

THE CHARLESTON LAST-TO-FIRST WINNER OF LUCRATIVE AUCTION RACE JUVENILE MISS HAS NOW EARNED 4 TIMES HER BUY-IN PRICE FOR PARTNERS BLACK-TYPE RACES LOOM ON THE HORIZON FOR BASS-ROBINSON TRAINEE



The Charleston, dispatched as the 8 to 1 fourth choice to 9 to 5 favorite Kyalami Girl, overcame the widest of draws on a course that favored inside speed all day long to post a mild upset under a daring and inspired ride from Grant van Niekerk. Owned in the majority by Barry and Kathleen Irwin, The Charleston and Kyalami Girl are both trained by Candice Bass-Robinson, who admitted before and after the race that she fancied Gaynor Rupert's filly over the Team Valor stablemate and did not see how The Charleston would be able to beat the favorite, especially from her draw.

Van Niekerk, however, had a plan. After getting shuffled back a bit shortly after the break in the full field on Saturday for the Bloodstock South African Sales Cup, The Charleston was in last place in the race up the Kenilworth straightaway going 6 furlongs. The jockey guided the filly over to the rail, then gradually picked off horse by horse to loom a threat a quarter mile from the finish.

Irwin said "Once Grant got the filly into high gear, it was a forgone conclusion which filly would win, as she was strongest and fastest of this group in the final two furlongs. She was on terms with the favored

runner-up, but surged past her to score by a long-looking length and a half. She was stronger at the finish than at any stage of the race, boding well for her to get another furlong or so this season.”

The daughter of Galileo’s son The United States is rated 92. Top-rated filly in the Cape is rated 96 and she was third behind a pair of males Saturday in the Grade 3 Cape of Good Hope Nursery Stakes. Interestingly, The Charleston ran her 6 furlongs faster than the Grade 3 and faster than the male division of the BSA Sales Cup, which a colt won by nearly 4 lengths. She ran more than half a second faster than the 96-rated filly.

The Charleston, which became TVI’s first double winner of 2023, is now destined for black-type races, one of which could be a Grade 1 sprinting down the hill at Scottsville. In 4 starts, the progressive filly has 2 wins and 2 places. [RACE VIDEO](#) plus trainer and rider interviews.