

# Justwhistledixie carries the standard

By Mike Welsch

March 1, 2009

Courtesy of *The Daily Racing Form*

HALLANDALE BEACH, Fla. - Justwhistledixie accomplished what her stablemate Taqarub could not just 24 hours earlier - ship down from New York and stretch out to a mile to win a Grade 2 stakes at Gulfstream Park.

Justwhistledixie (\$7.40) rallied from off the pace before edging away to a convincing 3 3/4-length triumph over Casanova Move in Sunday's \$150,000 Davona Dale Stakes. Her stablemate Taqarub beat only one horse the previous afternoon when finishing a disappointing ninth in the Grade 2 Fountain of Youth.

Justwhistledixie was the beneficiary of a perfect ride from jockey Alan Garcia who eased the 3-year-old daughter of Dixie Union back off a contentious early pace in the Davona Dale. Justwhistledixie ranged up outside 9-5 favorite Frolic's Dream to challenge for command on the turn, gained the upper hand approaching the stretch and gradually increased her advantage to the end.

Frolic's Dream, who was purchased privately by the Lael Stable shortly after winning the Grade 2 Forward Gal Stakes on Jan. 30, faltered badly once relinquishing the lead to finish another seven lengths behind Casanova Move in third.

"We've always had to hustle her to go six furlongs so we thought a mile would suit her perfectly and be a perfect stepping-stone for what we hope will be a start in the Kentucky Oaks," said McLaughlin who trains Justwhistledixie for West Point Thoroughbreds and Lakland Farm. "We have a couple of options for her next race, either the Bonnie Miss or the Fantasy, although the Bonnie Miss is what I'd prefer since the timing is perfect and she's now proven she likes this track."

The Grade 2 Bonnie Miss will be decided at 1 1/8 miles here on March 27.