

TEAM VALOR BUYS SONGBIRD'S GRADED-PRODUCING HALF-SISTER WIDE RANGE SLATED TO BE IMPORTED SATURDAY FROM THAILAND MARE FOALED THE \$480,251-EARNER, GRADE 3 WINNER MICO MARGARITA

Songbird's 11-year-old half-sister Wide Range has been bought in Thailand by Team Valor International, which has arranged to have the Mineshaft mare flown to Chicago on Saturday.



Has Barry Irwin outdone himself, as Racing Post suggests, with the acquisition of Songbird's half sister Wide Range?

Prior to the birth of her Eclipse Award and Breeders' Cup-winning half-sister, Wide Range was bought from the November Breeding Stock Sale at Keeneland by an owner-breeder who exported the mare to Thailand.

Team Valor, which has a history of prospecting bloodstock in the far reaches of racing and breeding, plans to foal the mare at Denali Stud and will breed her back this spring either to its Kentucky Derby winner Animal Kingdom or Songbird's sire Medaglia d'Oro. A decision will be made after the mare drops a foal she is carrying to the cover of Belmont turf stakes winner English Colony.

News of the mare's acquisition, timed to coincide with the scintillating victory last weekend of Songbird, has received considerable attention in the international racing press. The *Racing Post*, which is the British equivalent of *Daily Racing Form*, summed up the purchase in its lead, as follows:

"TEAM VALOR is renowned for the international nature of its operation, but it has surpassed itself by sourcing a half-sister to exciting U. S. filly Songbird in Thailand."

Wide Range, prior to leaving for Asia, left a 2010 colt named Mico Margarita. Racing for trainer Steve Asmussen, the Run Away And Hide colt won 6 times in 22 starts, including the Grade 3 Carry Back Stakes at Calder among 4 stakes victories and placed in the Grade 2 Amsterdam Stakes at Saratoga. He earned \$480,251.

Team Valor has put together an impressive band of mares bought specifically to breed to Animal Kingdom, including Beholder's Australian-based half-sister Victory Party, whose only foal to race in America was a winner of 3 races in 5 starts. Ten-year-old Victory Party has produced a pair of fillies by Animal Kingdom in Australia at Arrowfield Stud.