

MASTER SHADE BECOMES A NEW YORK STAKES WINNER AT “THE BIG A” ITALIAN IMPORT IS STAKES WINNER NUMBER 13 FOR STABLE THIS SEASON BOUGHT AS MAIDEN WINNER, SHE HAS WON 3 OF 5 RACES THIS YEAR IN U. S.



Master Shade had to wait a week to have a chance to become a stakes winner after Belmont Park’s Middle Stage Stakes was postponed last week due to inclement weather, but she earned black type today in the 1 1/16-mile event that was re-staged at Aqueduct.

In winning the \$60,000 event, Master Shade became stakes winner number 13 this season for a Team Valor International runner and was winning stakes race number 17 for the Kentucky-based stable of partnership owned racehorses.

And although the filly prevailed in dominating style by nearly 2 lengths while drawing away in the final half-furlong, it was not an easy task for trainer Graham Motion and his staff, because Master Shade is, as stable CEO Barry Irwin describes, “plumb loco.” As if to punctuate this notion, Master Shade summarily dumped rider Alan Garcia prior to the start of the grass stakes this afternoon.

“I normally shy away from fillies with temperament issues,” Irwin said. “But the manner in which this filly won her debut by 5 lengths in Italy last season excited me so much, I had to have her for our stable. After I bought her, I sent her to Germany to be re-schooled by some experts that worked under the guidance of Monty Roberts. They did a nice job.

“But it wasn’t until she trained at Fair Hill under Graham that she began to really settle. It has been an eventful last 6 months, but Graham and his staff have gotten the job done and deserve all the credit. This filly is yet another advertisement of why we bought a barn and moved our operation to Fair Hill.”

Master Shade broke alertly and Garcia took a nice hold, then was able to avoid being cut off by a horse outside of her. Master Shade shortly afterwards clipped heels of a filly inside of her when she was thinking about fighting for her head. When she settled down upon arriving on the backstretch, the Italian-born filly raced fifth about 3 or 4 lengths off the lead. Garcia kept her following horses into the lane, then eased out for the run to the wire and got into a perfect rhythm aboard the filly, who reached the leaders inside the eight pole and drove away to win by nearly 2 lengths as the 8 to 1 fifth choice in a field of 9 sophomore fillies.

The win—number 3 from 5 U. S. starts and number 4 from 7 career outings—boosted the filly’s lifetime gleanings to nearly \$90,000. She will now be sent to Palm Meadows with some of the other Team Valor runners in the Graham Motion stable.