

AGRA GETS HER SECOND STAKES WIN IN EASY FASHION TODAY IN S.A. CRUISES BY 3 LENGTHS AS 3 TO 10 FAVORITE IN LISTED MILKWOOD S. REGISTERS TEAM VALOR'S THIRD BLACK TYPE WIN IN JUNE'S FIRST WEEK

Agra dominated a Listed race in South Africa today to land Team Valor's third stakes win in a week, following in the hoofprints of Valor Red last Friday in South Africa and Cerro on Saturday at Pimlico.

Agra collected the 7th stakes win between the Team Valor and Valor Ladies outfits so far in 2013 and pushed the overall race record to 15 wins in 78 starts (19.2 percent). Today's victory was the 265th stakes win for a partnership managed by Barry Irwin over the last 27 seasons.

Hammered down to 3 to 10 odds as she pursued her 3rd straight win, Agra broke well from post 9 and was in control the whole way under jockey Piere Strydom in the Listed Milkwood Stakes over 5 furlongs.

Spotting between 8 and 15 pounds as the 131-pound high weight, Agra went to the front and overpowered a modest group of 10 opponents, even as she cruised along nearly sideways at the rail on the straight course. She never looked vulnerable, and when Strydom let out a notch about 2 furlongs from home, she straightened her stride and glided away to win by 3 lengths in :57.99.

Agra improved to 5 for 7 lifetime for trainer Justin Snaith. She was the very first winner and stakes winner in South Africa for the former U.S. stallion Trippi, crushing her debut race in December 2011 and then upstaging males in the Summer Juvenile Stakes a month later.



Trainer Justin Snaith, aboard Agra at the beach in Cape Town, also won the Listed East Cape Oaks for Team Valor last Friday.

January of 2011 at the Cape Premier Yearling Sale, where she received his highest conformation mark of all the fillies he bought at the sale.



Agra bounded away to an open-length win for the fourth time in her 7 career starts.

A knee injury curtailed the rest of Agra's 2-year-old season, and she required a couple outings before she got back rolling with an easy allowance win in Port Elizabeth in February. She dispatched one more allowance race at Kenilworth last month before stepping back into the stakes ranks today.

Agra may make one final appearance this season (which ends July 31) in a 6-furlong Listed race back in Port Elizabeth to see how she handles 1,200 meters (6 furlongs).

"If she wins well we will continue to race her, if not we probably will consider retiring her," Barry Irwin said.

Irwin purchased the filly for about \$100,000 in

From *Sporting Post* comes the following:

Forty Seven Candles—Birthday glory for Strydom as Agra wins R130 000 Listed Milkwood

Every Friday must feel like Christmas for Justin Snaith and Piere Strydom. The power pair continued their merry pillage of the Eastern Cape's feature trophies when the smart Trippi 3yo Agra won the R130 000 Listed Milkwood Stakes in fine style at Arlington. Strydom just happened to be celebrating his birthday on the same day.

While Striker was blowing out his 47 candles to celebrate his special day, the talented Agra was hardly blowing out a solitary candle, such was the ease of her win.

In the top jockey's own words, the 3yo is patently 'far too good for PE' and despite her fooling around in running, there was no panic as she was never headed to win easily.

Agra was all the rage and started at a prohibitive 3 to 10 to win by 3 lengths in a time of 57,99 secs.

She beat the improved again Maxixe, while her stablemate Cat's Paw hung on for third a further half length back.



Agra debuted with 2 easy wins as a 2-year-old and has now strung together 3 straight as a 3-year-old.



Veteran jockey Piere "Striker" Strydom

The race was absolutely uneventful and the closest that one will get to a plan come together for punters.

Strydom thanked the Snaith team and said that every time he got the call, it inevitably meant 'at least one winning ride.'

Agra was his third win of the afternoon and second for Snaith.

"They have effectively made the difference and put the jockey championship in my hand. One has to travel to win it and Justin is probably too good for here," he said modestly.

Assistant trainer Juan Nel who does an outstanding support job, conceded that Agra 'could win anywhere in the country.'

He also paid tribute to stallion Trippi, saying that his progeny were 'starting to light up.'

Agra, who races in the interests of Vanashree and Anant Singh, and Team Valor International, has now won five races from her seven starts and took her career earnings to R281 630.

She was bred by Highlands Stud and is by Trippi out of the four time winning National Assembly mare, The Taj. She was sold for R700 000 on the 2011 Cape Premier Yearling Sale Book 1.