

## TEAM VALOR PROMINENT PLAYER IN BOUTIQUE SALE AT SARATOGA ONLY BUYER WITH 2 HORSES AMONG TOP 10 PRICES OVER 2 SESSIONS GLOWING REPORT FOLLOWS OF MEDAGLIA D'ORO COLT SAVOY STOMP

Team Valor International returned to a familiar position of prominence in the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga select yearling sale earlier this week as the only buyer with two horses in the top 10 prices for the 2-day boutique auction.

Both horses were plucked out of the stronger first session on Monday, as Barry Irwin and his bidding accomplices went to \$600,000 for an Indian Charlie filly and \$875,000 for a Medaglia d'Oro colt. The latter ended up being the highest-priced colt in the sale, in which Team Valor has accounted for 2 top prices in recent years, starting with the 2004 purchase of eventual major stakes winner Fairbanks.

Irwin was thrilled to land this top-priced colt that he says bears a strong resemblance to his sire. Irwin should know, since he bought Medaglia d'Oro as a stallion prospect on behalf of a client in 2004 and retained a breeding right as the horse emerged as an elite sire. Team Valor has raced several sons and daughters of Medaglia d'Oro, including 2013 stakes winner Crop Report.



*Savoy Stomp is out of a well-bred mare who sold for \$3.1-million in 2008.*

"This looks like a real American dirt horse," Irwin said of the yearling colt out of A.P. Indy's daughter Crystal Current, a stakes winner who is a full sister to emerging sire Majestic Warrior.

In a story for the *Paulick Report* website published on August 8, respected bloodstock writer Frank Mitchell echoed Irwin's impressions of the grand colt that Team Valor has named Savoy Stomp.

"... A.P. Indy's own racers are aging off the track, but his daughters and sons are passing on his legacy of type and shape to the succeeding generation," Mitchell wrote. "Surely one of those with great potential to shine on as an athlete is Hip 33. This son of Medaglia d'Oro was consigned by Bluewater Sales and proved himself a grand specimen of the select yearling tribe during his time at Saratoga. He looked the part and acted it. Thus, he sold for \$875,000 to Team Valor.

"A strong-topped colt with a beautiful head, this bay possesses the best qualities associated with both his sire and grandsire. The colt is out of A.P. Indy's stakes-winning daughter Crystal Current, a full

sister to G1 winner Majestic Warrior, who made quite a splash with his first crop of runners last season.

“Their dam is G1 winner Dream Supreme (Seeking the Gold), the top performer by G1 winner Spinning Round (Dixieland Band). This family was developed by George Steinbrenner and family. Hip 33 was a great-mover, with a great overstride and an impressive hind leg. He has the length through the body and chiseled muscle often associated with A.P. Indy and his best stock. Through their accomplishments, the grand old sire of the Thoroughbred will find his contribution reverberating through the breed as he lives on as an honored pensioner at Lane’s End Farm.”



*Team Valor CEO Barry Irwin and COO Brad Weisbord. Fasig-Tipton photos*

Team Valor offered the colt following the sale and is currently forming a syndicate to race him.

From *Daily Racing Form* comes the following:

### **Team Valor active early with two high-profile purchases**

Barry Irwin, the managing partner of the Team Valor racing partnership, went deep on two yearlings early on in the first session of the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Selected Yearling Sale on Monday night, spending \$875,000 on a Medaglia d’Oro colt and \$600,000 on an Indian Charlie filly, the second- and third-highest prices at the session at the halfway mark.

The Medaglia d’Oro colt is out of the A.P. Indy mare Crystal Current, a stakes winner who is a full sister to Grade 1 winner and promising young Coolmore stallion Majestic Warrior, the sire of Kentucky Oaks and CCA Oaks winner Princess of Sylmar. It is the family of Grade 1 winners Dream Supreme and Spinning Round.

Irwin, in an interview after signing the ticket, said the yearling was “kind of a brute for a Medaglia d’Oro,” whom Irwin bought as a stallion prospect for the Stonewall Farm operation of Richard and Audrey Haisfield.

“He looks fast,” said Irwin about the yearling. “Very few Medaglia d’Oro’s don’t look like they can run long, so when you combine the way he looks with his pedigree, the horses that could run long in there, he was a real standout.”

The \$600,000 Indian Charlie filly is out of Alpine Garden, a Canadian Grade 3 winner by Lemon Drop Kid. The yearling did not have an especially deep or productive pedigree, but Irwin said that she had “the best walk in the catalog.”

“She just looked awesome,” Irwin said. “She had a lot of depth.”

Both horses will race for the Team Valor racing partnership, which had its greatest success with Animal Kingdom, winner of the 2011 Kentucky Derby and 2013 Dubai World Cup. Animal Kingdom was retired earlier this year to begin stud duty at Arrowfield Stud in Australia. He will stand the Northern hemisphere breeding season at Jonabell Farm, a division of the international racing and breeding operation Darley, which acquired a 29 percent interest in the horse’s breeding rights in April of this year.