

March 26, 2016

EURO CHARLINE BACK TO HER BEST WITH NARROW 2ND IN DUBAI TURF MARE EARNS \$1.2-MILLION TO DOUBLE HER CAREER BANKROLL MARCO, LUCIE BOTTI HAVE ‘OUTDONE THEMSELVES’ WITH TOUGH 5YO

Euro Charline, a historic Grade 1 winner as a 3-year-old in 2014, nearly pulled off a major upset as she fired a career-best on March 26 in finishing second by a diminishing half-length in the \$6-million Dubai Turf on World Cup night at Meydan racecourse.



Euro Charline's strong rally with a final quarter in :22 2/5 comes up just short in the \$6-million Dubai Turf. She finished 2 lengths ahead of the favorite, Tryster, in third. Dubai Racing Club photo

The big mare, a speculative purchase almost two years ago to the day when she had won twice on England's all-weather circuit, later that summer became the first 3-year-old filly to conquer the Grade 1 Beverly D. Stakes at Arlington Park. She missed the rest of that season, though, and was inconsistent last year when she got mired in a "need-the-lead" mindset, but trainer Marco Botti was not done with the tough English-bred. He spent the winter focused on getting her to relax in her races, as she had done in winning the Beverly D.

Dismissed for the Dubai Turf at 25 to 1 odds on the English tote and 10 to 1 in North American pools, Euro Charline delivered a career-best performance under jockey Frankie Dettori, who had famously been aboard last June when she was scratched by the starter at Royal Ascot for not entering the gate promptly. She balked at the gate assistants' attempts that day and also wanted no part of them prior to the Dubai Turf, relenting after a few minutes' delay when Dettori got her to trot in on her own.

Despite getting worked up before loading, Euro Charline settled beautifully in the nine-furlong Grade 1, tracking about 6 lengths off the pace. Last year in the same race, Euro Charline shot straight to the lead, set the pace into the stretch and faded late to finish fourth.

Ryan Moore gave up the mount on Euro Charline for the Dubai Turf in favor of the Japanese-based colt Real Steel, but he issued a warning in a Betfair column for punters not to overlook the Botti mare.

"She'd have place chances at her best," wrote Moore, who was in the irons when she won the Beverly D.

Moore and Real Steel made themselves the target, getting first run at the speedy Very Special at the top of the long Meydan stretch. Reel Steel reeled Very Special in with 300 meters remaining. Dettori and Euro Charline had followed the Japanese colt's move and looked for a second or two like they

would be able to catch him. She gained with each stride in deep stretch and simply ran out of ground, reaching his flank in the shadow of the wire.

Dettori said "I had a super run. I followed the obvious ones like [Intilaaq] and [Real Steel], I had a smooth passage through and there are no excuses. I've just found one too good on the night. Marco said try to save a bit and get a bit more out of her in the finish and it has worked out."

Dettori joked with Team Valor partners assembled at trackside "Sorry guys, we have to settle for \$1.2-million."

Euro Charline more than doubled her career bankroll to \$2.25-million and will be considered for another run at Royal Ascot. Team Valor CEO Barry Irwin said "She closed steadily in a sensational last quarter run in :22 2/5. *Timeform* (120) and *Racing Post* (115) numbers confirmed her improvement. Marco and Lucie Botti outdid themselves as trainer this time."



From *Racing Post* comes the following:

Euro Charline and Marco Botti's wife and assistant, Lucie, at Meydan.

Real Steel and peerless Moore take Dubai Turf

By Mark Scully

Real Steel benefited from a wonderful ride by Ryan Moore to notch a second winner on Dubai World Cup night for Japan.

Breaking from stall 14 of 15, Pricewise selection Real Steel was steered across to take up a prominent position, finally finding room to squeeze close to the rail at around the half-way mark. It was Godolphin's Very Special who made a break for glory rounding the home turn but the strong-staying Real Steel had more than enough to reel her in, before holding off the gallant Euro Charline to win.

The victory was a third in the £2,448,980 race for Japanese-trained runners, following Admire Moon (2007) and more recently Just A Way (2014).

Hit the front too soon

Ryan Moore, who led home a British-based jockeys one-two-three, with Frankie Dettori on Euro Charline and William Buick guiding favourite Tryster to third, admitted he feared he had gone too soon on Real Steel.

"I had a tough trip early on as I was caught three deep," said Moore.

"I managed to get cover around the turn but I had to send him on sooner than I'd have liked.

"It was a good effort. He had a tough trip as he was drawn out wide, but he's never run a bad race and is a very brave horse.

"He had to do it the hard way, but he had more quality than the others. Where he goes now is up to connections. So far as I was concerned today was the plan."

Botti thrilled with Charline

Once again, Euro Charline put in a fantastic display in a Group 1 for owners Team Valor and her trainer Marco Botti paid tribute to the mare.

"She ran a big race," he said. "It went to plan.

"I said to Frankie [Dettori] it should be a strong pace. She settled midfield and picked up well. She ran her heart out.

"We entered her for Hong Kong but we will take her home and see how she comes out of the races. I would be inclined to say wait for Royal Ascot but we will see what Team Valor want to do."

Not to be for Tryster

Godolphin's Tryster appeared unsuited by the even gallop set by early leaders Ghaamer and Very Special, as he was settled at the rear of the field by William Buick.

He made headway towards the centre of the course on straightening but was already some five lengths down on the eventual winner with two furlongs to run.

It was too much for him to overcome, as the Charlie Appleby-trained five-year-old tired in the closing stages.

William Buick had no excuses and said: "That's how he runs his races and I thought he was great. They went hard all of the way and it rode like a very good race.

"I don't think he's ever been as fast as that in his life. It lost a bit of quality without Solow, but it was competitive and I was absolutely delighted with him."