

DEVANT KICKS OFF VALOR'S BIG WEEK WITH GAME GR.3 WIN IN FRANCE FOUND AT OBSCURE VENUE, 2YO FILLY FLAUNTS ABILITY IN PARIS SECOND STAKES WIN OF MONTH FROM TVI'S FRENCH ROSTER OF FOUR

Devant's name is French for "in front," and she got there in the Group 3 Prix Miesque at Maisons-Laffitte today, following up on a painfully close defeat in her Team Valor debut over the summer in a similar event.



Devant found a seam for a perfectly-timed rally under PC Boudot.

The Red Sea opened for the tiny but game chestnut filly as she made a perfectly-timed rally underneath leading rider Pierre-Charles Boudot, who is tall for a jockey on any horse but looks like his feet will drag the ground on Devant. Boudot had his hands full: Devant pulled repeatedly throughout the first half of the race before finally getting into a good rhythm near the back of the field of nine on a course rated "very soft."

As Devant launched her rally with 300 meters remaining, five other fillies were side-by-side until a gap opened between Epistrophy and favored Happy Odyssey, just in

time for Devant, who reached even terms with those two just as they began to flounder in the boggy going. With Boudot hard at work, Devant kept advancing and amazingly without a straw in her path. She put her head in front with about 75 yards to go and held off the English filly Stay Classy in the shadow of the wire to prevail valiantly by a short neck.

Devant bounced back completely after a disappointing loss at 2-to-1 odds in the Group 3 Prix d'Aumale over a mile in September at Longchamp. She failed to follow through with her drive in that race after pulling hard, while also subjected to the inside part of the Longchamp course that was noticeably "dead" throughout much of the year. After freshening the filly up, Team Valor CEO Barry Irwin and trainer Henri-Alex Pantall set their sights on the Prix Miesque.

Devant caught Irwin's attention with the manner in which she dominated a debut race in June, even though the venue must have inspired a few double takes. Team Valor partners have been rewarded for their faith, as she immediately supplied validation with a second-place finish by an eyelash in the Group 3 Prix Six Perfections at Deauville, and now she has likely wrapped up her juvenile season with her status cemented as a Graded stakes winner. From a French roster of four horses in training, Team Valor also won the Listed Prix Dahlia in Paris this month with the 4-year-old filly Nisreen and will be represented by French Group 3 winner The Black Album in the \$1-million, Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf at Churchill Downs.

“Alex has done a terrific job with this filly, who is obviously a bit of a headcase,” said Irwin, who had already selected Pantall to receive one of the four fillies that the TVI CEO bought in the Arqana yearling sale in Deauville last week.



Long-time Team Valor partner Bart Siegel was in attendance at Maisons-Laffitte, where he greeted PC Boudot and Alex Pantall in the winner's circle.

ParisLongchamp last time.

The chestnut was let go at a generous 51-10 for Wednesday's G3 Prix Miesque at Maisons-Laffitte, in the face of a stern overseas challenge, and obliged in a bunch finish for a career high. Settled off the tempo until making headway into contention passing the quarter-mile marker, she was one of six abreast on the front end inside the eighth pole and was ridden out to prevail in game fashion. At the line, she was a short neck ahead of Stay Classy (Ire) (Camacho {GB}) with So Unique (Fr) (Siyouni {Fr}) a half length adrift in third. “She pulled very hard in the Prix d’Aumale last time and didn’t see out the mile,” explained winning trainer Alex Pantall. “At this stage she doesn’t stay much more than seven furlongs. She pulled again today, but Pierre-Charles Boudot did a good job getting her relaxed. He saved her turn of foot and she was able to show her true quality. We’ll now put her away for the winter and will wait before making any plans for next year.”

Prix Miesque Replay

Devant, half-sister to a yearling colt by Le Havre (Ire), is the first foal produced by a winning half-sister to G1 Prix du Jockey Club-winning sire Blue Canari (Fr) (Acatenango {Ger}), MGSP sire Blue Ksar (Fr) (Anabaa) and G3 Prix du Lys placegetter Crabapple (Fr) (Unfuwain). Her third dam, G3 Prix Fille de l’Air Savoureuse Lady (GB) (Caerleon) is a half-sister to MG1SW sire Mtoto (GB) (Busted {GB}) and her descendants are headed by G2 Prix Greffulhe victor Quest For Honor (GB) (Highest Honor {Fr}).

Wednesday, Maisons-Laffitte, France

PRIX MIESQUE-G3, €80,000, Maisons-Laffitte, 10-31, 2yo, f, 7fT, 1:26.51, vsf.

1-DEVANT (FR), 123, f, 2, by Showcasing (GB)

1st Dam: Davantage (Fr), by Galileo (Ire)

2nd Dam: Delicieuse Lady (GB), by Trepolino

3rd Dam: Savoureuse Lady (GB), by Caerleon

1ST BLACK-TYPE WIN; 1ST GROUP WIN. O-Team Valor International; B-Ecurie des Monceaux (FR); T-Henri-Alex Pantall; J-Pierre-Charles Boudot. €40,000. Lifetime Record: 4-2-1-0, €65,000.