

## TALK VEUVE TO ME TAKES INDIANA OAKS BY NEARLY 5 LENGTHS AT 1-10 CRUISES HOME IN \$200,000 GRADE 3 IN HER FIRST TRY AROUND 2 TURNS NOTCHES SIXTH STAKES VICTORY FOR THE TEAM VALOR ROSTER IN 2018

Free from the shadow of established leaders within her division, Talk Veuve to Me added a new element and continued to climb the ladder herself on July 14, cruising to a nearly 5-length win at 1-to-10 odds in the \$200,000, Grade 3 Indiana Oaks.

Team Valor International had purchased a 50-percent interest in the Violence filly in March and in two starts for the stable she had finished second in the Grade 2 Eight Belles Stakes to top sprinter Mia Mischief at Churchill Downs and second to Kentucky Oaks heroine Monomoy Girl in the Grade 1 Acorn Stakes at Belmont Park.

Trainer and co-owner Rodolphe Brisset was eager to stretch the dark bay filly out around two turns and selected the 8 1/2-furlong Indiana Oaks at Indiana Grand outside Indianapolis, about a three-hour van ride from her home base at Keeneland. The trip could not have gone any better, as Talk Veuve to Me toyed with seven opponents under jockey Julien Leparoux, pouncing from just off the pace in the far turn and quickly opening up by 5 lengths. She cruised home unchallenged and under wraps to score by 4 3/4 lengths and complete 1 1/16 miles in 1:43, matching the final time of the \$500,000, Grade 3 Indiana Derby a little while later on the card.



*Barry Irwin has rarely seen a young filly take things in stride like Talk Veuve to Me, whom trainer Rodolphe Brisset considers to be one of the smartest horses he has been around.*

Brisset said, "She showed what I was expecting her to show. It was maybe a little quicker than what I was thinking on paper. But she took the lead pretty easy. You could see that she was looking around a lot, just went to the wire cruising."

The filly's connections have not yet decided on plans going forward, other than sending her on to Saratoga with about 17 other members of Brisset's roster on July 16. When she might cross paths with another leading 3-year-old filly, be it Monomoy Girl, Mia Mischief or someone else in a deep division, or at what distance, will be deliberated over the next few weeks. She is fifth in Mike Watchmaker's divisional rankings for Daily Racing Form.

Irwin said, "I will say one thing, which is that whatever amount of talent Veuve actually possesses will only be enhanced by her demeanor. Rarely have I seen a young filly that takes things in stride like her. She could scale the heights by her positive mental outlook alone."

"One thing that's encouraging about her, when she breezes in the morning, she completes the work and when she goes into the next turn galloping out, she takes off again. Who knows? She might go a mile and an eighth, mile and a quarter."

Talk Veuve to Me accounted for Team Valor's sixth stakes triumph in 2018 and fourth of the Graded stakes variety. She is the 194th stakes winner and 95th Graded stakes winner to represent one of Irwin's public partnerships, from a total of 612 starters.

From *Daily Racing Form* comes the following:

## Talk Veuve To Me Cruises In Indiana Oaks

Talk Veuve to Me ran into the very good filly Mia Mischief in the Eight Belles, her stakes debut, and an even better one, Monomoy Girl, in the Grade 1 Acorn Stakes. Second in both those races, Talk Veuve to Me was top shelf Saturday night at Indiana Grand, waltzing to a very easy victory in the Grade 3, \$200,000 Indiana Oaks.



Molecules set off to lead through quick fractions of 23.17 and 46.66 seconds, but Talk Veuve to Me and Julien Leparoux were clocking her from second the whole way. On the far turn, Leparoux gave his filly her cue to get the leader, whom she inhaled, quickly putting the race to bed. Figarella's Queen tried to make a run at Talk Veuve to Me, but as Figarella's Queen came under a drive Talk Veuve to Me was doing everything on her own. Leparoux never pressed her and she galloped home to a 4 3/4-length win.

"It was beautiful to see," said Barry Irwin, CEO of Team Valor International, which bought into Talk Veuve to Me after an 11 1/4-length maiden win March 25 at Fair Grounds. "She had two gut wrenchers. She needed a tonic."

Talk Veuve to Me didn't sneak up on anyone. She was the 1-10 favorite and paid \$2.20 to win. Off six furlongs in 1:11.06 and a mile in 1:36.38, Talk Veuve to Me was timed in 1:43.15 for 1 1/16 miles on a fast track. Figarella's Queen finished almost seven lengths in front of third-place Kelly's Humor.

Trainer Rodolphe Brisset (who still owns part of the filly, as does Stephen McKay) bought Talk Veuve to Me privately when she failed to meet her reserve at a 2-year-old-in-training sale during the spring of 2017, and she was among the first horses in his barn when he began training on his own last year. Talk Veuve to Me finished second in her lone start at 2, had a straightforward and relatively minor leg fracture that merely required time to heal, and came back with her big Fair Grounds win. The filly has a route pedigree (by Violence, out of the Point Given mare Biblical Point), and Brisset believed she'd

stretch out kindly. Talk Veuve to Me, coming off a seven-furlong race and a one-turn mile, bore out his confidence Saturday.

“We were very anxious to see her run two turns,” Brisset said. “I think a little relief today was a good thing for her.”

But there will be no relief if Talk Veuve to Me wants to take her game to the Grade 1 level. Monomoy Girl still lurks, and both Midnight Bisou and Red Ruby have delivered strong performances in the last two weeks. No plans have yet been made for the rest of Talk Veuve to Me’s campaign.

***Indiana Oaks Video***

“She may have to face them and turn the table on some to be in the top three,” Brisset said. “But we are what we are.”

And what they are – what she is – is an excellent 3-year-old filly.