

## EURO CHARLINE STRONG THIRD IN ROYAL ASCOT'S G1 CORONATION GAME FILLY LOST MOMENTUM TWICE IN STRETCH, BEATEN LESS THAN 1L BEST-LOOKING FILLY IN BARRY IRWIN'S CAREER WILL HEAD TO SARATOGA



Euro Charline showed up on one racing's biggest stages today, delivering a superb performance with a great deal of courage in a third-place finish at Royal Ascot in the Group 1 Coronation Stakes.

A diamond plucked out of the rough of winter racing at Wolverhampton, Euro Charline was beaten less than a length for it all in the Friday feature at 16 to 1 odds and would have been closer with a cleaner trip. The brutish 3-year-old filly had to pause for a seam to open along the rail and then got squeezed in tight when she valiantly shot through to pass tiring pacesetter J Wonder. Once she did, she immediately lost some momentum when the winner Rizeena crossed over just in front of her. That very likely cost Euro Charline second, as Lesstalk in Paris had a clear path in the middle of the course to get up by a head for the place spot.

Euro Charline is the 67<sup>th</sup> Grade 1 horse for a Team Valor partnership, and she achieved her credential in one of the best races in the world for a 3-year-old filly. She will now head to the United States, with the Grade 2 Lake Placid Stakes first on her dance card on July 23 at Saratoga.



*Euro Charline comes on again at Rizeena after switching out in deep stretch.*

“She will be dynamite in the U.S.,” said Barry Irwin, who read the tea leaves and made a late decision this week to travel over for the Coronation. “She is the best looking filly I have ever had anything to do with.”

Strangely overlooked in England as well as the U.S., where she was let go at 25 to 1, Euro Charline tugged hard early at jockey Andrea Atzeni's reins when no one else seemed to want the lead. J Wonder finally assumed the position and the Team Valor filly settled into a nice rhythm in third and fourth place, right alongside Rizeena, who had finished seventh as the favorite in the English One Thousand Guineas. The pace was slow, though, and Rizeena was in a better spot in the clear when it was time for her and Euro Charline to pounce in the stretch.



“We very well may have run the best filly,” Irwin said. “The hole she went through was very small, it took a lot of guts to do what she did and she had to wait for the hole to open.”

The video replay is [here](#). Rizeena, the second choice at 11 to 2, bounced back for the victory in her second sophomore start, a year after winning the Group 2 Queen Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot. Lesstalk in Paris, beaten three-quarters of a length, also rebounded from a disappointing run as the favorite in the French One Thousand Guineas. In other words, the Team Valor filly kept very good company.

“She has run a really good race, I am so pleased with her,” trainer Marco Botti said.

“She now head over to the states and I am sure she will win a big prize there. She loves her racing and just seems to keep improving.”

Irwin bought the big filly with Botti’s encouragement this winter after she dominated a Wolverhampton allowance for her second win in as many starts. Her April stakes debut also was unlucky, as she had to steady in traffic several times in the stretch before coming on strongly to finish second in the Group 3 Nell Gwyn Stakes to Sandiva, who checked in fifth today in the Coronation.

Euro Charline did not run as well 18 days later in a fifth-place finish in the Group 1 One Thousand Guineas, with a couple of possible explanations. Irwin believed she did not look as well coming back on short rest, and Botti thought she lost her action at a crucial point as she entered Newmarket’s famous “Dip” with 2 furlongs remaining. It very well may have been a combination of both factors, although she was far from disgraced, finishing 3 lengths back.

The way she finished up today over a stiff mile and then galloped out with the winner, Irwin expects she will have no problem seeing out a flat mile and a sixteenth at Saratoga. She ran to a 112 Timeform rating today, one point better than the 111 that Irwin had her pegged at in Team Valor’s twice-weekly client newsletter, the *Insiders’ Bulletin*.



*A proud Team Valor group: partners Mark Belling, Steve Robbins and his wife, Laura, and Barry Irwin.*