

January 21, 2012

**HOME-BRED HOWE GREAT AIRS IN GULFSTREAM'S KITTEN'S JOY STAKES
TEAM VALOR SOPHOMORE COLTS RUN 1-2 IN \$100,000 GRASS FEATURE
GRAHAM MOTION TRAINEE IMPROVES HIS RECORD TO 3 WINS IN 4 OUTINGS
BREEDER BARRY IRWIN BOUGHT BOTH 3-YEAR-OLD COLT'S SIRE AND DAM**



Home-bred Howe Great led a 1-2 Team Valor International finish today in the featured Kitten's Joy Stakes, a \$100,000 stakes at Gulfstream Park for 3-year-olds going 1 1/16 miles on the grass.

Dispatched as the 9 to 2 third choice behind TVI's 6 to 5 favorite Lucky Chappy and Dale Romans-trained Cozzetti, Howe Great bounced out of the gate to quickly established a rocking-horse, daylight advantage on the front end.

In a field of 7 colts and geldings, the winner was allowed to cruise through an opening quarter-mile of :24 3/5.

The pace picked up dramatically thereafter, with three successive quarter-miles traversed in :23. Two challengers emerged at the half-mile pole. "One of them touched him behind," jockey Edgar Prado said "and when he felt it, he (Howe Great) just spurted away. He gave me two moves and did it easily. He was just cruising at the end." Final time was 1:40 2/5.

Howe Great won by 2 1/2, but as in his previous allowance win over the course, it could have been double had the rider ridden him out. The win, his third in 4 lifetime outings and his third in a row, was almost identical to an allowance win the time before, when ridden by Johnny Velazquez.

Barry Irwin, who bred the colt, said "He won as easily today as he did last time, even though the *Daily Racing Form* chart caller said he was all out. This is a top Miler in the making. He can rate and he is explosive. He's been a star since he was born and I am happy to see him progress as he has."

Lucky Chappy ran well to finish second, rallying down the stretch to take the second spot by three-quarters of a length and complete the TVI-Graham Motion 1-2 finish. He is still very much a candidate for the \$2-million U. A. E. Derby in March at Meydan race course in Dubai.

Irwin bought both of his imported parents, buying sire Hat Trick in Japan before selling the son of Sunday Silence to Walmac Farm in Kentucky, and importing his dam Ginger Sea from South Africa. Howe Great is the Western Winter mare's second foal, the first being the promising Badleroibrown, a 4-year-old son of Leroidesanimaux. "Badleroi is equally as talented as Howe Great, but he has breathing issues," Irwin said. "I think he can win a stakes, though, before he's finished." Howe Great follows Pluck and Animal Kingdom as other recent Irwin/TVI stakes-winning home-breds."