

SHE'S A PIPPA IN TIME BY NARROWEST OF MARGINS IN SOUTH AFRICA TINY FILLY COMES THROUGH FOR GAME SCORE IN EAST CAPE OAKS LISTED WIN FOR 3 YO FILLY FROM TEAM VALOR'S BREEDING PROGRAM

Team Valor International caught a break at just the right time today as She's a Pippa summoned what seemed to be every last inch of her tiny frame to win by the narrowest of margins in the Listed East Cape Oaks at Fairview racecourse in South Africa.



Jockey Richard Fourie has been aboard She's a Pippa in 3 of her 4 career wins.

her, the white-faced bay filly was “over herself,” an expression in South African racing circles that roughly equates to a horse being full of itself in the U.S. He said his only concern was getting her to the post without using up the abundant energy she was displaying.

The official margin was 0.05 of a length over even-money favorite Shingwedzi, who had defeated She's a Pippa by a neck in the local prep over 9 furlongs on April 4.

She's a Pippa, at 3 to 1 odds, rated beautifully from just off the pace and came outside in the lane as she and Shingwedzi separated from the rest of the field in a long duel. The third-place filly was more than 2 lengths back at the wire.

Irwin is not sure what is next for She's a Pippa, who now owns 4 wins in 9 career starts.

“This race has been our goal, so we are going to enjoy it and figure things out for her later,” he said. “Justin Snaith has done a tremendous job with this filly. She is really small, and her sire was a total sprinter, so for him to elevate her to this quality and get her to see out this trip is a tribute to his training mastery at such a young age.”

Team Valor and Snaith teamed to win the East Cape Oaks for the second year in a row—Valor Red closed out her career with her lone stakes win in the same spot in 2013.

“We got lucky here, folks, and it was very important for this filly's family,” Team Valor CEO Barry Irwin said.

She's a Pippa is the first foal out of Team Valor broodmare She's On Fire, a Grade 2 winner who also thrived at the Oaks' 10-furlong distance.

Irwin thought from day one that She's a Pippa's best racing would be at 9 furlongs or farther, even though her sire, Var, was a champion sprinter.

She stretched out past 9 furlongs for the first time today, and as jockey Richard Fourie climbed aboard, he quickly got the sense that this could be her day. Fourie said from the minute he got on