

EURO CHARLINE MAKES A STRIKING IMPRESSION IN TEAM VALOR DEBUT FLASHES HOME FOR 2ND IN BRITISH GROUP 3 AFTER ESCAPING TRAFFIC BEATEN HALF A LENGTH, BRITISH FILLY NOW A HOT CLASSICS PROSPECT

Tight traffic almost turned into a nightmare and kept Euro Charline out of the winner's circle today in her Team Valor debut, but she still managed to make quite an impression with her second-place finish in the Group 3 Nell Gwyn Stakes at Newmarket.



Euro Charline looms large as unbeaten Sandiva holds on in the Group 3 classic prep.

Cut off by two different horses late in the running, Euro Charline had to turn sideways at one point but recovered so well that she may have stolen the show with her rally that fell a length short of 7 to 2 favorite Santiva. One betting firm immediately introduced her at 16 to 1 odds for the Grade 1 One Thousand Guineas, even though she is not yet eligible for the mile classic back at Newmarket in 2 ½ weeks. She made a lot of friends today regardless.

“Everyone is talking about her here,” Barry Irwin said a few hours after the 7-furlong Nell Gwyn. “It’s a significant fee, about \$50,000, to supplement her for the One Thousand Guineas, so we will take our time and see how things look and probably put it up for a vote among her partners. I asked Marco Botti if he would worry about bringing her back so quickly, and he said ‘No, not with a filly this tough.’”

Toughness and brute size—Botti has referred to her as a “big bully” around the barn—probably were the secret to Euro Charline’s resilience in a rough trip that would have

doomed a lot of horses, particularly a young filly in only her third career start.

“It is a small wonder she did not go down, but she just brushed it off,” Irwin said. “She is as imposing of a 3-year-old filly as I have seen in a long time. She looks like a colt with a big girth, and she is so generous. She just wants to run. I think we have a really nice one here.”

Botti instructed jockey Andrea Azteni to either follow another horse or take the early lead if it presented itself. After she broke decently, he could have gone to the front but decided against it and instead fell into a nice position near the standside rail.

Irwin said “She was fourth, but then she got shuffled back and the guy panicked, and he could not find a way through and kept getting bumped and when she finally got through, he said she just flew home.”

Bet down to 5 to 1 odds, Euro Charline nailed Godolphin Racing’s Majeyda at the line for the place spot, and there was a 2 ¼-length break back to fourth in the field of 15. Acquired off a 9-length romp on Polytrack at Wolverhampton, Euro Charline has already been made eligible for the Irish One Thousand Guineas as an alternative to the English equivalent, which will be renewed on May 4.



in sharper focus.

EURO CHARLINE (GB)

1st Dam: Eurolink Artemis (GB), by Common Grounds (GB)

2nd Dam: Taiga (GB), by Northfields

3rd Dam: Question Mark (GB), by High Line (GB)

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Team Valor has enjoyed success scooping up young Wolverhampton runners and campaigning them to lucrative careers. Gitano Hernando (GB) (Hernadno {Fr}), who went on to win the 2009 GI Goodwood S. and Infinite Magic (More Than Ready), winner of last year's GIII American Derby were both purchased by the syndicate after promising starts at the English track.



Euro Charline (green silks) in the Nell Gwyn S.

Racing Post photo

After an impressive runner-up effort by Euro Charline (GB) (Myboycharlie {Ire}) in Newmarket's G3 Lanwades Stud Nell Gwyn S. Wednesday, it appears as though the syndicate has

acquired another noteworthy Wolverhampton maiden winner.

The Myboycharlie filly was purchased for 13,000 guineas as a yearling at Tattersalls October and was victorious in her debut at Wolverhampton Nov. 16 for trainer Marco Botti and owner Scuderia Blueberry. She returned to take a handicap at the course Mar. 8 and Team Valor purchased her shortly thereafter.

Team Valor's Barry Irwin said Botti was a major part in the decision to purchase the filly. "He's one of the reasons I bought the horse," Irwin, who has had a number of horses in the Botti stable, explained. "I have a lot of faith in him. He gave me enough confidence to buy her."

As for his decision to purchase another Wolverhampton runner, Irwin said, "When you buy an all-weather horse, it's tough to buy them and say 'They're going to transfer that form to the turf.' Usually, if you're an American and you see a horse run well at Wolverhampton, you're hoping they can bring it over here and it will like racing at our style track. That's a fairly comparable situation. With this filly, part of the deal was I needed to leave her over there for a few races, so when we bought her we were hopeful that she could take a step up, but we weren't totally convinced."

After her second in the Nell Gwyn S., a traditional G1 1000 Guineas prep, Team Valor is unsure where she'll go next. Irwin explained: "After the race, the trainer came up to me with this big smile and said 'Are you happy?' I said 'Yes' and he said, 'Do you want to make me happy?' I said, 'I don't know do I?' He said, 'I want you to put up the money for the 1000 Guineas.'"

Irwin stated that, after such a physical run in the Nell Gwyn, he will see how she comes out of the race before making any decisions.

"She had a lot of trouble," Irwin said. "She had two or three parts of trouble, and in the last bit she got slammed into another horse and got slammed by another horse and she got turned sideways. She was about sixth at that point. How she survived that bout and generated a run after that I don't know, but she flew home. I just want to make sure she's not body sore and that she's okay. I'll take a vote from my partners and see if they want to put up \$50,000 for [the 1000 Guineas at Newmarket] or just wait for the [G1 1000] Irish Guineas a few weeks later [at The Curragh May 25]. We've already paid a €6,000 fee for that. Usually the 1000 Guineas at Newmarket has more prestige, and if we think we're up to that path, we're going to do it. I'd say there's probably a pretty good chance we'll do it."

Team Valor eventually plans on campaigning Euro Charline across the pond. "I would say this would be a realistic plan," Irwin elaborated. "Run her in one of the Guineas, run her back in the [G1] Coronation S. [at Royal Ascot June 20] and then probably at that point either find one more race somewhere or bring her here to the United States."--*J.M. Severni* [CLICK HERE TO SHARE THIS STORY](#)