

BELVOIR BAY BEATS MALES IN GRADE 3 SAN SIMEON STAKES ENGLISH IMPORT COLLECTS SIXTH STAKES WIN IN SO. CALIFORNIA ACQUIRED AS A JUVENILE, VERSATILE MARE BETTER THAN EVER AT FIVE

With no local opportunity available against fillies and mares, Belvoir Bay nearly was flown across the country for a Listed race at Belmont Park, but her connections decided to keep her home and take on males instead in the Grade 3 San Simeon Stakes on April 29 at Santa Anita. She responded with a dominant victory, her sixth Black-Type triumph in Southern California for trainer Peter Miller, who will begin considering a course to lead her to the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint in November.



Belvoir Bay, in the hot pink colors of co-owner Gary Barber, got away with a soft pace in the San Simeon but her final time was more than a second faster than her win in the Mizdirection Stakes on March 25.

Acquired by Team Valor and Gary Barber as a juvenile in England, the chestnut mare pushed her career bankroll to \$438,361 with an ultra-consistent record of eight wins, three seconds and two thirds in 19 starts.

Belvoir Bay has been better than ever as a 5-year-old, despite sustaining wounds to a hind leg in the harrowing Lilac fire at the San Luis Rey Training Center in December. She spent time at a clinic and missed more than a month of training but was ready to return at the top of her game on March 25 when she gamely prevailed by a head in the Listed Mizdirection Stakes

over Santa Anita's downhill turf course.

The Mizdirection was the first pairing of Belvoir Bay and jockey Tyler Baze, and the duo adapted on the fly over the same course in the 6 1/2-furlong San Simeon when the expected pacesetter Coniah missed the break.

Belvoir Bay, who had cost herself a few times in the past by not breaking all that well, got away sharply for the second time in a row with Baze up and was right there to take advantage out front with minimal pressure. She led through moderate fractions of :22 and :44 through a half mile and put the race away crossing over the dirt main track at the top of the stretch, opening up by 3-plus lengths, and never faced a challenge in the lane. The winning margin was 2 lengths and, even with the ideal pace setup, her final time of 1:12.37 was more than a second faster than she went in the Mizdirection.

"The way it worked out today, she was free running and when we hit the dirt she was really running," Baze said.



Miller swept the top two spots in the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint last fall and may have another bullet in his holster for this year's edition at Churchill Downs over 5 furlongs. That may be her best trip (she won the Grade 3 Senator Ken Maddy at 5 furlongs on the Breeders' Cup undercard at Del Mar on November 3), but then again, her record going 6 1/2 furlongs down the turf at Santa Anita now stands at three wins in four starts. She also owns a Grade 3 victory going a mile on the Del Mar main track during her 3-year-old season.

"She's one of my all-time favorites," said Miller. "She's not very big, not very wide but she's got a heart the size of the San Gabriel Mountains."

Next up for Belvoir Bay will be the Grade 2 Monrovia Stakes, again on Santa Anita's hillside course again, on May 28.

Belvoir Bay's stakes wins have been spread out over all her seasons: one as a 2-year-old, two at 3, one at 4 and two already at 5.