

ARMOR SUPREME CONVINCING STAKES WINNER SUNDAY AT THE CURRAGH DIAS SCORES FIRST CAREER BLACK-TYPE WIN IN WILLIAM HILL 2YO DASH GROUP 3 PARIS WIN 18 DAYS HENCE WOULD EARN A BREEDERS' CUP INVITE

Although looking decidedly burly before being saddled in the paddock at The Curragh on Sunday, heavily bet 3 to 2 favorite **Armor Supreme** had no trouble pegging back the male leader in deep stretch and driving to score a 1 ¼-length victory going 5 furlongs on good to firm going in the black-type William Hill European Breeders Fund Juvenile Sprint Stakes. [VIDEO](#)



Armor Supreme has developed into an effective sprinter with a stalk-and-pounce style that garnered a weekend victory at The Curragh going 5 furlongs in the black-type William Hill EBF Juvenile Sprint Stakes for Diego Dias.

Brazilian-born pinhooker Diego Dias, who has gradually built up a racing stable totaling 18 runners at The Curragh, was scoring his initial stakes victory with a filly he bought at public auction for a measly 4,000 euros. “I’ve kept a few to race and have run second and third a bunch of times,” he said in his thick Portuguese accent “but, yeah, this is my first win in a black-type race.”

Team Valor International and The Carrolls (Dan and Jan) own 60 percent of the speedster in partnership with Dias himself and a group headed by Bath-based M & A specialist Matthew Eves. UK bloodstock agent Gordian Troeller and Irwin jumped on Dias within a couple of minutes of her crossing the finish line when she won her debut earlier this season at Goodwood. Dias was more than happy to have another horse in his budding stable for TVI, since they had such good luck with Mansa Musa.

Says Irwin “Diego deserved to win a stakes with this filly. First off, all credit goes to him and his noted eye for horseflesh for glomming onto her for such a bargain price. Secondly, he decided to hang in there as a partner in her after we came calling. And third, perhaps most important of all, he has done an absolutely splendid job with her.

“He made the right call after that maiden race to ship her for a second time in short order back across the Irish Sea to England to contest the Marygate Stakes and, if not for a bit of a rough trip when slow out of the gate and forced to switch to the outer rail in deep stretch, she would have won instead of being nailed by a head in the dying strides.

“Her race when ninth of 27 in a vintage renewal of the Group 2 Queen Mary Stakes Ascot was much better than it looked and rightfully earned a 95 Racing Post mark. She exited that race with a wrenched ankle, but Diego nursed her back to completely soundness without having to inject or artificially rehab the limb. With a bit of luck her record in 4 starts would read 3 wins and an unplaced instead of 2 wins, a second and an unplaced.” As for the running of the race, Barry Irwin noted that the filly stripped a bit burly in the paddock and it was obvious that the trainer had left something for the filly to work off in the race itself with an eye toward rendering her dead fit the impending seasonal goal in the September 3 Prix d’Arenberg.

“Yes, she’s good doer, she dives into her tub and she picked a few extra pounds between races when we had to give her a short break. But she will be dead fit for the race in Paris off this effort,” Dias said.

Armor Supreme broke well but was immediately taken in hand by Rossa Ryan and allowed to fall back about 5 lengths at the midway point of the 5-furlong dash. With about a furlong and a half remaining, Ryan gave the filly some rein and she ranged up alongside the pacesetter. In the final 70 meters, Ryan asked the filly for her best lick, she responded readily putting a length-plus between her and the male runner-up Grayrobin at the wire. She was winning as the strong 3 to 2 favorite.

Wrote *Racing Post* in its Analysis “**ARMOR SUPREME**, ninth to Victorious in a strong Queen Mary at Royal Ascot, safely negotiated this return to calmer waters, ridden out for a comfortable success. She’s progressive, unlikely to be short of options either side of the Irish Sea.”

Jockey Ryan said “Armor Supreme is brave and puts her head down. After Royal Ascot, the trainer gave her a little break and there’s a bit more to come from her. She might go to over to France (for the Group 3 Prix de’Arenberg at ParisLongchamp and Diego will have a good look at (the Group 2 Flying Childers) Doncaster as well.”

IRELAND

Sunday’s Results:

WILLIAM HILL IRISH EBF JUVENILE SPRINT STAKES-Listed,

€50,000, Curragh, 8-16, 2yo, 5fT, :59.04, gd.

1--**ARMOR SUPREME (IRE)**, 126, f, 2, by **Armor (GB)**

1st Dam: Hayaku, by Arch

2nd Dam: Promptly (Ire), by Lead On Time

3rd Dam: Ghariba (Ire), by Final Straw (GB)

1ST BLACK-TYPE WIN. (€4,000 Ylg ‘25 TATIRY). O-Team Valor International LLC & Diego Dias & M Eves; B-J & F Reilly; T-Diego Dias; J-Rossa Ryan. €30,000. Lifetime Record: SP-Eng, 4-2-1-0, \$75,910.

2--**Grayrobin (GB)**, 131, c, 2, Havana Grey (GB)--Pretty Shiftwell (GB), by Equiano (Fr). **1ST BLACK TYPE.** (€43,000 Ylg ‘25 GOFFEB; £36,000 Ylg ‘25 GOFFUK). O/T-Kate McGivern; B-Whitsbury Manor Stud. €10,000.

3--**New Bond Street (GB)**, 126, f, 2, Havana Grey (GB)--Under The Covers (GB), by Stimulation (Ire). **1ST BLACK TYPE.** (65,000gns Ylg ‘25 TATOCT; 200,000gns 2yo ‘26 TATBRE). O-Bond Thoroughbred Limited; B-Llety Farms; T-Paddy Twomey. €5,000.

Margins: 1 1/4, 3/4, HD. Odds: 1.63, 7.50, 3.00.

Also Ran: Star Prospect (Ire), Arrowstock (Ire), Brazilian Diva (Ire), April Mist (Ire), Concorde Landed (Ire), The Baddie (Ire), Stellar Path (Ire).



Runner-up in York’s Marygate Stakes and ninth in the Queen Mary, Armor Supreme showed the benefit of those experiences and a subsequent freshener to land her first black-type success. Professional from the outset, she was able to follow a solid tempo up the centre and outbattle Grayrobin in the last half a furlong for Diego Dias’s breakthrough moment.

“Rossa said she is brave, she put her head down and tried very hard,” the winning trainer said. “There is a bit more to come from her. She needed this run, she got a couple of weeks off and is just back now. She’s entered for a Group 3 in France on September 3 and Rossa also mentioned that there is a Group 3 in Doncaster, so we’ll have a look. She’s sharp and I’m keen to stick to five at the moment. Maybe next year we could step her up to six.”

Becoming the third Stakes winner for her second-crop sire, Armor Supreme is currently the last known foal out of the dam, whose prior black-type performer was the Listed-placed Bijin (**Holy Roman Emperor**). A half to the Autumn Stakes winner and Racing Post Trophy runner-up Fantastic View (Distant View), she hails from the family of the Prix Royal-Oak hero Braashee (Sadler’s Wells).