

GRADE 1 HERO EURO CHARLINE RETIRED FROM RACING WITH TENDON BOW ONLY 3-YEAR-OLD FILLY IN 29 YEARS TO WIN \$750,000 BEVERLY D. STAKES EARNER OF \$2,353,010 TO BE OFFERED IN DECEMBER AT ENGLISH AUCTION

Team Valor International's Euro Charline, which became the first 3-year-old to capture the Grade 1 Beverly D Stakes at Arlington Park, has been retired from racing. An earner of \$2,353,010, the Myboycharlie mare will be entered for the Tattersalls December Sale at Newmarket in trainer Marco Botti's Prestige Place consignment.



Euro Charline is regarded by Barry Irwin as possessing the ultimate athletic physique for a Thoroughbred filly.

Barry Irwin, CEO of Kentucky-based Team Valor, said "In the lead up to the Group 1 Falmouth Stakes on Friday, she's bowed a tendon breezing on the all weather gallop, which last week took a lot of rain."

From 14 career outings, Euro Charline had 4 wins, 5 seconds and 1 third. In addition to the \$750,000 Beverly D, she won the Valiant Stakes at Ascot and placed in 3 Group 1 races including the Coronation Stakes at Royal Ascot. This season at 5, she arguably was in the best form of her life, finishing second against males in both the Grade 1, \$6-million Dubai Turf at Meydan and last time in the Group 1 Lockinge Stakes at Newbury.

She retires with a *Timeform* master rating of 119.

Botti said “Euro Charline was one of the best horses I have trained. She was not the luckiest horse to be fair and a couple of her seconds very well could have been firsts. While her family is not out of the top drawer, she will prove popular with breeders at the sale because she looks the part.”

Last week Botti phoned Irwin to tell him that a small kink had appeared on the outside of a front tendon. It had been scanned and showed a tiny core lesion. The mare was not lame, there was no heat or swelling, and she did not react to palpation.



Euro Charline following a recent work for Botti at Newmarket, England.

The mare was treated with a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug and the diagnostics were e-mailed for a second opinion to Dr. Gary Priest in Versailles, Kentucky, who then showed them to some of his cohorts.

“It’s there but it’s not bad, as these things go,” the vet explained to Irwin. “I would have the attending vet treat her again tomorrow with another round of the same medication. I would keep on training her if you want to try to make that race (Group 1 Falmouth).”

“When it comes time to work her, you have a choice of going easy on her to give her the best chance to make that race, or test her to find out if the leg will be able to withstand another race. Your call. Either way, even if she runs and bows, the chances of her injuring herself beyond that are small.”

Irwin told Botti to test the mare in her work scheduled for Monday and to let her roll. “I’d rather find out before than during the race if this leg is going to hold up.”

Euro Charline worked Monday much to the delight of Botti. On Tuesday upon clinical examination, the leg continued to look and feel exactly as it did the day the kink was first observed.

Yesterday the mare was entered for the Falmouth Stakes and this morning the tendon was rescanned. This time the tiny hole had enlarged and changed shape. Botti phoned Irwin, gave him the bad news, and commiserated with him.

Dr. Gary Priest of Versailles, Kentucky consulted on Euro Charline.



Irwin prepared a news release for dissemination this afternoon and shared with Megan Jones the task of phoning the partners in the star mare to give them the bad news.

“They were disappointed, but they are all seasoned owners by now and they handled it like champions in their own right,” Irwin said. “We enjoyed some fabulous experiences and competed at the highest international level with a top-class horse in Euro Charline, but if you speak to any of the partners, you will learn the sad truth that this was one of the unluckiest racehorses Team Valor has ever owned.



“She should have won the Group 1 Coronation Stakes as well as a couple of other top races on the international calendar. To be fair, she sometimes was her own worst enemy because she was headstrong to her own detriment.

“Euro Charline was like no other female horse we have raced,” explained Irwin. “She was more like a tough colt. She was difficult to handle, difficult to ride and she had a mind of her own. People were along for the ride, believe me.

“But it was this characteristic of her behavior that gave her the determination and moxie to be such a terrific racehorse. She has the depth of any top-class male racehorse. When she was right, she exuded well-being and advertised herself. I know she caused some headaches for Marco and Lucie Botti, but I am confident in saying that they enjoyed training her as much as any horse they’ve ever had.

“I don’t really think we ever saw the very, very best in her because of her antics. On her best day she was capable of beating the best males and females of her generation with the exception of a horse like Frankel.”

Irwin decided to enter her to be sold as an uncovered maiden because her conformation is so exceptional, he wants her to be seen in her full resplendence, not as a pregnant broodmare. “If she reaches her reserve in December, she is gone,” he said, “but if not, we will breed her and offer her in foal the following year.”



Trainer Marco Botti hit the heights with Euro Charline

PARTNERS COMMENTS

When I first saw her at Newmarket as a 3-year-old, she took my breath away. Each time I saw her afterwards she got even more imposing, as she filled out with maturity. I cannot think how many times I said to Barry "How in God's name did we ever get a mare that looks like that?" and he would answer "Pretty amazing, isn't it?" No matter the conditions, no matter the competition, no matter what was asked of her, she always gave all she had. This is very hard to write. She will be sorely missed...

***Nick Ben-Meir*, Los Angeles, California**

She was my first grade 1 winner ever and I remember when she came to the U. S. and was supposed to run in the Queen Elizabeth Stakes and had the ankle injury and Barry and I went to Rood & Riddle and saw her there. They brought her out of her stall and I was able to feed her mints, which was very neat. ... This was the only time I ever met her in person.

***Dr. Elke Ahlmann*, Newport Beach, California**

What great management to amass earnings of more than \$1.6 million without winning a race when running second and fourth in Dubai and second at Newbury.

***Dave Dillon*, Hallandale Beach, Florida**

Winning the Beverly D. at 3 at my home track Arlington Park meant the world to me and I will always treasure it. Her second at Meydan was special, as I have never felt as good running second in a race as I did that day. The field was tough and you know she outperformed our expectations. It was such a lovely time at Meydan and brought back memories of Animal Kingdom. She is a horse that showed up at every race and ran as hard as she could and I have a real fond spot for her.

***Mark Polivka*, Naperville, Illinois**

We saw her run in Royal Ascot and Dubai and were so proud of her. She has so much determination and she is such a fighter and a competitive horse. We are going to miss traveling to watch her run. We were looking forward going to the Breeders' Cup and watching her run to victory.

***Steve Robbins*, Cleveland, Ohio**

Winning the Beverly D. was the highlight of her career second to her coming in second in Dubai half length to the winner. It has been an absolute delight and I have enjoyed sharing it with fellow partners Mark Polivka and Bob Funking. What a great ride: this is what racing is all about.

***Dr. Alan Miller*, Binghamton, New York**

I've been investing in horses for over 25 years and one of the most exciting days and races I've ever experienced was the 3-year-old Euro Charline winning the Beverly D. Stakes at Arlington.

***Bob Funking*, The Great White Way, New York**

Euro Charline ran her best on the world's biggest racing stages like World Cup night in Dubai and Royal Ascot. But my biggest thrill was watching her become the only three year old ever to win the Grade 1 Beverly D. at Arlington Park while sitting in the box I have held for 20 years.

***Mark Belling*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin**