

TEAM VALOR EYES BREEDERS' CUP WITH FRENCH 2YO THE BLACK ALBUM RECENT GROUP 3 WINNER POINTING TO \$1-MILLION JUVENILE TURF HIGHEST-RATED JUVENILE COLT ADDITION IN STABLE'S 30-YEAR HISTORY



Team Valor International has acquired The Black Album, recent winner of the Group 3 Prix La Rochette at ParisLongchamp, and will point him to the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf on November 2 at Churchill Downs.

The Black Album prevailed in the 7-furlong La Rochette on September 2 for his third victory in four outings for the tandem of trainer Jane Soubagne and jockey Mickael Barzalona. The latter has accepted the mount for the one-mile Juvenile Turf.

The son of Wootton Bassett boasts the third-highest official rating among French 2-year-olds, ranked a pound below the top two.

Team Valor CEO Barry Irwin said, "This colt is just the right size for American racing, with tremendous athleticism. He has the ability to lay handy, pounce instantly when asked and moxie to hold off all challengers the length of the stretch. What's so darn exciting about this guy is that he has top form already. In fact in all the years we've been doing this, we have never bought a

European colt that was so highly ranked or accomplished as a juvenile. It's pretty darn exciting."

The Black Album will be considered for one final race in France, the Group 3 Prix Thomas Bryon on October 4 at Saint-Cloud, but it is possible that he will train straight up to the Breeders' Cup. Team Valor captured the 2010 Juvenile Turf with a homebred, Pluck.

Soubagne will saddle The Black Album for the Breeders' Cup and then turn the colt over to Kentucky-based trainer Rodolphe Brisset.



The Black Album has won three of four starts with Mickael Barzalona up. The lone loss in that string was a fourth-place finish in a Listed race on August 12. Afterward, a dental issue was discovered and resolved.