

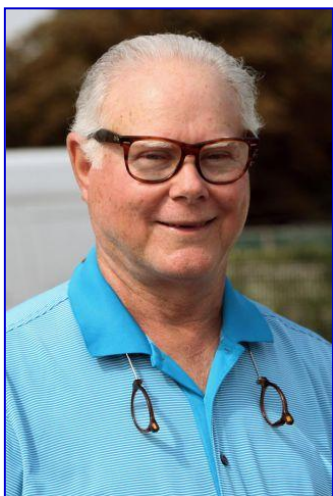
CHANGINGOFTHEGUARD FACILE WINNER OF 3-YEAR-OLD DEBUT TODAY SOPHOMORE WINS RACING ASSOCIATION STAKES AT FAIRVIEW COURSE SNAITH COLT LEGITIMATE GRADE 1 CAPE OF GOOD HOPE DERBY RUNNER

Changingoftheguard, under an ultra cocky ride from jockey Richard Fourie, proved a hands down winner of the Racing Association Stakes today at Fairview race course in Port Elizabeth in South Africa for Team Valor International and partners. "Richard had ridden him in work, so he knew what he had underneath him today," said Jono Snaith. "That why he rode him with such utter confidence."



Last but not one turning up the long home straight at Fairview, Changingoftheguard was in the middle of the course behind a wall of horses halfway up the stretch, with Fourie sitting chilly and not moving an inch aboard the son of Kentucky-bred Go Deputy. When Fourie was ready, he maneuvered the bay 3-year-old to his left to be able to have clear sailing. When Fourie loosened his reins, the reaction was instant and the race was over in 50 meters, as The Singhs' colorbearer put away his much more seasoned opposition in a matter of strides. After he has sewn up the race, Fourie took a hold of the colt, who strode across the finishing line 2 lengths clear. Final time of 1:35 4/5 was excellent on the day for the one-turn mile on grass.

"Justin does believe he is a legitimate Derby colt, just as you predicted," Jono Snaith said to Barry Irwin, who made the National Yearling Sale graduate one of his very few recent colt purchases as the yearling sale. "I wanted to look at Gaynor Rupert's yearling draft at the sale," Irwin recalled. "When this one came out, I loved his walk and athleticism. When I found out he was produced by a half-sister to Crimson Palace, who raced once for us before we sold her to Sheik Mohammed, I was happy. Crimson Palace became the first South African filly to win a Grade 1 in America and the first South African horse to win a Group race in England."



B. Eye thinks he's hot stuff now that he has another Derby colt in the stable.

Changingoftheguard had choices of running on the bullring at Durbanville or the stakes today out of town in Port Elizabeth. "We've won this race 3 years in a row and each winner has gone on to do big things for us," Jono Snaith said. "And this one is just learning what the game is all about. It's only his third start for goodness sakes. But he's made rapid progress for us in every breeze, especially his last one over the weekend. When Richard jumped off him today, he said to Justin 'Listen, this colt is top class. I would ride him over Gimmethgreenlight for the Guineas.' That is really big, because we really fancy that colt for the Guineas." Gimmethgreenlight has won 4 of 6 starts, including a stakes, and was a close third in the season-ending Grade 1 Championship in Durban late last season.

Changingoftheguard is stakes winner number 12 and was winning stakes number 16 this season for Team Valor and he is the fifth winner from South Africa for Team Valor in the last few weeks. In fact, the stable's last 5 winners all have come from South Africa. Team Valor is now winning at a strike rate of 22.5 percent.