

## TEAM VALOR ACQUIRES 3-YEAR-OLD DISTORTED HUMOR COLT IN ENGLAND, AUSTINTATIOUS SET TO PREP IN ENGLAND FOR STAKES IN UNITED STATES, GRAHAM MOTION WILL TRAIN UNDER EUROPEAN CONDITIONS AT FAIR HILL

Austintatious, a well-bred son of Distorted Humor that was second in a hot Newmarket maiden race over a mile in the second of his two starts last season, has been bought by Team Valor International.

Austintatious has run twice for trainer Brian Meehan, showing a good deal of promise in both of his starts.

In his bow sprinting on soft turf, he finished fourth of 11 at Lingfield. Of the debut effort, *Timeform* mused "showed clear ability and, in common with most from the stable, should improve for this first outing."



**Distorted Humor's 3-year-old English-based Austintatious is a substantial colt.**

In his second start he got conditions that suited going a mile on better turf at Newmarket, where he finished second of 17, prompting *Timeform* to note that he "duly progressed significantly from his debut."

*Timeform* rated the colt at 96, a very respectable figure for a second career outing.

Austintatious was not beaten by the proverbial "empty stall" when running second at Newmarket. The unbeaten winner was Juddmonte Farm homebred Twice Over, who went on to win his next start and is a "talking horse" for the Epsom Derby this season.

Says *Timeform* of a colt that could not be bought for any price, "Twice Over has created an excellent impression in 2 starts so far and looks well worth his place in a Derby trial; whilst he didn't have to improve on his maiden success there's no doubt he had plenty in hand, always traveling strongly under a change of tactics held up, and allowing the others first run as he was hemmed over 2f out before sweeping by without the whip being used; he again stood out for physique, and looks a smart and exciting prospect."

*Timeform* rated him at 104.

*Racing Post*, commenting on the Juddmonte colt's second win, termed his effort "an imperious performance" and said he "won with authority."

Of \$150,000 yearling buy Austintatious, *Timeform* said he is a “strong, useful-looking colt” that improved significantly when “upped in trip” to a mile.



*Racing Post* following the colt’s runner-up race commented “Austintatious had shown promise on his debut over 6f at Lingfield, and he stepped up on that effort over this longer trip. He was soon bowling along in the lead and held that position until the winner went on and kept on under pressure when headed. He can lose his maiden tag next time.”

The ownership that will race Austintatious consists of Team Valor International, Hollywood movie mogul Gary Barber and Andrew Rosen. It was Rosen who bought the colt in the United States and sent him to Brian Meehan in Great Britain.

Team Valor International has raced many prominent runners over the past several seasons by Gary Barber, among them being The Deputy (Grade 1 Santa Anita Derby winner), Golden Ballet (Grade 1 Santa Anita Oaks winner), Sweet Stream (Group 1 Prix Vermeille winner and Champion Filly in Great Britain) and Becrux (Grade 1 Bell Woodbine Mile Stakes winner, Champion Colt at 2 in Italy).

Rosen maintains a broodmare band at Claiborne Farm near Paris, Kentucky. He has raced several top horses with Brian Meehan (above) and manages a stable established by his late father Carl that included Chief’s Crown, winner of the first Breeders’ Cup race (Juvenile) ever run, and Chris Evert, who won the Eclipse Award emblematic of the nation’s Champion Filly at 3.

Barry Irwin said “We hope that in buying this type of animal and crafting the game plan we have developed for him that we are setting a precedent for the stable.

“When we find a horse we want to buy, there always is a conflict between what is the correct thing to do for the success of the animal versus what our client base would like to see done with the horse.

“In this instance, we are doing exactly what we think is best for the horse. We hope the clients will embrace both our choice of the animal itself, as well as the game plan, which has been devised to give the colt his best opportunity to achieve success.”

Normally, when the stable buys a European or British horse, the clients want to see that it is brought to the United States as quickly as possible and trained in a locale where it will race.

Austintatious will be handled completely differently.

The substantial bay son of Distorted Humor, instead of being brought stateside immediately, will be kept in training with Brian Meehan in England, where he will probably be raced twice before being sent to the United States.

And when the colt does arrive, instead of going to New York or Los Angeles or Kentucky, he will be sent to Fair Hill Training Center, where Maryland and New Jersey meet. He will become the first horse trained for the stable by Graham Motion.





**Graham Motion gets nod to train Austintatious.**

Barry Irwin explains: “Everything is being done with the interests of the horse in mind. The reason we are not bringing him over at once is that if we did it the usual way, he would probably not be able to race until late May or June.

“Additionally, he would have to learn to adapt to traditional North American training conditions and racetracks. When you ask a horse to acclimate to a new weather system, change training surfaces and alter his entire routine, you never know how long it will take to get them ready to run.

“Also, there is no place in North America where a horse can be trained as hard or made as fit as a trainer can at his facilities in Britain or Europe.

“So we have decided to take advantage of the horse being in England and leave him with Brian Meehan, who will race him a couple of times in advance of a U. S. invasion, which most likely will occur in the spring or early summer.

“By doing it this way, the colt will have run twice and be dead fit for an American stakes race at about the time he would be making his first start in the United States if we had elected to have brought him over straightaway.”

Team Valor hopes to have Austintatious win a race and be produced for an effective race “off the plane” in a stakes race for his American debut. Arlington Park or Belmont Park are the most likely venues for the colt’s first U. S. outing.

Irwin said that Graham Motion has been chosen as the colt’s trainer for three main reasons. “First and foremost, the young man has developed into one of the top handful of grass trainers in the country. Secondly, he trains at Fair Hill, which is the closest facility we in American have to the type of training conditions foreign horses are used to. And last, but certainly not least, Graham has clearly demonstrated an ability to ship and win.

“The transition should be seamless from England to America. My theory on this subject is that when a horse arrives from abroad, they have an advantage in fitness of from 3 to 5 lengths. As they train under normal American conditions, they gradually lose their fitness edge over the next 45 to 90 days. So by bringing a horse to Fair Hill, theoretically, this fitness edge can be extended.”

Austintatious is a son of the high-flying Distorted Humor (right), one of the premier stallions in the world and at the very top of the heap in North America alongside Storm Cat and A. P. Indy. His stud fee was raised from \$60,000 to \$100,000 three seasons ago. Last year it was raised to \$225,000 and this year it was elevated to \$300,000, the same as Storm Cat and A. P. Indy.

Distorted Humor commands such an extraordinary fee because he not only gets top-class runners and lots of them (22 stakes winners represented him in both 2006 and 2007), but they are versatile and can run short and long, on any surface.



In 2006, he was not only North America's Leading Sire on the General Sire List, but he was the sire of 10 Grade 1 winners in that season alone.

Kentucky Derby and Preakness hero Funny Cide and Classic 3-year-olds Any Given Saturday and Flower Alley are the best of his colts to date.

Distorted Humor's sons are proving popular additions at stud and Austintatious has a pedigree that is good enough to make him a valuable stallion prospect should he perform up to expectations.

Austintatious hails from a family loaded with class.

He is a half-brother to the Kingmambo colt Sohaib, an English stakes winner described by *Timeform* "as being "attractive" and "smart" (the ultimate accolade from the English publication). He won the Dee Stakes going 1 ¼ miles on a flat, left-handed course that was hard and fast the day he won it. The Dee is annually a good barometer of a horse that has the style to win well in America. Team Valor's My Memoirs came off a solid performance in the Dee Stakes to run A. P. Indy to three-quarters of a length in the Classic Belmont Stakes, for example.

The second dam also had a stakes winner by Kingmambo in American Odyssey, who won or placed in half a dozen stakes races in the United States, including the Grade 3 Palm Beach Handicap at Gulfstream Park and the Listed Transylvania, which has subsequently been afforded Graded status.

Third dam Au Printemps was a Grade 3 winner that produced 4 stakes winners, as follows:

- **Success Express** won the Breeders' Cup Juvenile and placed in several important races, among them the Grade 1 Hopeful and Grade 1 Norfolk Stakes. He stood first in Australia, then in North America.
- **Greenwood Lake** won the Grade 1 Champagne Stakes, the Grade 2 Remsen Stakes and stands in North America.
- **Charley Barley** earned more than \$920,000, was a Champion on turf in Canada, where he set a Woodbine course record for a mile and was a multiple Grades stakes winner who stood in his homeland upon retirement.
- **Royal Hudson** was a stakes winner of 2 races in 4 starts last season in Canada, where he was a Listed winner.

The fourth dam, an Irish import, was responsible for 8 stakes winners, among them the following:

- **Whitmore's Con** was a Grade 1 winner of the Sword Dancer Handicap at Saratoga.
- **Air Express** was a Classic-winning Miler in Germany and Italy, where he was Champion Colt at 3, and ran second in England in the Grade 1 St. James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot.
- **Mud Route** won the Grade 2 California Stakes on dirt in California, where he has been a useful stallion.
- **Au Printemps** was a multiple Graded stakes winner in British Columbia and is the third dam of Austintatious.

Team Valor thinks that Austintatious will be effective from 8 to 10 furlongs. His Dosage Index of 3.00 and Center of Distribution of 0.81 reflect a Dosage Profile of 9-5-11-0-1, which indicates strictly from the point of view of pedigree that he should have enough speed to be effective up to a mile and that a Classic distance is likely within his grasp, as the middle wing of his profile is the strongest.

The 4 sires in the third generation of the colt's pedigree are Mr. Prospector, Danzig, Seattle Slew and Riverman. Mr. Prospector is the most successful North American sire of modern times. Danzig is the most influential son of Northern Dancer, even more so than Sadler's Wells, and sired Danehill. Seattle Slew won the Triple Crown and became the leading sire. Riverman was a Champion and Classic winner in France and became a leading international sire in Kentucky. Each is a true blue-blood, each a legend on the racetrack and at stud and, in combination, give Austintatious a variety of options as to what surface conditions he might like best.

Distorted Humor is a true all-around sire himself, more so than A. P. Indy, who tends to get mostly dirt runners.

Barry Irwin said that Austintatious will be given every chance to explore all surfaces available in the United States to determine his most effective weapons.



*Mr. Prospector, Seattle Slew, Danzig and Riverman are the four stallions in the fourth generation of Austintatious' pedigree and all four were leading sires and major international influences.*



Austintatious was born on April 30, which is on the late side, so whatever he was able to do at age 2 may be merely of indication of what lies ahead as he matures and catches up with the foals from his crop that were born earlier.

The colt will be syndicated on the basis of \$550,000. He will be divided into 50 shares priced at \$11,000 each. Each share represents 2 percent of the colt. A maximum of 5 shares (10 percent) and a minimum of 1 share (2 percent) will be made available on the usual first-come, first-served basis.

Interested parties are asked to contact Amy Collingsworth at [teamvalor2@aol.com](mailto:teamvalor2@aol.com) or (888) 434-2677.

## FACT SHEET

<b>Name</b>	Austintatious
<b>Age</b>	3
<b>Sex</b>	colt
<b>Color</b>	bay
<b>Bred</b>	Kentucky
<b>Born</b>	April 30, 2005
<b>Height</b>	16 hands
<b>UK Trainer</b>	Brian Meehan
<b>US Trainer</b>	Graham Motion
<b>Race Record</b>	2 starts ( 0 - 1 - 0 )
<b>Timeform</b>	96
<b>Breeders' Cup</b>	nominated
<b>Sire</b>	Distorted Humor
<b>Dam</b>	Fancy (Half A Year)
<b>Sire Line</b>	Forty Niner ... Mr Prospector
<b>Dam Sire Line</b>	Riverman ... Never Bend
<b>Inbreeding</b>	4 x 4 Northern Dancer
<b>Family</b>	Champions Charley Barley and Air Express, G1SWs Success Express, Greenwood Lake and Whitmore's Con, GSWs Mud Route, Au Printemps, Sohaib, American Odyssey
<b>Dosage Profile</b>	9 5 11 0 1
<b>Dosage Index</b>	3.0
<b>Center of Distribution</b>	0.81
<b>Total Valuation</b>	\$550,000
<b>10%</b>	\$55,000
<b>8%</b>	\$44,000
<b>6%</b>	\$33,000
<b>5%</b>	\$27,500
<b>4%</b>	\$22,000
<b>3%</b>	\$16,500
<b>2%</b>	\$11,000

## AUSTINTATIOUS

Austintatious b. c. 2005	Distorted Humor	Forty Niner	Mr. Prospector File Danzig Sweetest Chant Riverman Six Months Long Seattle Slew Au Printemps
	Fancy Ruler	Danzig's Beauty Half A Year Bittersweet Hour	

### 1<sup>st</sup> dam

FANCY RULER, by Half a Year. Unplaced in 2 starts. Dam of 7 foals, 6 to race, 4 winners.

**SOHAIB** (c. by Kingmambo). 4 wins, 2 to 4 in England and NA, \$158,344, Philip Leverhulme Dee S.-L., 2nd Sodexho Prestige Scottish Classic **[G3]**, Stanley Racing Thirsk Classic Trial S., 3rdSelect S. **[G3]**, Shadwell Stud Joel S.

Other winners: Shrine Mountain (Distorted Humor) 4 wins in England, Victorytonitehey (Victory Gallop, Faithful Ruler (winner in England).

### 2<sup>nd</sup> dam

BITTERSWEET HOUR, by Seattle Slew. Unplaced in 1 start. Half-sister to **CHARLIE BARLEY** (\$922,943, Champion in Canada, Dominion Day H. **[G3]**, **GREENWOOD LAKE** (\$430,620, Champagne S. **[G1]**), **SUCCESS EXPRESS** (\$835,359, Breeders' Cup Juvenile S. **[G1]**), **ROYAL HUDSON** (\$79,861 (USA), Ascot Graduation S. **[L]**). Dam of 3 winners.

**AMERICAN ODYSSEY** (c. by Kingmambo). 3 wins at 2 and 3, \$119,108, Spartacus S., 2nd Paradise Creek S. **[L]**, 3rd Palm Beach S. **[G3]**, Canterbury Park Derby **[L]**, Transylvania S. **[L]**. Sire.

Skye's Folly (c. by Kris S.). 3 wins at 3 and 5 in England, \$38,637.

Carol's Magic (c. by Meadowlake). Winner at 2, \$24,875.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> dam

**AU PRINTEMPS**, by Dancing Champ. 7 wins, 2 to 4, \$124,383, B. C. Oaks-(**G3**), Prima Donna H., Luella G. H., 2nd Bay Meadows Lassie S., Senorita S., 3rd Ballerina H., Burlingame S., Queen Charlotte H. Dam of 9 winners.

**CHARLIE BARLEY** (c. by Affirmed). 10 wins, 2 to 4, \$922,943, Champion Turf Horse in Canada, Dominion Day H. **[G3]**, Sea o'Erin H. **[G3]**, Summer S. **[G3]**, Heresy S. **[L]**-ncr, 1 mile in 1:34.80, Toronto Cup H. **[L]**, Woodstock S. **[L]**, Fort Harrod S. **[L]**-ncr, 1 mile in 1:35.80 (KEE), Colin S. **[L]**, etc. Sire.

**SUCCESS EXPRESS** (c. by Hold Your Peace). 4 wins at 2, \$835,359, Breeders' Cup Juvenile S. **[G1]**, Sport of Kings Futurity **[L]** (LAD, \$126,267), Canterbury Juvenile S. **[L]**, 2nd Bay Shore S. **[G2]**, 3rd Hopeful S. **[G1]**, San Rafael S. **[G2]**, San Vicente S. **[G3]**, 4th Norfolk S. **[G1]**, etc. Sire.

**GREENWOOD LAKE** (c. by Meadowlake). 3 wins at 2, \$430,620, Champagne S. **[G1]**, Remsen S. **[G2]**, 2nd Futurity S. **[G1]**. Sire.

**ROYAL HUDSON** (c. by Monarchos). 2 wins in 4 starts at 2, 2007, \$79,861, Ascot Graduation S. **[L]**.

### 4<sup>th</sup> dam

\***Lorgnette II**, by High Hat (GB). Placed at 2 in Ireland, 2nd Park S.-L. Half-sister to **LOVELY GALE** (Athasi S., etc.), \***MLLE. BARKER** (Fifinella S.), **Night Traffic**. Dam of 5 winners.

**AU PRINTEMPS** (f. by Dancing Champ). (Black type winner, see above.)

**Our Suzette** (f. by Sunny's Halo). Winner at 2 and 3, \$42,772, 2nd Seaside H. -R. Producer.

**MUD ROUTE** (c. by Strawberry Road (AUS)). 6 wins, 2 to 4, \$672,040, Californian S. **[G2]**, San Diego H. **[G3]**, 2nd Strub S. **[G2]**, San Fernando Breeders' Cup S. **[G2]**. Sire.

**Aunt Sadie** (f. by Affirmed). 3 wins at 3 and 4, \$46,377, 2nd Emerald H. (HST, \$8,840(CAN)).

Ibtisamm (f. by Caucasus). Winner at 3 in England. Dam of--

**AIR EXPRESS (IRE)** (c. by Salse). 4 wins, 2 to 3 in England, Germany and Italy, \$620,718, Champion Colt at 3 in Germany, Champion Colt at 3 in Italy., Mehl-Muelhens-Rennen-German Two Thousand Guineas **[G2]**, Premio Parioli-Italian Two Thousand Guineas **[G2]**, Queen Elizabeth II S. **[G1]**, 2nd St. James's Palace S. **[G1]**, 3rd Dewhurst S.

[G1], etc. Sire.

Albonita (f. by Deputed Testimony). Winner at 3 and 4, \$20,804. Dam of--

**WHITMORE'S CONN** (c. by Kris S.). 7 wins, 3 to 5, \$740,426, Sword Dancer Invitational H.

[G1], Bowling Green H. [G2] twice, 2nd Mohawk H. -R, 3rd Lexington S. [G3], Lawrence Realization H. [G3], etc.

**TIVA'S LITTLE SIS** (f. by Labeeb (GB)). 4 wins at 3 and 4, \$159,903, Chapel Belle S., 2nd Walmac Lone Star Oaks [L], Marie P. DeBartolo Oaks [L], 3rd Jersey Lilly S.

**Capotiva** (f. by Capote). 6 wins at 3 and 4, \$129,932, 2nd Margarita Breeders' Cup H. [L], Lakeway S., 3rd Sanguine H. [L].

Mlle. Liebe (f. by Bupers). Winner at 3. Producer.

**WANDER KIND** (c. by Hold Your Peace). 17 wins, 2 to 5, \$303,583, Lieutenant Governor's H., Sir Winston Churchill S., Spokane H., Invitational Marathon H., British Columbia H., etc. Sire.

**LOVIN' LASS** (f. by Cutlass). 6 wins at 3 and 4, \$142,113, My Juliet H., 2nd High Voltage S., Hydrangea H., Banquet Bell S., 3rd Distaff H.-G3, etc. Producer.

**Mlle. Lyphard** (f. by Lyphard). 4 wins at 3 and 4 in NA, placed in 2 starts at 2 in Ireland, \$62,797, 2nd Honey Fox S., 3rd Zinnia S. -R. Producer.

## RACE RECORD

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		Race Record				
		Age	Starts	1	2	3
<b>Austintatious, b. c., 2005, Distorted Humor—Fancy Ruler, by Half a Year</b>		2	2	0	1	0
<b>Bred in Kentucky by Woodlynn Farm Inc &amp; Brian Hoeweler.</b>						
04 Oct	Newmarket Maiden 8f T gd 1:36.74 4 to 1 126 L. Dettori	2	TwiceOver 2,	Austintious 1¼,	MadeToRansom 2	17 ran
18 Aug	Lingfield Maiden 6f T sf 1:11.55 14 to 1 129 C. Catlin	4	ViveLesRouges h,	Bellomi nk,	MajorWilly 3	11 ran

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# Distorted Humor

In 2007:

24 yearling colts were sold at auction - averaging \$541,542 !

Distorted Humor was the sire of five yearlings  
selling at auction for \$1,000,000 or more.



## Distorted Humor

1993 Forty Niner / Danzig's Beauty by Danzig

### A great sire

In 2007 Distorted Humor is the Leading North American Sire of Stakes Winners as well as the #1 North American Sire of Gr.1 Winners in 2007. Worldwide progeny earnings now in excess of \$42M.

Distorted Humor's top performers include **Funny Cide** Kentucky Derby (G1), Preakness Stakes (G1), Jockey Club Gold Cup (G1), Excelsior Breeders Cup Handicap (G3), Sleepy Hollow S., Bertram F. Bongard S., 2nd Wood Memorial S. (G1) etc.,

**Flower Alley**, Travers S. (G1), Jim Dandy S. (G2), Lane's End S. (G2), Salvator Mile (G3), 2nd Breeders Cup Classic (G1), Arkansas Derby (G2)

**Commentator**, Whitney S. (G1), Perryville S., Mugatea S., 3rd Woodward S. (G1)

**Hystericalady**, Humana Distaff (Gr.1) , Hollywood Breeders' Cup Oaks (G2), Molly Pitcher (Gr.2), 2nd Breeders Cup Distaff (Gr.1), 2nd Lady's Secret H. (Gr.1).

**Awesome Humor**, Spinaway S.(G1), Adirondack S.(G2), Debutante S.(G3), Indiana B.C. Oaks (G3), 2nd Alabama (G1), Churchill Downs Distaff H. (G2),

**Any Given Saturday** Haskell Invitational (Gr.1), Dwyer Stakes (Gr.2), Brooklyn H. (Gr.2).

**Rinky Dink(AUS)**, Australian Oaks (G1),

**Don Dandy** Champion Older Male in PR, Clasico Dia de Reyes (G1), Clasico Antonio R. Barcelo (G1),

**Fourty Niners Son**, Clement L Hirsch S.(G1), San Luis Rey Handicap (Gr.2), 2nd Eddie Read H. (G1), 3rd Arlington Million (G1), 3rd American Invitational H. (G2),

**Bit of Whimsy** Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup (Gr.1), Mrs Revere (Gr.2), 2nd Garden City Stakes (Gr.1),

**It's No Joke** Hawthorne Gold Cup (Gr.2), Ack Ack H. (Gr.3), **Sharp Humor**, Swale S. (G2), Sleepy Hollow S., Bertram F Bongard S., **Hello Pretty (AUS)** Hong Kong Derby Trial (G2) and the Cathay Pacific Int'l Cup Trial (G2), **Sensibly Chic** Vagrancy H. (G2), What a Summer S. etc., **Change Up**, Pocahontas S. (G3), 2nd Golden Rod S. (Gr.2), **Go Rockin' Robin**, Peter Pan (G2), **Humorous Lady**, Astarita (G2), **Original Spin** Arlington-Washington Lassie S.(G3), 2nd Test S. (G1), 3rd Breeders Cup Juvenile Filly (G1), **Like It Is**, Sunline Stakes (Gr.2), **Z Humor**, Delta Jackpot (Gr.3), **Tirade(AUS)**, Guineas Prelude (G3), **Cowtown Cat** Gotham Stakes (G3), **Da Stoops**, Sunshine Millions Dash, California Breeders' Champion S., 2nd Hollywood Preview S. (G3), **Chips Are Down**, Bien Bien S., 2nd in the El Cajon S., **Heavenly Humor**, **Crackup**, **Kool Humor**, **Saratoga Humor**, etc.