

July 21, 2012

HOWE GREAT EASILY ACCOUNTS FOR JERSEY DERBY AT ODDS OF 2 TO 5 BARRY IRWIN HOME-BRED 3-YEAR-OLD WINS THIRD STAKES THIS YEAR SON OF IRWIN'S FORMER STALLION HAT TRICK EYES G2 DEL MAR DERBY

Team Valor International's 3-year-old colt Howe Great won today's Jersey Derby Stakes at Monmouth. It was the third stakes success in 2012 for the syndicated black colt, who was bred by Team Valor's CEO Barry Irwin.

Dispatched at prohibitive odds of 2 to 5, Howe Great was ridden with supreme confidence by Joe Bravo, who had him third, two wide, for most of the trip, until he moved him three wide curving for home. Bravo at all times avoided trouble and covered an excess amount of ground, keeping out of harm's way in the small field, while knowing that he was on much the best colt. Bravo took him extra wide turning for home, understanding that the ground loss was secondary to remaining in the clear, and allowed the colt to catch the leader, easily wrest command and then hold off one challenger in the run to the wire.



"Don't let the margin fool you," Bravo told co-owner Al Frassetto of New Jersey. "He won much easier than it might have looked. I had a ton of horse under me and I never used it. He is a top colt."

Howe Great is a son of imported parents. Irwin bought and resold the sire Hat Trick after acquiring him in Japan. Irwin used his lifetime breeding right in the son of Sunday Silence on his imported South African mare Ginger Sea, which Irwin still owns and keeps in Kentucky at Denali Stud.



Howe Great cruised by 1 ¼ lengths in the featured Jersey Derby today on the turf at Monmouth Park. Next for the home-bred colt is the Del Mar Derby.

In 9 races, Howe Great boasts a record of 5 wins and 3 places for gleanings of \$322,153. Besides the Jersey Derby, he also accounted for the Grade 3 Palm Beach Stakes over Dullahan and the Kitten's Joy Stakes at Gulfstream Park. The colt also placed behind Silver Max in the Grade 2 American Turf at Churchill Downs and the Grade 3 Hill Prince Stakes at Belmont Park.

Irwin said "This colt is a credit to my trainer Graham Motion and his staff. We decided to point for the Del Mar Derby in September and we needed a race to tick him over. I thought his style suited the Monmouth Park turf course better than Saratoga, with its short stretch, and that's why we sent him to run in this race. It was our second Jersey Derby. We won it back in 1994 when it was a Grade 2."