

10-YEAR PARTNER HARVE HNATIUK TALKS ON STABLE'S EURO TRANSITION SOUTH CAROLINA RESIDENT CELEBRATES MOLL'S NOBLESSE STAKES WIN COUPLE EXPERIENCES BOURGEONING ZEAL FOR THE GAME "OVER THERE"

On Thursday TVI partner Harve Hnatiuk spoke at length with Jessica Berry about his experience with the stable since the announcement of its transition to primarily European racing. The South Carolina resident and his wife Cyndee have been involved in Team Valor partnerships for 10 years including with Grade 3 winner Infinite Magic and graded stakes placed homebred Rocking the Boat.

One of the Hnatiuks' greatest thrills was being present at Arlington when Infinite Magic won the Grade 3 American Derby in 2013, and they make an effort to attend the races when their horses are running whenever possible. For this reason, the Hnatiuks had serious reservations about getting involved in a European horse. Harve explains, "my major problem was that you don't get to see them run live without being a jet setter! I've always enjoyed going to the races; Saratoga, Keeneland and Churchill are some of my favorite tracks. The other thing was the time difference of having the races in the morning as opposed to the late afternoon."

Despite their misgivings, last January the couple decided take the plunge and bought into an Irish based filly named **Moll**. Over the weekend Moll became a stakes winner when scoring the Listed Noblesse stakes by 1 1/4 lengths against some formidable company. While winning a stakes anywhere undoubtedly adds to an owner's fondness of the venue, Harve will tell you himself that even before that spectacular run, following Moll's career over the past year has caused him to have a change of heart towards having runners across the pond.



The Hnatiuks on the infield at Oaklawn Park



"We got Moll and when she would be running in the fourth or fifth race of the day you put on TVG earlier than your race goes. You start watching European racing and thinking to yourself that the quality of racing is really good, the fields are big which is good for wagering and the racecourses are beautiful. We were thrilled with Moll last weekend and it was a great experience to watch her come up the rail like that, I think she has a lot of upside and a long way to go!"

Moll looks like the Hnatiuks' ticket to the big time in racing in Europe and the British Isles this season.

Moll, now officially rated 104 from her first start of her 4-year-old season, is being pointed towards the G3 Munster Oaks in June. Trainer Paddy Twomey believes the daughter of Camelot possesses the ability to be competitive in G1 fixtures by the end of this year. The Hnatiuks are hoping he's right!

"I enjoy international racing a lot more now. It's grown on me quite a bit. Once I got over those two things about the time change and not physically going to the track I would never think twice about buying another horse over there, especially if the horse was picked out and trained by Paddy Twomey, he seems to have a good eye and a good way. I have Chain of Destiny also!"

Chain of Destiny is a 2-year-old colt by Churchill purchased by Paddy Twomey for Team Valor as a yearling from the Goff's Orby sale. Churchill was the Champion European 2-year-old, then won the G1 2,000 Guineas and the G1 Irish 2,000 Guineas at three. Twomey is pointing the youngster towards a debut race in July.

The Hnatiuks still love the experience of going to the races, although those opportunities have been put on hold over the past year as a result of the pandemic.

"Horses take you places, which is really nice because a lot of us don't want to go to the track for no reason. The times I've been to Keeneland have been so special and down the road maybe Moll or another European horse we get involved in will come to America to run in a big race over here and we would definitely go to that."



Chain of Destiny training with Twomey



Thankfully, American racetracks across the country are gradually re-opening to owners and spectators in limited capacities once again. Although it is impossible to know when international travel restrictions might be lifted or even when it might be considered safe to travel casually again, Berry asked Hnatiuk if someday, somehow, he and Cyndee might consider making a trip to Europe to see their horses.

"If Moll ran in a huge race over there, I would have to think about going over. Ireland is somewhere I've wanted to go because it is so beautiful and seeing a race there would be a bonus part of a trip like that. I really like big fields as a wagerer and that's a great thing for me. On the undercard for Moll's race there were 18 horses in one race! Going across the pond is a little bit more of a challenge for us, but if we get there someday, if it's in conjunction with a race, that would be the ideal way to do it.

I've been with Team Valor since Animal Kingdom won the Derby and sometimes the horses do well, sometimes they don't. My first horse never ran, the second one wasn't great either but the third one won a graded stakes race which was unbelievable! No matter what, it's an education. I've always been interested, and the European racing is just another part of my education."

Harve and Cyndee enjoying Saratoga