

LUCKY CHAPPY LINED UP FOR \$2-MILLION UNITED ARAB EMIRATES DERBY BAY AND GRAY COLT LEAVES FOR DUBAI ON MARCH 20, GARCIA TO RIDE GUTSY COMPETITOR FINISHED SECOND BY A LIP IN GRADE 3 ON TAPETA

Team Valor International firmed up plans on Tuesday to send Lucky Chappy to Dubai for the \$2-million United Arab Emirates Derby on March 31 at Meydan racecourse.

Alan Garcia will retain the mount in the Grade 2 race after guiding the Irish-bred colt to a second-place finish by a nose in the Grade 3 El Camino Real Derby on February 18 over Golden Gate Fields' Tapeta surface, the same synthetic track that is in place at Meydan.



Lucky Chappy rallied from last and was beaten by inches (below) in the El Camino Real Derby in his only start on anything but turf.

Lucky Chappy and analyzed the potential field since the colt arrived back in Florida four days after the 1 1/8-mile race at Golden Gate, where he made a sustained drive from last place and engaged Daddy Nose Best in a duel through the stretch. The 1 3/16-mile distance of the U.A.E. Derby is attractive for Lucky Chappy as a son of High Chaparral, who won 2 editions of the Breeders' Cup Turf and both the English and Irish Derbys.

The El Camino Real Derby was the distinctly colored colt's first start beyond 8 1/2 furlongs. Team Valor bought him privately last July after he scored a stakes win in Italy over 7 1/2 furlongs. He finished third in the Bourbon Stakes at Keeneland in his American debut in October and made a wide rally from last to finish fourth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf.

Lucky Chappy kicked off his 3-year-old season with a second-place finish in the 1 1/16-mile Kitten's Joy Stakes to his Team Valor stablemate Howe Great, who fired back with a Grade 3 victory on Sunday in Gulfstream's Palm Beach Stakes.

Team Valor CEO Barry Irwin said, "Graham Motion and I discussed the pros and cons this afternoon and, as Graham said, 'I cannot really come up with a con that would prevent me from wanting to send him. There are just too many pros. Garcia was selected because the connections want a jockey that is familiar with the colt and has some confidence in him.'"

Lucky Chappy will be flown from South Florida to Dubai on March 20. He is scheduled for a workout this weekend at Palm Meadows Training Center in Boynton Beach.

Irwin and Motion have assessed



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