

TEAM VALOR BUYS STREAKING 5-LENGTH 2YO FILLY WINNER IN FRANCE KENTUCKY VET DR. GARY PRIEST APPROVES ACQUISITION THIS MORNING ROYAL ASCOT AND BREEDERS' CUP ON AGENDA FOR WELL-BRED HOTSHOT



Spanish Romance, a French-based 2-year-old filly who won her 5-furlong Chantilly unveiling by 5 lengths to earn a sensational 98 *Timeform* rating, has joined Team Valor after passing an inspection this morning by Kentucky vet Dr. Gary Priest.

“She is very nice,” said the well traveled vet, who visits France regularly as part of his duties in overseeing the far-flung operations of War Front’s owner-breeder Joe Allen of New York. “I really like her.”

“I jogged her on the concrete, I palpated her everywhere and I couldn’t get any reaction from her,” he said. “She is dead sound. She is very well made, she is smart and she moves like a dream. I think you made a good buy on this one.”

“I don’t see her as being one dimensional. She is not built like a compact sprinter. I think she will run on a bit. She could be a bit taller, but she is tall enough and could grow more. She is, after all, only 2.”

Spanish Romance was syndicated in quick order yesterday and several regular Team Valor racing partners were shut out.

Briana Mott is maintaining an also eligible list of interested parties should any of the responding partners opt out for some reason.

Barry Irwin, now that the filly has been bought, will contact trainer Eoghan O’Neill to discuss specific options for her next start, which will serve as a prep for her major European target, which is the June 19 renewal of the 6-furlong, Group 3 Albany Stakes Royal Ascot meeting. She will race once before the British race, most likely in France again.

The filly is from the second crop of Irish and English Champion Rip Van Winkle, sire of 4 stakes winners in his first crop.

