

March 25, 2018

BELVOIR BAY BACK TO WINNER'S CIRCLE IN 1ST START SINCE SLR FIREENGLISH IMPORT HOLDS ON IN MIZDIRECTION FOR FIFTH STAKES WIN SEVENTH BLACK-TYPE HORSE FOR TEAM VALOR INTERNATIONAL IN 2018

Imported from England as a 2-year-old in 2015, Belvoir Bay became a stakes winner for the fourth season in a row for Team Valor and Gary Barber and trainer Peter Miller, getting up by a head in Sunday's Listed Mizdirection Stakes over the hillside course at Santa Anita.



Belvoir Bay became a stakes winner for the fourth straight season (ages 2, 3, 4 and 5) for Team Valor and Gary Barber.

Tyler Baze, completing a sweep of the track's three stakes races March 24 and 25, delivered a perfect trip in his first time aboard the 5-year-old daughter of Equiano, who pushed her career earnings to \$378,361.

Belvoir Bay was racing for the first time since escaping the December 7 fire at San Luis Rey Training Center. She suffered burns on her hind end that dreadful day and was the worst affected of Team Valor's five horses at San Luis Rey, but was able to resume training in January and put together a sharp series of workouts ahead of the 6 1/2-furlong Mizdirection.

"Peter told me she was ready on the phone and I just went out there and rode her with confidence," Baze said. "I watched all the replays and knew she was the best horse in the race."

Baze said he tried to mirror the trip of Belvoir Bay's Grade 3 win at Del Mar last fall in the Senator Ken Maddy Handicap. In the Mizdirection, she tracked in fourth place along the inside, about a length and a half off the lead, and was there to pounce when a seam opened as the pacesetter Coniah drifted out at the top of the lane. Belvoir Bay bounded clear and, as she tired in the last few jumps, gamely held off a late charge of four horses who were separated by a half-length behind her at the wire.

[Mizdirection Replay](#)

Belvoir Bay's versatile form now includes two stakes wins going down the hill, one at a mile at Santa Anita, the Maddy over 5 furlongs at Del Mar, and a Grade 3 score on dirt around two turns at Del Mar.

The bay mare is the seventh horse to earn Black-Type for Team Valor already in 2018 and the third of the weekend, as Hayabusa One and Responsibleforlove finished second and third, respectively, in Saturday's Grade 2 San Luis Rey Stakes over 12 furlongs at Santa Anita.

Hayabusa One also is trained by Miller for TVI and Barber and is another horse who has thrived since the San Luis Rey fire.

Barry Irwin said “We have to be counting our lucky stars, as well as all those brave people who saved our stock. It bears repeating that TVI and partners (mostly those who owned the horses involved) contributed \$25,000 to the workers.”

From *Daily Racing Form* comes the following:

Belvoir Bay Takes Mizdirection

A study session gave jockey Tyler Baze insight into the ability of the 5-year-old mare Belvoir Bay prior to Sunday’s \$81,725 Mizdirection Stakes on the hillside turf course at Santa Anita.

Baze put the lessons to work at his first opportunity, guiding Belvoir Bay to a head win over the fast-closing Blame It On Alphie. The Mizdirection was the first time Baze rode Belvoir Bay, who races for Team Valor International and Gary Barber and trainer Peter Miller.

“I worked her two years ago,” he said. “I watched the replays.”

Baze had Belvoir Bay handy through the race at about 6 1/2 furlongs on turf. Belvoir Bay (\$15.40) was fourth on the hillside behind Coniah, the 6-5 favorite who led by as many as two lengths in the first half of the race.

Coniah led when the field crossed from the hillside portion of the turf course to the main oval, but was quickly passed by Belvoir Bay, who was clear by 1 1/2 lengths with a furlong remaining. The margin diminished rapidly in the final strides. Blame It On Alphie, who appeared to lead a stride before the wire, finished a half-length in front of 51-1 Classy Tune, who was followed by Coniah, Ancient Secret, Algorhythmic, Malibu Stacy, Princess Princess, Mongolian Shopper, and Bendable, who was eased when the field reached the stretch.

Belvoir Bay, the fourth betting choice, was timed in 1:13.41.

Baze swept the three stakes at Santa Anita over the weekend. He won two Grade 2 races on Saturday: the Santa Monica Stakes for female sprinters with Selcourt, and the San Luis Rey Stakes at 1 1/2 miles on turf on Itsinthepost.

The Mizdirection Stakes was Belvoir Bay’s first start since a seventh in the Grade 1 Matriarch Stakes at a mile on turf at Del Mar last November. Belvoir Bay won the Grade 3 Sen. Ken Maddy Stakes at five furlongs on turf at Del Mar on Nov. 3, stalking the pace before taking the lead in the stretch.

Baze used similar tactics on Sunday.

“The last win at Del Mar was very impressive,” he said. “I wanted to ride her like that.”

A British-bred by Equiano, Belvoir Bay has won 7 of 18 starts and earned \$378,631. The Mizdirection Stakes was her fifth stakes win and second on the hillside turf course. Belvoir Bay won the 2016 Unzip Me Stakes for 3-year-old fillies on the hillside.

