

BOMBSHELL LANDS 1ST STAKES WIN IN \$150,000 FOREVER TOGETHER IN NY REVITALIZED BY DELACOUR, STORMS OFF BY 4 1/4 LENGTHS AT AQUEDUCT SYNDICATED FOR \$185,000, MARE PROVIDES TVI'S 11TH STAKES WIN OF 2018



Bombshell relaunched her career with two wins and a stakes placing on turf this summer but she made the most of a dirt opportunity at Aqueduct on November 23, drawing away powerfully to win the \$150,000 Forever Together Stakes by 4 1/4 lengths.

The 5-year-old mare has racked up three wins along with a close third-place finish in the President's Cup at Mountaineer in August since being switched to trainer Arnaud Delacour and his base at Fair Hill Training Center in Maryland.

Bombshell landed Team Valor's 11th stakes victory in 2018, the most of any public partnership. The next

closest total is eight.

Barry Irwin bought Bombshell privately three years ago after she scored a debut win on the synthetic track at Woodbine. She was syndicated for \$185,000 and was stakes-placed on the dirt in early 2018 while based in New York.

The Forever Together was scheduled for the turf but was moved to the main track due to subfreezing temperatures. Delacour brought along Maryland's leading jockey, Jorge Vargas Jr., and he provided a fine ride on the ever-competitive Bombshell, who contested the pace with two others through five furlongs and bounded away at the three-eighths pole when Vargas gave his cue

Public Syndicate Groups - Stakes Stats for 2018

	Stakes Wins	Stakes Winners	Graded Stakes Wins	Individual Gr Winners
TEAM VALOR INTERNATIONAL	11	7	7	5
STARLIGHT	8	4	6	3
ECLIPSE TB PARTNERS	7	6	3	3
WEST POINT	7	5	4	3
WOODFORD RACING	5	3	4	3
LADY SHEILA STABLE	4	2	1	1
DONEGAL RACING	3	2	2	2
CENTENNIAL	2	1	1	1
ZILLA RACING STABLE	2	1		
DARE TO DREAM STABLE	2	1		
MAGDALENA RACING	1	1	1	1
A J SUITED STABLE	1	1	1	1
CHURCHILL DOWNS R.CLUB	1	1	1	1
ABBONDANZA RACING	1	1	1	1
PINNACLE RACING	1	1		
STARLADIES	1	1		

with a single crack of the whip.

"The main thing Mr. Delacour told me was to get her to relax, and I think she did," Vargas said. "She was between horses and she was so relaxed, letting me do whatever I wanted to do on her, and when I asked her just a little bit, she just went on."

Bombshell has won six times in 18 career starts and has earned just shy of \$300,000.

"She's really game and versatile," Delacour said. "The only thing she's never done is run over soft turf. That's the only question left. She's a very nice horse to have."

From *Daily Racing Form* comes the following:

Bombshell takes Forever Together

For the second straight day, trainer Arnaud Delacour won a stakes at Aqueduct that was scheduled for the turf but run on the dirt.

Bombshell, a two-time allowance winner on dirt in 2017, raced between horses under Jorge Vargas Jr., took the lead on the middle of the turn and drew off to a 4 1/4-length victory in the \$150,000 Forever Together Stakes for fillies and mares. Sexy Reasons, one of two main-track-only entrants who ran, held second by a nose over Dolce Lili, the 6-5 favorite. Ready to Confess and Saida, the other main-track-only entrant, completed the order of finish.

The Forever Together, like the Gio Ponti, was scheduled for 1 1/16 miles on turf, but was run as a one-turn mile. On Thursday, Delacour won the off-the-turf Central Park Stakes at Aqueduct with Five Star General.

Bombshell hadn't raced on dirt since she finished fourth of six as the favorite in the Ladies Stakes here in January. Trained by Jimmy Jerkens then, Bombshell had won two of her last three starts on turf, all since being moved to Delacour.

"She had some good back form on the dirt; to be honest, I was really happy to see it was a five-horse field, that helped us a little bit," Delacour said.

Bombshell was between Saida and Sexy Reasons through reasonable splits of 23.81 seconds and 47.17 for the opening half-mile. Saida retreated on the far turn, leaving Sexy Reasons as the major threat.

Approaching the top of the lane, Bombshell began to put Sexy Reasons away and with one crack of Vargas' right-handed whip and two of his left, Bombshell drew away.

"He did a pretty good job to keep his position but not go too fast," Delacour said. "She's really game."

Bombshell, a 5-year-old daughter of Bellamy Road owned by Team Valor International, covered the mile in 1:38.86 and returned \$12.20 as the fourth choice in the field of five.



Bombshell has won three times and finished a head back in a Listed race in four starts since joining trainer Arnaud Delacour.