

SAILOR'S CAP PRIMED TO STEP UP INTO BIG LEAGUES TOMORROW IN CUP, JJ TONER AND TEAM VALOR HOPEFUL OF WINNING TURF CUP AT COLONIAL, HUGE \$600,000 POT FIRST MAJOR TURF RACE FOR 3-YEAR-OLDS THIS YEAR

Tomorrow, Sailor's Cap faces the stiffest challenge of his career as he battles 9 of the best 3-year-old turf horses in all the land. He'll either find the lucrative buried treasure, or he'll walk the plank. The \$600,000 booty up for grabs will be rightfully earned by whom ever crosses under the wire first in the 1 3/16-mile challenge known as the Colonial Turf Cup. The race, which takes place outside of Richmond, Virginia at Colonial Downs, has drawn a legitimate field of colts, all of whom are looking to assume the role of the premiere 3-year-old turf horse in the country.

Sailor's Cap, an athletic son of Distant View, is coming into the Turf Cup off of two stellar efforts. His 3-length win at Keeneland in April, which was followed up by a game second-place finish in the Grade 3 Crown Royal American turf at Churchill Downs in May, have stamped him as a serious contender for the Turf Cup. Sailor's Cap has garnered the respect of the odds-maker at Colonial Downs, who has installed him as the 7-2 second choice in the 10-horse lineup.



Sailor's Cap was impressive at Keeneland.

"He could not be coming into the race any better. He just keeps improving," said his trainer Jimmy "JJ" Toner on Thursday morning. Post time for race 9 is 4:39 p. m. EDT.

In order to compete, Sailor's Cap must bring his A-game. Sailor's Cap paired up 6's on the Ragozin Sheets in his two most recent outings. He ran lights-out at Keeneland and came back just shy of 4 weeks later to duplicate that effort when facing Graded Stakes competition for the first time. In between the Keeneland race and the Crown Royal, Sailor's Cap had the audacity to breeze in :57 and change, which caused his connections to be concerned about a possible reaction in the Crown Royal.

Yet Sailor's cap did no such thing. In fact, the homebred matched his career-best in the Crown Royal, and at the same time, developed a whole new dimension to his repertoire by settling 3-4-lengths behind the leaders, only to show a wicked turn of foot by closing into a doddling pace and coming up just short for the win behind Tizdejavu, who despite being dismissed at 22-1 on that occasion, has since come back to validate his victory in the Crown Royal by whipping his foes in the Grade 2 Jefferson Cup at Churchill Downs last weekend by 5-lengths.

Until the Crown Royal, Toner and Team Valor thought that Sailor's Cap would be at his best going a flat-mile and that anything in excess of a mile in distance would resolutely expose him. The original plan after the Crown Royal was to bring the colt back to New York for the Hill Prince Stakes, which was contested on June 6 at a 1-turn mile at Belmont Park. But after the Crown Royal, the connections reconsidered their plotted course and opted to hone in on the Turf Cup.



JJ Toner

"There were a number of factors that went into us deciding to alter our course and target the Turf Cup," explained Team Valor's Aron Wellman.

First, he ran two very strong races within 4 weeks of one another, so we wanted to give him at least 6 weeks until his next outing. The Turf Cup is 7 weeks from the Crown Royal, which is perfect.



Second, he has really learned to relax of late, which has allowed him to comfortably get distances beyond a mile. Third, if he proves he can get 1 3/16 miles, it opens up so many lucrative opportunities for him. And finally, it's \$600,000! That's some serious dough!"

Toner enters the Turf Cup brimming with confidence. "Sailor's Cap is a very dangerous horse in this race because he's on the improve, he's confident and he's feeling really, really good. What has really been the turning point for him is that he's learned to relax. Now he just cruises until the jockey asks him for his best."

In fact, Toner is so confident in Sailor's Cap, he plans to stay at home in New York and watch it on TV. "I'm sending my assistant of 10 years, Dana Antonczak, and Alan Garcia is going down to ride. If any other rider other than Alan was riding, I'd be up there in a heartbeat," said Toner. "But Alan knows this colt so well and he's so confident, I really feel there's no reason for me come. It's all in Alan's hands and I have the utmost confidence in Alan. Dana has been with me forever, and she knows the drill. All she's got to do is make sure he gets from point A to point B and slap the tack on him."



Alan Garcia rode "Cappy" to "Big A" maiden win.

Sailor's Cap blew out for the Turf Cup on Monday at Belmont in a bullet :48 1/5. Garcia was in the irons for the move and dismounted with a grin that stretched from ear to ear. "Man he's good right now. I cannot wait until Saturday," Garcia beamed.

The Colonial Turf Cup has attracted a salty group. Of the 10 colts entered, 4 are Graded stakes winners, including Kentucky Derby also-ran, Court Vision, winner of last year's Iroquois and Remsen Stakes; Sporting Art, the winner of the Palm Beach Stakes and the Calder Derby; Boss Lafitte, winner of the Transylvania Stakes; and Adriano, the son of AP Indy who captured the Lane's End Stakes. Kentucky Bear, third in the Blue Grass Stakes on Polytrack, tries grass for the first time tomorrow.



Sailor's Cap inspires confidence.

Longshot Baltimore Bob appears purely outclassed on paper, but he is perhaps the single-most important factor in determining Sailor's Cap's success in tomorrow's Turf Cup. The reason being is that Baltimore Bob may just be the pace target Sailor's Cap is looking for. Otherwise, the race, at least on paper, appears to be devoid of much speed, which could translate into Sailor's Cap either inheriting the lead by default, or laying in 2nd of 3rd at worst. In either scenario, Sailor's Cap figures to not have to expend too much energy to place himself in a beneficial position.

"Ideally, I'd like for Sailor's Cap to have a target to run at. Let's face it, he's not going to be worse than third going into the first turn. Whether he's on the lead, or sitting just off the leader, the key is that he's relaxed during the beginning stages of the race," commented Toner. "If he's relaxed, I don't care where he is. Tactically, he should have an advantage because he should get first-run on the closers. If

Alan is in a position to slingshot him from the 3/8-pole to the wire and he can get some separation from the field, they're going to have Sailor's Cap to catch!"

UNBRIDLED BELLE RUNS NEW CAREER TOP RAGOZIN SHEET FIGURE OF 3 ½, CONNECTIONS WONDER WHAT MARE IS CAPABLE OF WHEN SHE'S DEAD FIT, DRF'S WATCHMAKER AGREES WITH B. EYE, RANKS MARE FOURTH IN U. S.

Unbridled Belle scored an impressive comeback victory last weekend in her prep for the \$1-million Delaware Handicap, but the ease with which she captured her seasonal debut belied the speed and power she used to fashion her 5 ¾-length triumph, because she ran her best Ragozin Sheet figure and equaled her best Beyer number.

- **Ragozin figure** – Unbridled Belle ran a 3 ½, besting the 4 ¼ she ran last season in taking the Delaware Handicap.
- **Beyer number** – Unbridled Belle ran a 104, a number she earned twice last season when taking the Grade 1 Beldame Stakes and the Grade 2 Delaware Handicap. Interestingly, her number was 106 initially, but later adjusted.

The interesting aspect of this huge first-out number is that the 5-year-old mare won with relative ease, even though she did appear to tire late under Ramon Dominguez, who sat chilly as the mare coasted to the wire in the Grade 3 Obeah Stakes. She gave the impression she was just getting warmed up.



Last season, when the mare was also making her seasonal debut in this same race, she struggled to mount a winning effort, finishing second and earning a 94 Beyer.

“The trick with preparing her for a comeback,” commented trainer Todd Pletcher “is to leave them something to get out of the race, so they don’t overdo and bounce next time. I am pretty sure I left something for her to get out of the Obeah.

“Next race would be a good time for her to ‘pair up’ (run the same 3 ½ back).”

When a horse pairs up, it means that an improvement can be expected and Team Valor hopes like all get out that Unbridled Belle does improve, because the stable could undoubtedly have scored a huge home run by selling the Amazon last fall, but chose instead to keep her in training an extra year, as it was reckoned by Barry Irwin that she would improve with maturity.

“Looks like the gamble is about to pay off,” Irwin said. “If she ran career-topping numbers this easily when not totally fit, what is she apt to do when she is spot on? Her race was very impressive. If she improves just a bit more this season, we should be in line for some competitive days in the major filly and mare fixtures this year. We are really looking forward to it, too.”

Racing partner Mark Belling—Milwaukee’s antithesis to Keith Olberman—was the only Team Valor International client on hand for the mare’s Grade 3 win last Saturday, which qualifies him to give the other partners his insights on the afternoon.





1) She was on the lead because she was running her normal pace. When they go 47 and 2, she's three lengths back. She was running in just under 48, so she was running her normal speed. The fact that this didn't faze her was encouraging.

2) She did not look as breath-taking as she did in the paddock at Monmouth only because her coat wasn't dappled as it was at the BC (the race she absolutely would have won on a normal track). However, she looked to be in perfect condition with no looseness in her belly as you might expect coming off a long layoff. Given her size, she looked like a monster. I can't even imagine her weight but it looks like all muscle (or even granite). The only other of my horses that looked this solid was Captain Bodgit.

3) After the race, she was blowing a bit hard but wasn't spent. Not being an expert, I suspect this is perfect as it will give her enough condition to run 1 1/4 miles.

4) Her demeanor is incredibly calm, both before and after the race. She acted like a gelding.

5) If we tried to sell her as a broodmare right now, we could get a fortune. I'd love to have a horse that came from a mare that looked like her.

6) There is no bleeping way Hystericalady will get 1 1/4 miles. Frankel's horse, Ginger Bitch or whatever, is the only one to fear next month. I wouldn't be surprised if both that horse and Zenyatta skip the Del Cap because they don't want their horses to go that long in the middle of the year.

To read a story in a local yokel, [click here](#).

What did dem guys at Duh Form [write](#)?

And what about the *Bloodstock Journal*? [Click here](#).

Did I hear you say *The Blood-Horse* [over there](#)?

Surely the *Thoroughbred Times* [checked in too](#), huh?



RUSSIAN SAGE DRAWS 19 OUT OF 20 AT GREYVILLE FOR G1 DURBAN JULY, 2 OF LAST 4 WINNERS BEGAN IN 18 AND 20, LITTLE INSIDE OF 10 SINCE 1965,

Russian Sage yesterday drew post position number 19, which on the face of it looks to be a bad one, but minimal research has shown that recent history has favored both outside draws and 3-year-olds.

- **Draw** – 2 of the last 4 winners began in outside stalls. Last year, longshot Hunting Tower won from the 18 hole and a couple of years before that Horse of the Year Dynasty won from 20. Few have won from a draw inside of the 10 post since 1965. The Snaiths won the race from the 20 with Horse of the Year Flaming Rock.
- **3YO** – Sophomores have won 12 of the last 21 renewals of the race, including 4 of the last 6 editions of the race. Part of the reason is that some of the top older horses in recent seasons have departed South Africa to race in Dubai.
- **Weight** – Russian Sage carries 51.5 kilos (113.3 pounds) and of the dozen 3yo winners, most of them carried more weight than him.



Ormond Ferraris and Barry Irwin chat at Turffontein.

Barry Irwin, who follows South African racing closely, said “This is not, on paper, a vintage renewal. The long-time favorite is Pocket Power. He drew the 3 hole and history tells us that in the last 40-plus years inside draws have been a unsuccessful. Pocket Power is a real horse, no doubt about it. And in Mike Bass he has a trainer that knows how to win this race and races like it.

“But Pocket Power has never won a race outside of Cape Town and twice this winter in Durban he has been beaten. Under top weight of 58 kilos (127.6 pounds) he must concede more than 14 pounds to Russian Sage.

“Of the remaining highly-touted runners, Dancer’s Daughter has not won by 9 furlongs and, although sharp and fit off a Grade 1 drubbing of Pocket Power, so little was thought of her winning chances that none other than Weichong Marwing dumped her in a heartbeat to ride Team Valor’s recent Grade 3 winner She’s on Fire. She is a miler that does not figure to get the 11-furlong trip of the July.



Ipi Tombe (second right) won from 13.

“Most of the rest of the field is made up of hardknockers. Team Valor’s She’s on Fire is the top-rated filly or mare in training, but distaffers have not fared well in the Durban July and plenty of good ones have tried. Ipi Tombe turned the trick in 2002, but Irridescence and Sun Classique could not land a blow, even though they went on to international Group 1 glory the next season.”



Based on the draw, bookies eased Russian Sage 1 point in the betting and he now stands as the third choice at odds of 7 to 1 behind 6 to 1 Dancer’s Daughter, the mount spurned by Weichong Marwing in favor of She’s on Fire, and 3 to 1 favorite Pocket Power.

Co-owners Gary Barber and Barry Irwin scoff—scoff you understand—at raising odds a point on Russian Sage in July.

SHE'S ON FIRE VICTIMIZED BY VICTORY IN PREP RACE FOR DURBAN JULY, ROBIN BRUSS GOES TO BAT FOR TEAM WITH JOCKEY CLUB HANDICAPPER, MARE PICKED UP PENALTY OF KILO (2.2 POUNDS) FOR WINNING HANDICAP

She's on Fire picked up a 1 kilo (2.2 pounds) penalty for winning last Saturday because of a loophole in the rules for the Durban July. The rule states, in essence, that if between the time weights are assigned for the Grade 1 race a horse wins a non weight-for-age race, the handicapper in his discretion can adjust the weight.

So, in an odd turn of events, she picks up weight for winning a Grade 3 race, while Russian Sage and Dancer's Daughter carry not an ounce more than originally assigned even though they have won Grade 1s since because their wins came under w-f-a conditions. On a positive note, the mare drew exceptionally well in the 10 hole for the Durban July—smack dab in the middle of the 20 horses for the winter Classic.



She's on Fire, from 10 hole, is now 14 to 1, below only five other July starters.

Ormond Ferraris, who has trained Durban July horses before some of racing's rule makers were born, did not realize he was possibly hurting his own chances by winning a Grade 3. Weichong Marwing knew the story, yet he opted to ride She's on Fire regardless of the 2.2 extra poundage.

Robert Bloomberg, Team Valor's partner in Joshua's Princess and regarded as the most astute horse player in South Africa, said "They introduced a ridiculous rule this year that says that no penalties will be accrued after the publication of weights except in handicaps until final declaration. So yes, she will get 53,5 kgs in the July and Marwing takes the ride on your mare instead of Dancer's Daughter.



Bloomberg won Durban July with Dunford.

"I may be wrong, but I reckon he's (Marwing) insane. Anyway, I helped the Snaith's get (Kevin) Shea, who is a most adequate replacement. He has very good hands and can get anything to settle. DD may not stay, but she has always been my first pick for the big race. Time will tell. I wish you all the best with your runners."

Robin Bruss, Team Valor's go-to bloodstock agent and future business partner, is irate over the turn events, which he terms arbitrary. He said "I spoke to the handicapper at length. He was very sympathetic, but said that he was applying the Condition 4 of the race conditions.

"I told him this was true and it was an unfair rule that allowed Dancers Daughter and Russian Sage not to be penalized for winning w-f-a preps, but She's On Fire to be penalized for winning a handicap.



Robin Bruss and wife Jane lead in She's on Fire after the Jubilee Handicap last Saturday at Turffontein race course in So Africa.

“They explained that the reason that Gold Circle made the rule was because of the prevalence in recent years of horses to duck the Daily News and Gold Challenge so as not to risk getting a penalty for the July.

“So they decided to have no penalties this year, EXCEPT in handicap races. That’s biased and unfair – but it clearly is a condition of entry.

“So this gave the handicappers the opportunity to penalize, but they did not have to. I asked them why they did, because the filly ran 4 lbs better than the 2nd horse (MR 101) and therefore ran to her rating.

“They said that they used the 3rd horse (MR 103) as the line horse and that she ran 5 lbs better than him and ran to a 108 rating. They decided to be “lenient” and raise her rating to 107, in the knowledge that it would affect her in the July.

“They think they have acted fairly. I expressed the view that the whole affair was biased and that by running honestly, this filly is being shabbily treated. The fairest view would be to use the 2nd horse as the line horse and ensure that when the final field is published tomorrow, the weight is unchanged. They are unsure if they can backtrack and off the record, are going to ‘see what can be done.’”

Bloomberg reckons only 5 horses can win the Durban July. She’s on Fire is not one of them, but he gives a huge chance to Russian Sage, who he says “is another matter entirely.”

Robin says that if the mare comes close and doesn’t win, the loss will most likely hit the trainer hard. Robin explains:

Ormond Ferraris has never won the July, but his son David won the Super Quality (1997) and Classic Flag (1998). For Ormond, it has been more elusive.

He should have won in 1975, which was the infamous year which went down as one of the great injustices in the history of the race.

Gatecrasher (Herman Brown senior), Distinctly (O Ferraris) and Principal Boy (Mr & Mrs Oppenheimer), were set to fight it out. Garth Puller on Gatecrasher was told not to use the stick in anything but the left hand as the horse would hang. Course, he didn’t listen, the horse veered left and pushed Distinctly right across the track until he all but went over the outside rail. Principal Boy ran on his own down the inside fence.

The hooter rang out, and everyone knew that Gatecrasher was going to be disqualified. However, when the photo finish came out, Distinctly had been nosed out for 2nd place by Principal Boy, who hadn’t interfered with anybody. Gatecrasher was placed last, and Principal Boy found himself first and Distinctly, the rightful winner was 3rd. The story goes (and no one knows it for sure), that Harry Oppenheimer felt so bad that his horse was not the moral winner (after all

– he should have been beaten by both the other two), he apparently sent Ormond the winning cheque. I guess we'll have to ask Ormond for his version one day.

And so Ormond has never won the county's most prestigious race – and SHE'S ON FIRE will aim to do that for him.

Closest that he has got since 1975 was in the race which was probably the strongest ever – in 1991 – consider this group of horses. Ormond trained RAKEEN (Northfen Dancer – Glorious Song), sire of JET MASTER, who finished 3rd. Second was AL MUFTI (Roberto – Lassie Dear) and the winner was FLAMING ROCK (GB) (by Ballad Rock), who won 16 races inc 5 Grade 1 events and was trained by Chris Snaith, father of Justin ! 4th was Spanish Galliard, who won the following year

From *SportingPost.co.za* comes the following:

Jubilee Handicap Grade 3 Turffontein

Whether Turffontein's Jubilee Handicap has much bearing on the Vodacom Durban July in most years is debatable at best, but the most recent edition of the 1800m race looks an exception. Half of the eight starters in this traditional off-season feature on the standside course were first acceptors for the July, amongst them Gr1 GommaGomma Challenge winner Eddington. She's On Fire and Bound By Honour, respectively second and fourth behind the Dominic Zaki inmate in Africa's richest race six weeks earlier, also turned out for the Jubilee.



Weichong Marwing and The Brusses celebrate She's on Fire's victory in JoBurg.

Eddington proved most disappointing, even if he never did have a particularly straightforward task under 60.5 kgs in the first place. He was well placed in around third spot as Falstaff set a decent pace from She's On Fire, with Bound To Travel also prominent, but the GommaGomma winner was looking far from comfortable on the firm winter ground early in the straight and was soon beaten. Conditions at Greyville on July day shouldn't be anywhere near as firm as this, but nor are they likely to be anything like as soggy as on GommaGomma day. It is worth noting that three of

Eddington's five career wins have come on soft ground, and while proper "good" going probably suits him fine he would certainly benefit from any unseasonable rains ahead of the July.

She's On Fire is also known to enjoy softer ground, but she coped perfectly fine with the conditions here. Picking it up comfortably once Falstaff faded, she opened up a solid lead 200m out and kept going well under Weichong Marwing to shake off a late challenge from Captain Courageous with room to spare. The runner-up had won the corresponding race twelve months earlier, when it was staged on the Turffontein inner course, but wasn't in particularly good form coming into Sunday's renewal.

Bound To Travel finished third, lacking extra late after looking a possible threat at one point, with Singing Sword fourth, but Bound By Honour made no show and also disappointed.

She's On Fire is a 5yo mare trained by Ormond Ferraris, who is still looking to finally earn compensation for his colt Distinctly's unlucky July defeat back in 1975. Distinctly was promoted from third place to second after being severely impeded by original winner Gatecrasher, but the honours had to be awarded to a very fortuitous Principal Boy, who had crossed the line second. That may seem like ancient history to most, but not to She's On Fire's trainer.

Veteran Ormond Ferraris.



Whether the daughter of Jet Master has any realistic chance of finally laying the spectre of Distinctly to rest is a moot point, but she has turned into a seriously good performer over the past few months and will be in great form going forward to the July. She's On Fire is out of the Concertino mare Cream Of The Crop and was bought for R90k at the 2004 National Yearling Sale. Bred by the Scott Bros, she has won 6 of 13 starts and earned R1 311 700 for her owners, Team Valor.

FAST LOOK, GAME SECOND, USED UP ON FAST SPLITS AT MONMOUTH PARK

Fast Look improved in her second stateside race on Thursday, finishing a game second after dueling through rapid fractions from the drop of the flag. Sent off as the third choice in a 6-horse field, she was rifled from the gate by David Cohen, sped to the lead while being pressured from the outside, battled from the inside through blazing internal fractions of :22.29, :44.79, :56.57 and held on courageously for the place while the winner stopped the clock in a fast 1:02.68.

Fast Look was beaten 1 ¼ lengths for the win and was a length clear of the third-place finisher.

Although the performance was solid, it was frustrating for the mare's connections to see her get beaten on Thursday. In her native Brazil, where she won 2 of 3 starts, including a rousing victory in a Grade 1, Fast look was allowed to settle in the early stages and produced for a later run.

With the experience of a race aboard the mare, Cohen was expected to employ similar tactics to those used in Brazil. But no sooner did the starter spring the latch did it become apparent that Cohen either had "send" on his mind, or he was instructed to quarter-horse the mare from the outset. Shortly after the race became official, the culprit came to the fore.

"I specifically instructed the jockey to make the lead at all cost," admitted trainer Joe Orseno.

"The next time you come up with a bright idea, why don't you run it by me first so we can shed some intelligence on the situation," replied a disgruntled Barry Irwin.

Needless to say, the conversation took a turn down Apologetic Lane from that point on, with Orseno hanging up his cell phone with his tail firmly positioned between his legs.

Despite the poor strategy, Fast Look ran a very good race. She handled the turn well, fought on bravely and showed that she's "on the improve." Importantly, she did not bleed internally. Orseno has been instructed to give the mare 4-6 weeks before even considering another race.



DAVERON TAKES DEBUT IN GERMANY IN THE MANNER OF A GOOD HORSE, YEARLING BUY OVERCOMES SLOW BEGINNING TO WIN CLEAR OVER TRIP, TRAINER TRYBUHL CONSIDERING AN OAKS TRIAL ON GERMAN DERBY DAY

Daveron, a close relative to Team Valor's Dalicia, made her debut a winning one on Wednesday in Germany, where at Cologne race course she was able to overcome a poor start to score by a length.

Dispatched as the third choice at odds of 5 to 1, the tall chestnut sophomore missed the break, in the process giving up about 5 lengths to the field.

On her own, however, the filly quickly made up the deficit to be well position just past mid-field. Leading German reinsman Andre de Vries gave the filly a picture-perfect ride from there.



Daveron saved ground every step of the way, racing along the rail, as the field raced in two lines. Into the final furlong and a half a large seam developed that allowed de Vries to angle his mount off the inside and get her into full stride.

De Vries allowed the filly to go after the two leaders on her own and, in the final 50 yards he pushed her out to score by daylight in a thoroughly convincing effort for a debutante going 9 ½ furlongs.



Andrea Trybuhl, who combined with stable rider de Vries to miss by a nose in taking the Group 1 Oaks in Germany for Team Valor a few years ago, has done a masterful job developing this big, raw-boned filly. He could not race her at 2 and halfway through 3 because of her size and lack of maturity. But his patience has been rewarded.

Team Valor's German-based partner Daniel Krueger, who owns an interest in Daveron, spoke with the trainer after the race. "He insists the filly needs more ground to show to her best. There is a race back in 2 weeks, or he might wait a bit longer and run her in a trial for the Diana (Oaks) on Derby Day. He acts like he may want to give her a chance to show she is up to this caliber. Very exciting."

Daveron is from the first crop of Black Sam Bellamy, a Group 1-winning full brother by Sadler's Wells to Champion Galileo, who is unquestionably one of the hottest stallions in Britain and Europe, holding court at his sire's stamping ground of Coolmore Stud in County Tipperary, Ireland.

She was produced by a half-sister to Dalicia, a near Champion racehorse in Germany who beat the Horse of the Year Soldier Hollow in a Group stakes at Baden-Baden. She is currently in foal to Mr. Greeley and will be offered at Keeneland in November by Denali Stud as agent.

Barry Irwin attended the German yearling sale in Baden-Baden two years ago to test the quality and the market. He bought Daveron for syndication and Mona Lisa for himself. Daveron looks to be stakes quality and Mona Lisa is a winner that is German National Listed stakes quality.

COLLEGIATE ROMPS IN EVENTUAL DEBUT AS EXPECTED BY CONNECTIONS, FILLY OVERCOMES STUMBLE AT THE BREAK TO DRAW OFF BY 2¼-LENGTHS, YEARLING BUY HAS NATION'S THIRD-BEST BEYER FOR 2-YEAR-OLD FILLY



Collegiate wins with her ears pricked first time out at Belmont.

performance, which was nothing if not sensational and served as a testament to Hennig's horsemanship.

Collegiate, the only yearling filly bought at a sale in the U. S. by Team Valor, scored an impressive debut victory yesterday at Belmont Park earning a huge 91 Beyer, a fig better by only 2 other juvenile fillies this year.

Mark Hennig had been singing Collegiate's praises for the past 6 weeks and he was cautiously optimistic the Saarland filly would win at first asking, despite Hennig's abysmal 0.04% winning statistic with debut runners.

"I think she just might overcome me," Hennig joked before the race. In fact, Collegiate's

As the field of 5 was dispatched from the gate, Collegiate appeared to break cleanly from the side view, but replay of the head on confirmed that she stumbled. "I was surprised when she got outbroke because when she worked from the gate, she was as fast as they come," Hennig said.

Collegiate recovered well and was sent up along the rail by Edgar Prado to engage the early leader. The Team Valor filly put a head in front of Todd Pletcher's Market at Midday, led around the turn and floated her rival wide curving for home.

After carving out swift fractions of :21 2/5 and :44 4/5, Collegiate switched leads in the lane and, with Prado just showing the filly the stick, she drew off to win in hand in :57 2/5 as the mild 9 to 5 choice.

"What a filly. She wants no part of 5 furlongs," said Prado. "She didn't even want to switch leads into the first turn because it came up so fast. Wait until she stretches out."

Hennig said "I knew we really had something special after I breezed her from the gate the first time. With fillies, most of them lose their minds after the first gate drill. Not her. It never phased her."



Steve Karlin (blue) and Mark Castellano (next to groom) at Belmont.

The most impressive aspect of the filly's race was that she had to overcome some adversity to win and this will stand her in good stead when she returns in the Schuylerville and Spinaway at The Spa.

Collegiate gave a big boost to Team Valor's plans to buy more yearlings this year, as the private market has dried up due to inflated prices and Uncle Sam gives tax incentives to yearling buyers.

PHANTOM AVALANCHE SUSTAINS A BONE CRACK IN SHIN AT CHURCHILL, SUPREMELY TALENTED 2-YEAR-OLD WILL BE OUT OF ACTION 10 WEEKS, NEARLY WHITE COLT SET TO DO HIS REHAB IN VERSAILLES AT KESMARC

Phantom Avalanche suffered a setback in training this week at Churchill Downs, where a suspected bucked shin turned out to be a crack in the center of the cannon bone.

Trainer Dale Romans had Dr. Steve Allday radiograph the raised area in the front of the shin and a fracture was discovered.

"This is upsetting, because this sucker was all dressed up and ready to roll," Barry Irwin said. "He will still be able to run at 2, but he will miss all of the big summer races, in which we had high hopes of doing well. Crap!"

Surgery is scheduled for today in Lexington, Kentucky. The colt is not lame and is in no pain.

A letter from Irwin to the partners follows:

Memo re SAUCER FRACTURE

Dear Partner,

Phantom Avalanche has come up with a saucer fracture on a front shin in the middle of the cannon bone.

Dale Romans thought the colt had merely bucked his shins, which is the most common bone ailment experienced by a Thoroughbred, but Dr. Steve Allday radiographed it this morning and discovered a crack in the shin.

"We need to put a small screw in there to compress it," said the vet. "That will take care of it. He will be down 8 to 10 weeks."

Surgery will be performed on Friday morning at Rood and Riddle veterinary clinic by Dr. Larry Bramlage, after which the colt will be sent to the Kentucky Equine Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Center (KESMARC), where he will be rehabbed under the direction of Dr. Allday.

"We will give him a couple of weeks and then swim him, put him on the aqua-tred (water-based treadmill) and jog him," said Dr. Allday. "If everything goes normally, he will be back in training in late August. He's a very athletic horse and he still should make the races this season at 2."

Phantom Avalanche was ready to run and lacked only gate approval from the Churchill Downs starter. He is held in the absolute highest regard by trainer Dale Romans, who has called him his best 2yo from day one.

Fortunately, this type of injury heals well and usually never reoccurs.



BARRY IRWIN IS THINKING “YEARLINGS” IN 2008 FOR VARIOUS REASONS



Anybody familiar with Team Valor International’s buying patterns during the past few seasons is keenly aware that the stable has not been buying nearly as many horses as in past years. And, according to Barry Irwin, it is not for a lack of trying.

“The private market has dried up,” he said. “Anybody with a promising young horse prices it at a figure that makes it un-buyable. They sit back and wait to see if IEAH or Godolphin calls. When they don’t, the owners are too embarrassed to lower the price and nothing gets done. Our policy this year is to make offers at realistic figures. If they are accepted, we buy; if not, we sit chilly. So far our butts are nearly frozen!”

Team Valor will instead set its sights on buying yearlings, starting next month in Kentucky. “We have proven we can stock our stable with good racehorses from yearling buys,” Irwin said. “They are so much cheaper than ready-made stock and we can control their environment.

“Furthermore, there are tremendous tax advantages available this year and that helps everybody.”

Thanks to the economic stimulus package enacted into law this year, buyers of yearlings are able to write off 50 percent of the cost of the animal during the initial year of purchase, no matter when the yearling is acquired.

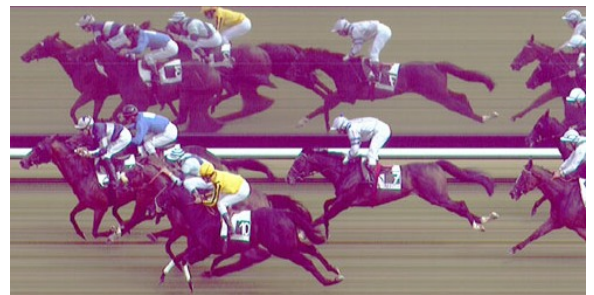
Irwin plans to buy yearlings at home and in Europe for racing in the United States and abroad.

LITTLE MISS MAGIC SIXTH OF 15 BEATEN LESS THAN 3 LENGTHS IN FRANCE,

Little Miss Magic, after running horribly on heavy turf in her French debut, improved significantly on Wednesday in an allowance race at Maisons-Laffitte, when she was beaten 2½ lengths over a mile on the straightaway parallel to the Seine river.

Barry Irwin said “I will wait a few days to see how she came out of the race and talk over the future with her trainer, Alain Royer-Dupre. My guess is that we will run her a couple more times, then have her covered in Europe and sent back to South Africa early next year to foal there.” We may offer her for sale once she has returned to South Africa.

Aron Wellman, after reviewing the video replay of the race, said “Little Miss Magic ran a pretty decent race. She broke relatively cleanly and settled in mid-pack in the early going. She was pinched ever-so-slightly about three-eighths of a mile into the race and dropped back a bit, but it was rather insignificant and did not cause her to forfeit any real positioning. She raced in 9th or 10th for the first half of the race, about 6 or 7 lengths off the pace while racing in the 2-path with one rival just to her inside on the rail. She handled the right-hand turns well and when the field straightened out for the home stretch, she displayed a decent turn of foot to pick off a few fillies while weaving her way through the middle of the field. She was unhindered, but it was not necessarily a clear run through either. She finished with interest without ever really threatening for any of the top spots, but showed some courage by splitting fillies the last sixteenth of a mile to get her nose in front at the wire for 6th, beaten 2 lengths. She did her best running the final quarter-mile and was closest at the wire. “



Little Miss Magic is the last filly in this picture.

RACE GRID

PROBABLE UPCOMING RACES					
Horse	Date	Track	Distance	Class	Purse
Sailor's Cap	6/21/2008	Colonial Downs	9.5 T	Colonial Turf Cup-G3	\$600,000
Mona Lisa	6/22/2008	Dortmund	7 T	Maiden	\$8,000
Jazzy	6/25/2008	Belmont	7 T	Caress S.	\$75,000
Penny Bun	6/26/2008	Vaal	5 sand	Maiden	\$9,000
Afleet Bob	6/26/2008	Monmouth Park	6	Allowance	\$40,000
Stately	6/27/2008	Belmont Park	6 T	Allowance	\$57,000
Fairbanks	6/28/2008	Prairie Meadows	9	Cornhusker H.-G2	\$300,000
*Becrux	6/28/2008	Hollywood	9 T	American H.-G2	\$250,000
Hey Sis	7/1/2008	Durbanville	6 & 7 T	Maiden	\$7,500
Cherry Mandy	7/1/2008	Hamburg	6 T	Allowance	\$19,000
Russian Sage	7/5/2008	Greyville	11 T	Durban July-G1	\$400,000
She's on Fire	7/5/2008	Greyville	11T	Durban July-G1	\$400,000
Trojan	7/5/2008	Greyville	12 T	Handicap	\$10,000
On Her Toes	7/5/2008	Greyville	7 T	Golden Slipper-G1	\$45,000
Mona Lisa	7/6/2008	Hamburg	8 T	Hapaq Lloyd-Pokal	\$80,000
Unbridled Belle	7/13/2008	Delaware Park	10	Delaware H.-G2	\$1,000,000
Cherry Mandy	7/13/2008	Chantilly	5.5 T	Handicap	\$57,000
Tasha's Miracle	7/26/2008	Del Mar	8 T	San Clemente S.-G2	\$150,000
Jazzy	8/2/2008	Woodbine	6 T	Royal North S. -G3	\$150,000

NOTES

Visionaire, who bled when third at Churchill Downs in the Grade 3 Northern Dancer Stakes after putting in a big move on the turn, has been discovered to have had a bacterial infection in his lungs, which most likely was the result of something he picked up on his 11-hour van ride from Maryland. Dr. Rob Holland, who is consulting with Micahel Matz, said this is "good news," because the lesion on the lung is minor and can easily be corrected with hyperbaric chamber visits. "This is not chronic bleeding in any way," he said. "This is a one-off deal that we will nip in the bud. He will be back, and soon." In addition, Garrett Gomez' agent Ron Anderson phoned Barry Irwin to say "Your horse ran a 5 ½ on The Sheets, equaling his best. You and I both know he wasn't at his best physically and he needs blinkers badly. Barry—this is a very, very good colt. Get him right and really have something pal!"

Chiquita, if one is to believe trainer Geoff Woodruff, was scratched from her intended debut tonight at Greyville because she cut her mouth this morning training. Barry Irwin is highly skeptical. "We are not what one would call thrilled to date with this barn and a change may be made," said Irwin.

Greenwich Park was bet out of sight in a small field this evening at Greyville and ran stone last, beaten 16 lengths, after Mark Khan eased him home from halfway. Upon dismounting, Khan said "This is not like this colt at all. You saw the horse that finished way ahead of him. He is one of Geoff's too and your colt finishes lengths ahead of him at home. He wouldn't go in the sticky going, so I just stopped riding him." Barry Irwin asked trainer Geoff Woodruff to have the colt scoped. Although listed official on the chart as "slightly soft," the course at Greyville has taken a lot of rain this week. A further report will be filed next week.

Added Edge has 40 mares in foal at Special K Farm in Iowa. The Champion 2yo Colt in Canada of his generation will wind up covering 52 mares this season, his second at stud.

Miller Time, a wet-course specialist and perhaps one of the fastest horses in South Africa on soft footing, misses an opportunity to sprint on heavy turf tomorrow, as a deluge in The Cape forced the cancellation of racing tomorrow at Kenilworth.

Ice Gold also will not race tomorrow at Kenilworth because the races have been "abandoned." She most likely would have been withdrawn by Justin Snaith regardless.

Austintatious arrived yesterday from England, will spend two days in quarantine in New York, then be vanned to the Fair Hill training center, where he will be trained for Gary Barber and Team Valor by Graham Motion.

Mona Lisa will look to win a second "maiden" race (in Germany a horse can win a maiden on dirt and turf) on Sunday for Mario Hofer, who will take her to Dortmund for a 7-furlong race. After breaking her maiden by double digits on dirt, she was beaten a dirty nostril last time on grass. She figures to be a heavy favorite for the grass race.

SAF Yearling Fillies – four of the names given by Team Valor International to yearling fillies bought in South Africa in April have been rejected for one reason or another and new names were submitted and approved, as follows:

- **Twin Aspens** is the new name for Apres Ski (Fort Wood). She is inbred to Fall Aspen, one of the greatest producers of all time.
- **Ribbons** for Thee is the new name for Emblematic (Captain Al). By a captain out of a mare named Emblem, ribbons seemed apropos. Lyric from a Leonard Cohen song didn't hurt!
- **Jeet Jet** is the new name for Nemesis (Jet Master). Jeet Jet was a snippet of dialogue from a book by J. D. Salinger. It is slang for "did you eat yet?" Jet seemed apropos. Irwin idolizes J. D.
- **Quest for Love** is the new name of Luminescence (Silvino). The word "love" is in the family. The new name is also the title of a motion picture produced by partner Anant Singh. Irwin easily could have named it Esme, for the famous J. D. Salinger story "Esme with Love and Squalor," but he wanted Singh to share in the names, even though the last time a horse was named after a motion picture, neither the filly or the movie succeeded for Gary Barber.

Sun Bolt finished third, beaten 5 ¼-lengths in her second career outing at River Downs on Thursday. Sun Bolt pressed a fast pace from the outside, weakened around the turn and faded in the stretch, but was able to sustain herself well enough to hold onto the show money. Trainer Ralph Nicks thinks the filly may improve with a switch to the turf. A similar spot for Ohio-bred maidens will be sought after on the sod in a few weeks time. Sun Bolt earned \$1,010 for the effort. The odds-on 3 to 5 fave will be given another chance to win a race and will be retired soon afterwards.

Fairbanks will be ridden by Julien Leparoux in next week's Cornhusker Handicap in Iowa. Team Valor checked in with Prairie Meadows this morning and learned that they anticipate no weather-related problems, as the near river is 10 miles away.

Turfquelle, the dam of European Group 1-winning filly Turfrose, has been confirmed in foal to 2007 European Horse of the Year Manduro, a son of German uber sire Monsun. The mare is owned by the Chicagoland pals Ed Weil and Bob Levy, in partnership with Barry Irwin. The mare's current yearling by one-time world-record-priced yearling Seattle Dancer will be sold in France in August at Deauville.

[Aquino \(URU\)](#)

Date: June 18, 2008
Track: SARATOGA
Distance: Four Furlongs
Time: 50:99 Breezing
Track Condition: Fast
Surface: Dirt training
Rank: 16/25

[Grand \(IRE\)](#)

Date: June 17, 2008
Track: CHURCHILL DOWNS
Distance: Five Furlongs
Time: 1.03:20 Breezing
Track Condition: Fast
Surface: Dirt
Rank: 10/19

[Onthedeanslist](#)

Date: June 19, 2008
Track: CHURCHILL DOWNS
Distance: Four Furlongs
Time: 51:20 Breezing
Track Condition: Fast
Surface: Dirt
Rank: 15/17

[Monashee Gold \(IRE\)](#)

Date: June 20, 2008
Track: KEENELAND
Distance: Four Furlongs
Time: 48:00 Breezing
Track Condition: Fast
Surface: All Weather Track
Rank: 2/27

[Old Ninety Eight](#)

Date: June 20, 2008
Track: KEENELAND
Distance: Five Furlongs
Time: 1.03:20 Breezing
Track Condition: Fast
Surface: All Weather Track
Rank: 20/24

PERFORMANCE GRIDS FOR UNITED STATES, SOUTH AFRICA AND EUROPE

Top Ragozins & Beyers			
Runner	Desc	Best Ragozin	Best Beyer
Becrux	2002 g	2.5	104
Jazzy	2003 m	2.75	96
King of the Roxy	2004 c	3	103
Unbridled Belle	2005 f	3.5	104
Fairbanks	2003 c	4.25	115
Winning Point	2004 f	4.5	102
Visionaire	2005 c	5.5	98
Audacious Chloe	2004 f	5.5	95
Sailor's Cap	2005 c	6.25	92
Onthedeanslist	1999 h	6.75	99
Tasha's Miracle	2005 f	7	94
Grand	2000 g	7.75	95
Monashee Gold	2003 g	7.75	92
Sugar Baby Love	2004 m	7.75	87
Sally Bowles	2003 m	8.25	89
Touch My Soul	2005 f	8.5	86
Colina Verde	2003 m	9.25	87
Prayer	2003 m	11	88
Some Broad	2005 f	14.5	72
Sonnets Way	2005 f	14.5	65

Top Timeform & Racing Post Ratings			
Runner	Desc	Timeform	RPR
Unbridled Belle	2003 f	122	n/a
Jazzy	2002 m	119	n/a
Becrux	2002 g	116	113
Tasha's Miracle	2005 f	111	n/a
Aquino	2004 c	109	96
Touch My Soul	2004 f	108	106
Mesa Marauder	2004 g	97	n/a

Top South African Merit Ratings			
Runner	Desc	Best	Current
Russian Sage	2004 c	107	107
She's On Fire	2003 m	107	107
Woodland City	2003 f	105	n/a
Captain's Lover	2004 f	104	104
Little Miss Magic	2003 f	103	n/a
Jazzy	2002 m	103	n/a
Joshlin	2004 f	102	102
Joshua's Mistress	2004 f	101	101
Sally Bowles	2003 m	101	n/a
On Her Toes	2005 f	99	99
Field Event	2004 c	98	98
Stately	2003 m	95	n/a
Miller Time	2004c	94	87
Temair	2005 f	91	91
Jet Park	2005 f	84	84
Trojan	2004 c	81	81
Elegant Aspen	2003 f	77	76
Moulin Grise	2004 f	76	76