

## ARLES BECOMES STAKES WINNER IN LISTED GERMAN RACE AT HANNOVER MONSUN FILLY WINS BLACK-TYPE RACE IN FIRST START FOR TEAM VALOR WOHLER 4YO LIKELY TO RACE AGAIN IN GERMANY BEFORE SARATOGA TRIP

Freshly syndicated Arles completed the first of two goals Barry Irwin set for her when he bought her this month in Europe by becoming a black-type winner last Sunday at Hannover Racecourse. The well-bred daughter of Champion European sire Monsun had placed four times in black-type races prior to syndication, including a Group 2, but she had never won a stakes race.

Trainer Andreas Wohler, a German-based horseman with a resume of international success in many countries, selected Sunday's VGH Versicherungen (named after the sponsoring insurance company) as the most likely spot, owing to its distance of 1¼ miles.

"She likes to set the pace," explained the Melbourne Cup-winning conditioner, "and this trip is ideal for her. Eleven furlongs is just a bit too far and 9 furlongs maybe a bit too short." In her last outing going 11 furlongs, she was just touched off in the shadow of the wire in a similar contest.



The 8,800 racegoers on hand at the idyllic German racecourse helped to make Arles a prohibitive odds-on choice at 1 to 2. Because the major stables were represented by runners in Cologne on an important afternoon of racing that featured the final trial for the Group 1 German Derby, Wohler tapped Italian jockey Michael (Mikki) Cadeddu to ride for him at Hannover.

The likeable Cadeddu, a tall fellow with an outgoing personality, has been nicknamed "Cockatoo" because he talks a lot. On Sunday, he also rode a lot, capturing 5 races and the imagination of those on hand, not the least of whom were Barry and Kathleen of Team Valor International.



With the Cockatoo taking a long hold, Arles set a measured tempo, leading her 5 rivals by a clear margin until the field swung for home, finishing on the stands side rail where the going was firmer. "It rained last night and, although the course is in beautiful shape, it is deeper on the inside. So I kept the filly in the middle of the course all the way around until the end."

Arles faced a hard challenge down the lane, as the runner-up became locked in a fierce struggle the length of the long stretch. In the end, Arles prevailed by a neck and never looked like giving up the battle. "She is all heart," said the Cockatoo, who only hit her once with the whip during the long drive. Arles prevailed by a neck.

Irwin's second goal is to win the September 3 renewal of the \$200,000 Grade 3 Glens Falls Stakes going 11 furlongs at Saratoga. She is likely to race once more in Europe prior to her invasion to America for the meet-ending contest at The Spa.