



ROYAL COLORS RACING

April 2012 Newsletter

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Kentucky Derby Madness is Here Again



It is that time of year again and all eyes shift to Louisville for the most exciting two-minutes in sports, the Kentucky Derby on Saturday, May 5th. This year the field looks very similar to several recent contests...packed with several talented horses but none that stand out as the clear favorite. Within the RCR offices we have reduced the list to ten in a first cut, but ten potential winners is a pretty lengthy list.

As always, we will have a winner on Saturday and the immediate focus will be on whether the Triple Crown can be achieved this year. Racing three times in six weeks at the Classics level is quite a test and the next horse to accomplish three wins deserves all the accolades he will inevitably receive.

If you are a horse owner or simply passionate about racing, enjoy this time...it's not Christmas, but it may be "the most wonderful time of the year."

Forty Winks Wins at Lone Star Park

Several RCR owners were on hand to see Forty Winks run the perfect trip and win at Lone Star Park. **If you missed the race, [you can watch it now by clicking here](#).** Forty was the pre-race second favorite with odds of 5:2, but that rapidly changed as the betting public moved him to the fan favorite at 4:5. He did not disappoint and arguably ran his best race to date.



Forty Winks opens up for a three-length win

Win Marked 2,000th Victory for Trainer Bret Calhoun

A 2,000th win in horse racing is similar to a major league hitter passing the same milestone, rare company. When Forty Winks crossed the finished line in first on April 19th, Bret Calhoun and his team were able to celebrate this career milestone, made even more special as it was at Bret's home track and in the town where he grew up, Grand Prairie. Bret continues to dominate the trainer-standings at Lone Star Park, currently recording 12 wins from 27 races for a startling 44% win record and 70% in the money record.



A toast to Forty Winks and Calhoun's 2000th win

Special Guests from Dallas Cowboys Cheered on Forty Winks

Joining Royal Colors Racing owners and guests were Dallas Cowboys' Coach Jason Garrett, Wide Receiver Miles Austin, and Offensive Lineman Doug Free. The special guests were given the opportunity to meet Forty Winks in the paddock and then join him in the Winner's Circle. With the win, Forty Winks pushed his record to 2 wins, 2 seconds, and a third from 10 starts. We are evaluating next race opportunities, most likely at Lone Star Park in May.



Coach Jason Garrett and Lineman Doug Free with Jockey Cliff Berry

Quest for Candy has Rough Trip

Quest for Candy lost her last race within the first few seconds following the opening of the starting gates. Drawing post number one, she was the first to load and had considerable time standing in the gates. When the doors flew open she was leaning against one side and jumped in the air. Before she was moving, the field was two strides in front of her. Candy rushed up and was in a position to challenge the leader just as they entered the turn and she was forced to check back to avoid contact.



At this point we all knew she would finish in the back half of the pack, and she did. This filly has a lot of talent, but not enough to beat those challenges. We will look for better from her in May.

Valentine Eddie Going Once, Going Twice...



Valentine Eddie has arrived at Lone Star Park and racing is right around the corner. He recorded his first two breezes, has been through introductory gate work, and is preparing for a mid-summer start. We are not pressing him real hard and anticipate we will continue to train him, on this new surface, through the month of May with his first start anticipated in June. We are optimistic that he will remain on pace for the Texas Stallion Stakes Series. Limited shares remain available and we will be closing him out prior to his first race.

If you are looking for a horse that will race primarily in Texas and Louisiana, Valentine Eddie is your pick. [If you are interested visit his profile, by clicking here](#) and let us know.



Effour Nears Final Phase of Off-Track Training



Effour is breezing 3/8th of a mile in preparation for his transition to the race track. He will be progressing to gate training next and then will head to one of Bret Calhoun's training stables. This horse stands over a lot of ground and looks like he will be a two-turn monster. We believe he will do very well in the Louisiana-bred restricted races and would not be surprised at all to find him able to compete in open company.

Since gelding him, he has been very professional and is responding extremely well in his works. His chocolate-freckled coat still makes him easy to pick out, but we have found another easy identifier...usually he is the one in the front when they get close to the finish line. His price will increase in June, [to see his offer click here.](#)

Sassy Kiss...a Star in the Making?



Sassy Kiss is back in full training and does not seem to have missed a beat. This filly has grown up nicely. She is standing tall, has a very strong frame, and looks like she could be something very special. The average-priced horse in Keeneland's book two last year was more than \$150,000. Based on what we are seeing today, this filly fit perfectly in book two and that company. She has such a smooth way of moving and looks to maximize every stride with minimal effort.

The hype, in this case, is well deserved. If you want to own a filly that you can be proud of, this black beauty is the one. To learn more about Sassy Kiss, [visit her profile on the RCR website.](#)



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