

March 26, 2016

TUTTIPAESI SWOOPS IN FROM THE EAST FOR GRADE 2 SANTA ANA WIN GAME MARE CONTINUES TO REWARD VALOR LADIES PARTNERS THIRD STAKES SCORE IN LAST 4 STARTS, AFTER LONG STINT ON SIDELINES

Tuttipaesi was the first member of the Valor Ladies partnership, and she continues to exemplify the stable name as a lady of valor. Fully rejuvenated last year after more than 18 months on the sidelines, the grey mare reached a new peak at age 6 on March 26 when she gamely knifed through traffic to get up approaching the wire in the Grade 2 Santa Ana States at Santa Anita.

Imported as a 2-year-old in 2012 when she was one of the best 2-year-olds in Italy, Tuttipaesi has now won six stakes, including three with East Coast veteran Chris DeCarlo, who fits the spirited mare like a glove. DeCarlo, 46, had never ridden at Santa Anita before, but Valor Ladies principal Megan Jones and trainer Bill Mott were confident he would provide her best chance to stretch out to 9 furlongs in Graded company. Most recently, Tuttipaesi had finished third when caught wide late in the Grade 3 Marshua's River Stakes at Gulfstream.



"Every time she's run for me, she's run really well," DeCarlo said. "The last time she ran, she was a little aggravated, a little high strung and the heat was getting to her. She really enjoyed today. ... She's a tough filly, a fighter. She's the kind you want--she won't back away from a challenge."

Tuttipaesi, purchased in mid-2012 in Italy as the first acquisition for the all-female Valor Ladies roster, takes her third stakes win in her last four starts.

Jones and Mott settled on the Santa Ana instead of a \$50,000 non-graded stakes race the same day at Fair Grounds. A big unknown was how she would handle the long plane ride from South Florida, but she shipped very well at mid-week and handled the preliminaries with aplomb, with Mott's son and assistant, Riley, supervising.

Santa Ana replay

In a short field of 5 and on a mare who wants to go at her own pace, DeCarlo had a tricky scenario on paper but it worked out beautifully as she was content to settle in fourth and fifth place, about 3 lengths off a slow pace set by Grade 1 winner Her Emmyency. Tuttipaesi, the second choice at 5 to 2, bided her time coming into the stretch and was ready to pounce at midstretch but DeCarlo chose to avoid the outside this time and waited for a seam to develop in between horses. It did at just the right time as Glory took the lead in midstretch and Fresh Feline challenged from the outside. When Fresh Feline's bid stalled, Tuttipaesi split between a narrow gap and chased down Glory in the final 100 yards to prevail by a neck. She spurted clear just past the wire, galloping out far in front.

DeCarlo "She's tactical. Going down the backside [Fresh Feline] kind of came out and I didn't want to lose my cover and have to be three-wide all the way around. I was able to tuck in behind [Glory] the

whole way; his horse was running well. At the top of the lane it was tight. I didn't have anywhere to go but there was a little separation at the eighth pole and once she got her head in there, she was able to muscle her way through."

With a breakthrough Graded stakes score to go along with her second-place finish in the Grade 1 Ashland Stakes in 2013, Irish-bred Tuttipaesi has won seven of 17 career starts and her earnings stand at just shy of a half million dollars at \$495,929. She will be shipped back to the East Coast this week to rejoin her faithful exercise rider Rodolphe Brisset, who said he counted the Santa Ana among his most cherished wins, given the challenges Tuttipaesi has encountered and presented.

From *Daily Racing Form* comes the following:

Tuttipaesi Gets Through in Santa Ana

A tiny gap between horses was all Tuttipaesi needed in the stretch in Saturday's \$200,000 Santa Ana Stakes at Santa Anita. Guided into that space by jockey Chris DeCarlo, Tuttipaesi responded to storm to the front and win the Grade 2 Santa Ana Stakes for fillies and mares by a neck over Glory.

The win gave Tuttipaesi the most prestigious win of her career and gave the 47-year-old DeCarlo a win in his first mount at Santa Anita. DeCarlo had Tuttipaesi last with three furlongs to go, showing patience aboard the 6-year-old mare before finding running room between runner-up Glory and third-place finisher Fresh Feline.

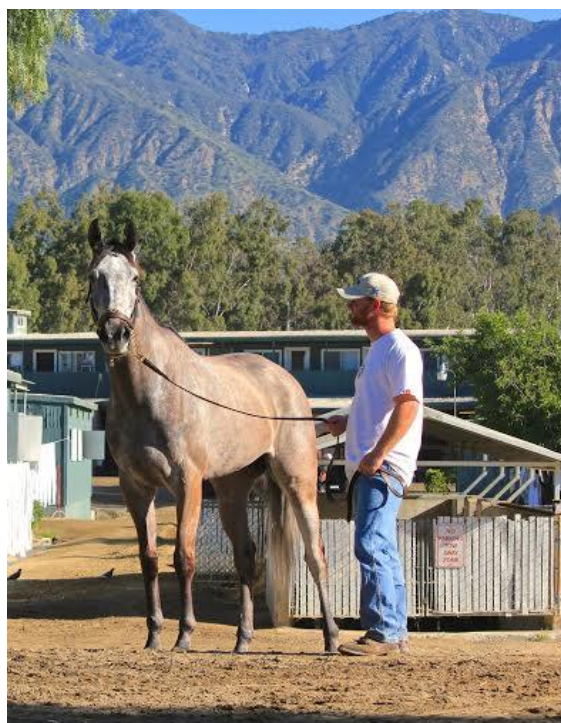
"It was tight but there was a little separation at the eighth pole," DeCarlo said. "She put her head in there. She's a fighter and those are the kind you want. That's all she needed."

Tuttipaesi (\$7.40) ran 1 1/8 miles on turf in 1:48.82 for her third stakes win in her last four starts. She won the Suffolk Distaff Turf Stakes at Suffolk Downs in October and the South Beach Stakes at Gulfstream Park in December. Trained by Bill Mott for the Valor Ladies partnership, Tuttipaesi has won 7 of 17 starts and earned \$495,929.

Tuttipaesi was at the back of a field of five for the first six furlongs of the Santa Ana. Her Emmynency, the 4-5 favorite, set a modest pace of 24.50 seconds for the opening quarter-mile and 48.51 seconds for a half-mile despite ducking in sharply from the inside post shortly after the start.

Her Emmynency jumped so far to the inside in the first 100 yards that jockey Joe Talamo had to correct her direction rapidly to avoid getting shut off coming from the main track onto the turf course. Glory, a 7-2 shot, led in the stretch and finished three-quarters of a length in front of Fresh Feline, who was followed by Nashoba's Gold and Her Emmynency.

Tuttipaesi, an Irish-bred by Clodovil, has won five stakes. Tuttipaesi began her career in Italy where she won two stakes. She arrived in the United States in late 2012 and was second in the Grade 1 Ashland Stakes for 3-year-old fillies at Keenland in April 2013 when trained by Graham Motion. She joined Mott's stable in 2014.



Tuttipaesi and Bill Mott's son and assistant, Riley, on the Santa Anita backstretch. Photo courtesy of Pat Hammel