

August 7, 2017

BRAZILIAN G1 WINNER LOVE 'N' HAPPINESS LATEST CHAMPION FOR TVI FILLY IS 16TH CHAMPION TO RACE FOR A BARRY IRWIN PARTNERSHIP PREMIO IMMENSITY HEROINE ON THE GROUND IN U.S., CALIFORNIA-BOUND

Love 'n' Happiness, a Grade 1 winner in her very first race with Team Valor, has been anointed as Brazil's champion 2-year-old filly. She is the 16th champion to be campaigned by one of Barry Irwin's public partnerships.

Team Valor joined owner-breeder Jose Luiz Glaser in the ownership of Love 'n' Happiness after she sped to a Grade 3 win on May 7 in Sao Paulo's Presidente Guilherme Ellis, her turf debut. Seven weeks later, she prevailed in the Grade 1 Premio Immensity at a mile on the grass for Team Valor and Glaser.

As the championship vote was being tallied, Love 'n' Happiness was settling in as new resident of the United States. She traveled from Brazil to Miami on August 2, with an eye toward racing her in Southern California once she has acclimated to the change in hemispheres.

Among the 16 officially recognized Champions for an Irwin partnership, 9 were males and 7 were fillies. Three other unofficial top-weighted horses were all males.

Pride of place among the Champions is occupied by Team Valor homebred Animal Kingdom for his Eclipse Award as America's top Colt at 3, following his win in the Classic Kentucky Derby. AK took down a second international Championship in Dubai, where after winning the \$10-million World Cup he was named Champion Older Horse in the United Arab Emirates.

Ipi Tombe actually did Animal Kingdom one better, as after beating males with an impossible finish to take the Group 1 Duty Free, she was honored as Horse of the Year in the U. A. E.

Love 'n' Happiness is the stable's first Champion in South America, where Team Valor has raced sparingly, but she is hardly the first Southern Hemisphere Champion, as South African titles have been won by Captain's Lover, Russian Sage, Irridescence and Carnadore.

Other females to win titles, aside from the aforementioned Ipi Tombe, Irridescence and Captain's Lover, have been Torgau, the English Cartier Award winner and Champion Filly at 2 in Ireland, and Sweet Stream, which not only was voted Champion Older Mare in England, but won France's top Group 1 for fillies in the Prix Vermeille. A multiple Group winner including over males in France, she earned her title when taking down the Group 2 Park Hill Stakes at Doncaster.

