

## **PAULICK REPORT EXAMINES ANOTHER STANDOUT YEAR FOR TEAM VALOR STABLE IS IN FAMILIAR PLACE ATOP STANDINGS FOR PUBLIC SYNDICATES**

### **American Graded Stakes Standings: Team Valor Takes Road Less Traveled**

by Ray Paulick

With two Grade 1 winners in the United States, including Kentucky Derby winner Animal Kingdom, you'd think Team Valor International is having an extraordinary year. But the operation's CEO, Barry Irwin, called it "normal" with the exception of Animal Kingdom's Kentucky Derby victory. "It's on par with previous years," Irwin said, somewhat matter of factly.



**Kentucky Derby winner Animal Kingdom is one of six graded stakes winners from 59 individual runners for Team Valor International in 2011.**

different horses. That's just short of a couple of the marks set in 2009 (19-15-9-6) and 2010 (17-12-10-6). But there are some big races remaining including the Breeders' Cup championships, where three Team Valor horses are currently being pointed.

Four of Team Valor's Graded/Group winners have won in the U.S. In addition to Animal Kingdom, there is G1 winner Summer Soiree and G2 winners Daveron and State of Play. All are trained by H. Graham Motion.

This is from an operation that is based at the Fair Hill training center in Maryland, where it keeps 30 stalls filled. According to Irwin, another six to eight horses are in various stages of rehab and a group of 18 yearlings are gearing up to begin their racing careers as early as 2012. Team Valor has two horses based in England, one in Germany, one in France and about 10 in South Africa, Irwin added.

To back that up, Irwin sent three charts tracking global stakes wins, stakes winners, Graded/Group stakes wins and Graded/Group stakes winners for leading U.S.-based partnerships and syndications for 2009, 2010, and 2011. Team Valor has clearly outperformed its competition in those categories all three years.

As things stand, Team Valor will have to rally to best its 2009 and 2010 numbers. Currently, Team Valor's tracking shows 15 stakes wins by 11 different horses, with nine Graded/Group wins by six

# American Graded Stakes Standings

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CONSIGNOR			BREEDER			OWNER		
Rank	Name	Winners	Rank	Name	Winners/Ws	Rank	Name	Winners/Ws
1	Denall Stud	9	1	Adena Springs	7 (9)	1	Repole Stable	5 (8)
	Taylor Made Sales	9	2	Brereton C. Jones	5 (7)	2	Ken and Sarah Ramsey	5 (6)
3	Gainesway	8		Ken and Sarah Ramsey	5 (7)	3	Team Valor	4 (7)
	Paramount Sales	8	4	Brylynn Farm	4 (7)	4	Glen Hill Farm	4 (6)
5	Eaton Sales	7	5	Robsham Stables	3 (7)	5	Live Oak Plantation	4 (5)
	Legacy Bloodstock	7					Stonestreet Stables	4 (5)
							Watson, Pegram & Weitman	4 (5)

The move to Fair Hill last April has benefited some horses more than others, Irwin said.

“Some of the results have been spectacular,” he said. “Daveron didn’t like training at the track, and her Beyer numbers have been improving with each start. She’s run four times this year

and has won three (including the G3 Beaugay and G2 Ballston Spa). Fair Hill is a great place for fillies. They can be turned out in paddocks, and we’ve got some therapy equipment – a salt water therapy machine and a vibrating floor – that has helped.”

Unlike some partnerships, Team Valor doesn’t operate with a timetable or specific game plan to roll out its offerings at a certain time of year. “We sit back and wait,” Irwin said. “We’ve gone more than four months without buying a horse, or we might buy several in a single week. There’s no set plan going into a sale.”

More of today’s Team Valor horses are homebreds than in previous years. “Initially, our people just wanted to race,” Irwin said. “One horse we thought was really good got hurt, so we decided to keep that one and keep its first foal, who turned out to be a Graded stakes winner. So we were able to make some money. We had sold all of our good horses at public auction, but the last few years have decided to keep more. A third or more of our current stable consists of horses we bred.”

As a buyer, Irwin often zigs when others zag. Or, much like the Hall of Fame baseball player “Wee Willie” Keeler, he likes to “hit ‘em where they ain’t.” In other words, Irwin buys horses at sales where other leading stables may be absent.

“I try to find places where I can get the best horse available,” he said. “By going to some places I find stuff the big buyers won’t even look at, getting good horses for a fraction of the cost. I’m not pedigree driven, so the only thing I have to worry about is whether these horses can run.”

Public Syndicate Groups - Stakes Stats for 2011					
	Stakes Winners	Stakes Wins	Individual Gr Winners	Graded Stakes Wins	Earnings in Stk Win
TEAM VALOR INTERNATIONAL	11	15	6	9	\$2,598,597
PEACHTREE	2	5	2	4	\$1,300,900
THREE CHIMNEYS	1	1	1	1	\$594,060
PINNACLE RACING	2	5	2	2	\$503,605
STARLIGHT	2	5	1	4	\$462,000
BLINKERS ON	1	3	1	3	\$390,000
WEST POINT	3	4	1	2	\$388,100
CLASS RACING	4	7	0	0	\$321,000
DOGWOOD	1	2	1	2	\$309,675
THOROUGHbred LEGENDS	1	1	1	1	\$150,000
VICTORY THOROUGHbredS	1	1	0	0	\$120,000
FANTASY LANE	1	2	0	0	\$96,000
MAGDALENA RACING	1	1	1	1	\$67,088
MAJESTIC RACING	1	1	1	1	\$60,000
FUNKY MONKEY STABLE	1	1	0	0	\$45,000
WINNERS CIRCLE PARTNERS	1	1	0	0	\$43,600
CENTENNIAL	1	1	0	0	\$36,000
BONGO	0	0	0	0	\$0
ELITE RACING	0	0	0	0	\$0
I E A H	0	0	0	0	\$0
PARTING GLASS	0	0	0	0	\$0
PEWTER	0	0	0	0	\$0
SACKATOIGA STABLE	0	0	0	0	\$0
SOVEREIGN	0	0	0	0	\$0
STARVIEW	0	0	0	0	\$0
TEAM STALLION	0	0	0	0	\$0
TEAM VICTORY	0	0	0	0	\$0
THOROUGHbred FUTURES	0	0	0	0	\$0
WOODFORD RACING	0	0	0	0	\$0