

CHRIS MCCARRON JOINS TEAM VALOR INTERNATIONAL, STARTS THIS WEEK HALL OF FAME RIDER JOINS EXECUTIVE TEAM AT KENTUCKY HOME BASE HIRE PART OF RESHAPING AND REFOCUSING AS STABLE REINVENTS ITSELF

Chris McCarron has joined Team Valor International and will be part of the executive team of the far-flung organization. He starts this week and will be involved at Churchill Downs, where the operation races three runners (two in stakes) this week in Louisville.



“As a Hall of Fame inductee and as the rider of such legendary racehorses as Alysheba and John Henry, Chris is one of the most recognizable people in racing,” CEO Barry Irwin said. “But it is for his abilities as a communicator, his horsemanship and his drive as an organizer that he has been brought aboard.

“I have worked alongside Chris as part of the initiative to introduce Federal legislation to rein in the use of legal and illegal drugs in our sport and I have been very impressed with his communication skills and his passion for the best aspects of our game.”

McCarron’s most recent major career achievement in racing came when he realized a nearly life-long dream of establishing and nurturing America’s first school for jockeys. Named the North American Racing Academy, it is the only school where aspiring jockeys can earn a college degree. McCarron started NARA in 2005 and left it in safe hands in 2014. He continues to be an overseer of NARA.

After retiring from a record-breaking and storied career as a jockey, McCarron served a stint as general manager at Santa Anita. He regularly serves as an on-air personality and is a popular speaker at corporate events throughout the country.

Irwin said “I saw firsthand the dedication and energy that Chris brought to the task of establishing the riding academy. I don’t know too many people that had the unique skill set to pull off that venture. We would like to tap into those talents at Team Valor.”

The Hall of Fame jockey rode many of TVI’s most successful runners, including Grade 1 winners Golden Ballet and The Deputy, best in the Oaks and Derby at Santa Anita. But their mutual involvement began in 1978 when McCarron upon arrival in California won back-to-back races at Del Mar aboard Irwin’s second racehorse, a filly named Sorcerer.

McCarron will continue to be based in Lexington, Kentucky, where he has family and has lived for the past several years. He is, however, expected to travel to races and various promotional events as a spokesperson for Team Valor.

Team Valor is in the process of reshaping aspects of the company. Recently, Godolphin Flying Start student Jessica Berry, who graduates in July, was hired as part of the executive team. Also, TVI announced last week that it would start unwinding its involvement in South African racing and breeding which is comprised of 65 horses. The international racing stable currently campaigns horses in the United States, England, France, Germany, South Africa, Australia, Canada and South Korea. Eight individual TVI runners have earned black-type in 2018, with its three biggest European stars ready to return to action this month.

From *Blood-Horse* comes the following excerpt by Frank Angst:

Chris McCarron To Recruit New Owners Through Team Valor

Few people can communicate the excitement of Thoroughbred racing as well as Chris McCarron, and the retired Hall of Fame jockey plans to put those skills to use to recruit new partners for the Team Valor International partnership.

"A lot of the people are of the opinion that we don't have enough horses in this business and that's why we have short fields but I think that one of the problems is that we don't have enough owners," McCarron said. "We have to get out there and find some new people to get into the business. My job is to express how exciting it is and how much fun it can be for people to invest in a horse.



"Most of us know that it's not a real money-making venture, but it's an excitement-making venture."

From *Daily Racing Form* comes the following by Matt Hegarty:

Chris McCarron, the retired Hall of Fame rider, has been hired as part of the executive team of Team Valor International, the international racing syndicate announced late Tuesday.

[Watch: McCarron on Churchill's Works Show Weds. Morning](#)

McCarron, who lives in Lexington, Ky., will focus on promoting Team Valor and its syndicate opportunities as a member of the executive team. The announcement of his hiring came as Team

Valor was preparing three of its horses to run at Churchill Downs during Derby week.

Team Valor, which was co-founded by Barry Irwin, buys and syndicates horses in a number of racing jurisdictions around the world. The group's top racehorse in the U.S. has been Animal Kingdom, who won the 2011 Kentucky Derby.

"With his experience in racing, Chris will be an asset in evaluating horses, both horses in our stable already and prospective purchases," Irwin said. "He is perfectly suited to be the person speaking with the riders before and after a race on our behalf. For recruiting new owners, again he is a terrific communicator and we will look to put on more seminars and events where he can be the main speaker."

[Listen: McCarron on HRRN's Derby Countdown Weds. Morning](#)

Chris McCarron's Career Racing Highlights



For TVI, he swept Santa Anita's trio of races for 3yo fillies (including two Grade 1 races, with the classy Golden Ballet (L) and he rode The Deputy (center) to victory for TVI and Gary Barber (R) in the Grade 1 Santa Anita Derby, Santa Catalina Stakes and Hill Rise Stakes over the winter as a 3yo.



Chris rode Alysheba (L) to record earnings and wins in the Kentucky Derby and Preakness. Alysheba passed John Henry (R), which became the first to surpass \$4 million in earnings and went on to earn more than \$6.5 million. Twice horse of the year, he won the Santa Anita Handicap at 6 and 7. Chris broke the record for wins in a year as a 19-year-old in his first full season as a professional jockey.

Chris acted (he rode War Admiral) and served as technical director for co-producer Gary Barber and author Laura Hillenbrand (R) on the film "Seabiscuit: An American Legend," supervising the intricate racing scene for a movie that was shot extensively at Keeneland.

His involvement with Barry Irwin includes serving as a judge for the Stanley Bergstein Writing Award and lobbying Congress on behalf of an industry coalition promoting a Federal bill to rein in the use of legal and illegal drugs in American racing. Chris regularly speaks before corporations and racing groups.

