

ARLES STRIKES IN GRADE 3 LONG ISLAND AFTER NINE MONTHS AWAY GRAHAM MOTION PULLS OFF ADMIRABLE TRAINING FEAT WITH 5YO MARE GERMAN IMPORT NEVER WORSE THAN 2ND FOR VALOR, ALL IN STAKES

Arles made the most of a very tight schedule and benefited from what Team Valor CEO Barry Irwin considered to be an incredible training feat from Graham Motion when she scored a frontrunning victory in the \$200,000, Grade 3 Long Island Handicap on November 4 at Aqueduct.

The German import had not raced since January and literally had no time to spare for owners Team Valor International and Green Lantern Stable, who had entered her in the Fasig-Tipton November sale in Kentucky two days later.

Arles wrenched an ankle in the spring and received some down time before she started back in serious training in September to get in one more start before the sale, with the hopes of nailing down an elusive Graded stakes triumph. She had finished second in a Group 2 in Germany and also in three Grade 3 races in the U.S., including a nose defeat to Japanese classic winner Nuovo Record in the Red Carpet Handicap at Del Mar last November.



To render Arles fit enough to return over 12 furlongs without a prep race, Motion worked her nine times at his base in Elkton, Maryland. Three of those drills came over the Steeplechase course across the street from Fair Hill Training Center, which features an uphill final quarter mile. Motion used the same course for Animal Kingdom's key workouts leading up to a second-place finish in the 2012 Breeders' Cup Mile off a nine-month layoff.

To Irwin, the job Motion did with Arles was extraordinary.

"That is one of, if not THE, best training jobs anyone has ever done for me in 40 years of racing!" Irwin said.

Nik Juarez provided a stellar ride as Arles took up her usual position out front in a field of six. Juarez nursed her through 6 furlongs in 1:14 ⁴/₅ and, as two challengers made their bids turning for home, he floated her wide and then set her down at the top of the lane. Arles answered and had more than enough in the tank as she inched away and prevailed by a comfortable 1 ³/₄ lengths in 2:28.65 on a firm course.

The video replay is [here](#).

From Jim Dunleavy of *Daily Racing Form* comes the following:

Layoff no problem for Arles in Long Island Handicap

Earlier in the week, trainer Graham Motion said he hoped he had put enough work into Arles to prepare her for her first race in more than nine months. On Saturday at Aqueduct, Arles had plenty of gas in the tank to go wire to wire in the Grade 3 Long Island, a \$200,000 handicap for fillies and mares over 1 1/2 miles on turf.

Arles took a clear lead under jockey Nik Juarez soon after the start of the Long Island and cut out amazingly even fractions of 24.85, 49.85, and 1:14.86 while being tracked by Summersault.

Following a mile in a very reasonable 1:40.39, Summersault moved up inside the winner, but Arles would have none of it and quickly spurred off to a clear lead again. Arles drifted out during the stretch run, but scored comfortably by 1 3/4 lengths over Galileo's Song, who made a four-wide bid into the stretch but lacked the needed response in the final furlong and had to settle for second.

Arles completed the inner turf race in 2:28.65 while covering her final quarter-mile in 23.43 seconds. She paid \$4 as the favorite in the six-horse field.

"I got her to settle back in my hands pretty easily," Juarez said. "When it came to the stretch, she was real game."

Texting, who rallied into the stretch just inside Galileo's Song, finished third, a length behind her Chad Brown-trained stablemate. Summersault was fourth, three-quarters of a length back.

Arles, a 5-year-old mare bred in France, began her career in Germany before being purchased by Team Valor International in the summer of 2016. She finished second in her first three United States starts against Grade 3 company – the Glens Falls at Saratoga and Red Carpet at Del Mar in 2016 and the La Prevoyante at Gulfstream Park last January.

Motion said Arles had a minor setback at Keeneland last spring. After recuperating, she had worked nine times at Fair Hill since Sept. 9.

Arles, who is now co-owned by Green Lantern Stables, came into the Long Island with 2 wins and 7 seconds in 12 starts, but proved she is not averse to winning with a promising performance.