

TUTTIPAESI ADDS GULFSTREAM WRINKLE WITH 2ND STAKES WIN IN ROW PRIDE OF VALOR LADIES EARNS 96 BEYER, MAY EXTEND RACING CAREER PENCILED IN FOR BREEDING DATE, ITALIAN IMPORT THRIVING ON TRACK

Tuttipaesi may have added yet another extension to her racing career for Valor Ladies on December 12 when she soared to a fifth career stakes win in the \$100,000 South Beach Stakes on the turf at Gulfstream Park.

For the second straight race in a resurgent 5-year-old season, the grey Irish-bred achieved a new peak. The winner of a Listed race at Gulfstream Park in 2013 before she finished second in the Grade 1 Ashland Stakes at Keeneland, Tuttipaesi made an emphatic return to the winner's circle in the Suffolk Downs Distaff Turf on October 3, thriving with the switch to veteran jockey Chris DeCarlo. Valor Ladies, the all-female syndicate led by Team Valor Vice President Megan Jones, presented her at the Fasig-Tipton breeding stock sale in November but recognized she had plenty more in the tank as a racehorse and elected to keep her in the fold.



Tuttipaesi provided quick validation in the South Beach when she uncorked a powerful turn of foot in the stretch and prevailed by 1 1/4 lengths, her wide rally accomplished in stark contrast to the mode of victory at Suffolk when she led virtually every step of the way.

Tuttipaesi won by 1 1/4 lengths but with her wide rally she covered 36 more feet than the runner-up, according to Trakus, which roughly equates to 3 1/2 additional lengths.

"I was loaded for bear; I had a ton of horse," said DeCarlo after flying down from New York to keep the mount on Tuttipaesi, who improved to 6-2-2 in 15 career starts and lifted her bankroll to \$361,529.

Let go at 7 to 1 odds, Tuttipaesi broke a step slow this time but the cagey DeCarlo did not overreact. He let her settle into a nice rhythm in seventh place behind a fast pace and waited for the curve home to turn her loose. Swinging 6 paths wide, Tuttipaesi quickly asserted herself and was in front at the top of the stretch as another late-runner, Lori's Store, loomed to the outside but she could not match strides of the Valor Lady, who chalked up a career-best 96 Beyer Speed Figure.

Jones and a half dozen partners were there to greet Tuttipaesi in the winner's circle and begin to ponder whether they should race her throughout 2016 rather than breeding her next spring to Animal Kingdom as they originally planned. Further clarification will likely come from her next start in the Grade 3 Marshua's River Stakes on January 9 at Gulfstream for Hall of Fame trainer Bill Mott.

"If she comes out of the race well and shows in the Marshua's River that she can continue this form, her earning potential could be high next year," Jones said. "Whatever happens going forward and what we decide, Saturday was a day to enjoy."

Adding depth to any celebration of Tuttipaesi's exploits is the recognition of how far she has come since a long absence that bridged her 3- and 4-year-old seasons. She nearly died from a colitis bout

in the summer of 2013 and looked like a shadow of her former self as she struggled in her first two races back in late 2014. It turned out that she was merely shaking off the cobwebs, as she ran well in a Gulfstream allowance in February and fired off the bench at Saratoga with a second-place finish in the De La Rose Stakes last summer behind Recepta, who would go on to finish in the Grade 1 Matriarch Stakes.

Mott counted on Bruce Jackson at Fair Hill Equine Therapy Unit in Maryland with much of her day-to-day preparations in 2015. Since the quirky mare has always thrived at Fair Hill, Mott and Jones were content to stick with what works and base her at Fair Hill in between races, leading up to her trip to south Florida 5 days before the South Beach. This winter the Italian import will train at Payson Park in Indiantown, Florida, at least through the Marshua's River.



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