

January 28, 2012

**AGRA SCAMPERS HOME BY CLOSE TO 4 LENGTHS IN HER STAKES DEBUT
FILLY BEATS 10 INCLUDING COLTS IN THE SCHWEPPE'S SUMMER JUVENILE
TEAM VALOR YEARLING BUY IS FIRST SOUTH AFRICAN SW FOR SIRE TRIPPI**

Team Valor International's Agra was not exactly a secret as the odds-on 2 to 5 favorite to make the Listed Schweppes Summer Juvenile Stakes her second win from as many outings. However, other than The Snaith Family, few racegoers today at Kenilworth were prepared to witness the utter disdain with which she dispatched her opposition in such effortless style, with a display of speed rarely witnessed by a lightly raced 2-year-old in such promising company.

Last season, when subsequent juvenile filly Champion Princess Victoria broke her maiden in taking this race, she was immediately hailed as being something special. Turf Writers are going to have to break out the old thesaurus to come up with another word to differentiate the performance by Agra with that of The Princess.

Agra was on the muscle prior to her debut over 900 meters (4 ½ furlongs) and for the Summer Juvenile she was brought to post by a pony. The precaution proved to be overkill, as Agra behaved like a seasoned runner this time around for the 1000-meter (5 furlongs) race up the straightaway.



Team Valor International's 2-year-old Trippi filly Agra won today's Schweppes Summer Juvenile Stakes under Felix Coetzee.

When the gates popped open, Agra got a flyer and was soon clear of her field, galloping along. Felix Coetzee had no trouble reeling her in and racing up on or near the pace for the first 3 ½ furlongs. As the field approached the furlong grounds, Coetzee let out a notch and the filly simply left her rivals for dead, as she skipped clear to cross the wire 3 ¾ lengths to the good.

Justin Snaith said “Felix never moved on her. He told me the best thing about her, other than her gift for sheer speed, is her mind. She came right back to him and relaxed beautifully. She gives us the impression that a mile will be well within her scope next season for the Guineas.”

Trainer Snaith, when he has a Guineas prospect, generally like to keep them in the Cape and not take them to Durban for the big Grade 1 juvenile races. However, Barry Irwin has other ideas. “She is by Trippi, she is bred to get it done at 2 and I want to take advantage of that,” he said. “If she is around in December and is up to the Guineas, obviously that would be great. But this filly is all dressed up and ready to go and I for one am not about to give up a chance to win a couple of Grade 1 races in Durban. We will have plenty of time later to worry about the Guineas!” Irwin bought the filly for about \$100,000 in January of 2011 at the Cape Premier Yearling Sale, where she received his highest conformation mark of all the fillies he bought at the sale.



Team Valor International partners Dr. Alan Miller of New York, Steve Karlin of New York, Anant Singh of Durban and wife Vanashree Singh of Durban lead in Agra, with veteran reinsman Felix Coetzee in the irons this day. The same group later won the Grade 1 Majorca Stakes with Team Valor International color-bearer Ebony Flyer.