million to Coolmore Stud, which was fitting, since Barry Irwin had bought her sire Moscow Ballet from the same outfit when he was done racing. Moscow Ballet was syndicated by Irwin and stood at Harris Ranch in California for several years.



Golden Ballet swept Santa Anita.