

**Subject:** Royal Colors Racing -- Sassy Kiss Goes 2-for-2

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# ROYAL COLORS RACING

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## Royal Colors Racing August 2013 Newsletter

### Sassy Kiss – Two Races, Two Wins!

I am not sure that two wins in a row qualifies us to run around chanting undefeated, but it sure feels good. Sassy Kiss stepped back into the starting gates on August 4th, this time at Ellis Park in Kentucky. Mixed in with three and four-year-old fillies, she was set to be tested by other winners. Some of her foes had a dozen races or more and as many as three wins under their belts. However, our filly was up to the challenge and finished a gutsy race and charted a return trip to the winner's circle. If you have not had a chance to see her race, [click here to view the victory.](#)





Our filly learned more in this race than the chart will show. First, she shipped in to a new track, new surface, surrounded by all new sights, sounds, and surroundings. Then, she broke slowly, but methodically moved back up into the mix versus rushing to the front. She handled the pressure down low in a five-horse side-by-side charge through the entire first turn. Her jockey, Miguel Mena, honestly commented, "with 1/4 mile to go I really did not know how the race was going to end up." The inside horse folded to the pressure coming out of the turn, but Sassy Kiss rallied and moved forward. She responded to her jockey and moved out to "feel" the most threatening horse remaining, but then countered to the inside, when asked, as another threat dove for a path on the rail.

If you are going to advance quickly through the allowance conditions, a horse needs some trying experiences like this race to understand some of the challenges they will inevitably face as the competition grows. What's next for Sassy Kiss? Well, fans do not have to wait long as her next race is Friday night at Indiana Downs. She is the pre-race second favorite at 7-to-2 and is in a field of seven experienced horses going one mile on the turf. If you want to watch her race, she is departing in race 5 at 6:40 CST at Indiana Downs, [you can click here to watch it live or see a replay at a later time.](#)



## Feature Horse of the Month: Springboard

**spring-board:**  
(noun) : a point  
of departure :  
jumping-off  
place

His partners certainly hope this horse represents a launching point for successful racing and fun times ahead. This colt is solid. He has been training on track for multiple weeks and has yet to post a time out of the top tier recorded

on the day. The Bret Calhoun southwest stable has several promising two-year-olds that have been training over the Lone Star Park and Remington Park tracks. Springboard was competitive from the start, but with every work he moved up the stack rankings. Among the colts, he looked ready to shine. So much so that Bret and his assistant trainer Jay Severs both recommended we consider sending him to Kentucky to pursue larger purses and greater competition. He loaded up last week and arrived in the Blue Grass State at Churchill Downs in good order. We are currently targeting a start at Churchill or Kentucky Downs during the first week of September.



Springboard's sire, Spring at Last, continues to maintain a strong reputation among the young new sires. Last year he ranked second among first crop sires and this year he is 9th among second crop sires. His



first two crops were small (he only has 116 registered runners to date), but they have posted earnings respectable enough to maintain his rankings. His offspring have shown versatility running on dirt, turf, and all-weather surfaces. The proclivity shown toward the latter two surfaces have opened our near-term considerations to include both Kentucky Downs (turf) and Keeneland (turf or synthetic). Our confidence in this colt is so high that we have nominated him to the \$75,000 El Joven Stakes at Retama Park prior to

his first race.

The female family behind Springboard is very respectable. He has three brothers running, two three-quarter brothers by Badge of Silver that are both pressing towards six-digit earnings. One of this pair is stakes-placed and the other is a hard-knocking claimer that has won 4 of five starts this year. His full brother is firing bullets in training, and found the winner's circle for the first time on Sunday going 1 1/16th on turf at Gulfstream. Another dam-side member, current runner Fast Falcon, is multiple Graded Stakes placed and has earned more than \$300,000.



Only two more shares are available to be sold in Springboard and he will be closed out prior to his first race. If you want to learn more about this ready-to-run two-year-old [check out his profile and pricing on the RCR website](#). You can click on videos and see some of his recent works.

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## Stable Updates

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### Divine Decree Returns to Texas

Divine Decree has grown quite a bit this summer and has many of the physical lines of her sire Stormy Atlantic. She was training very well including a very fast first recorded work on July 20th going four

furlongs in 48 2/5 and ranking 2nd of 24 at the distance. However, she has always struggled to lose her baby weight and get as fit as we would like.

Ultimately, she has shown us some soreness and physical signs that her bone, muscle, and soft tissue growth are just not perfectly in synch. We have been rewarded in the past by being patient with two-year-olds and giving them the time necessary when their bodies say "stop." She has done everything right so far and we are confident she will be a very useful filly when her time comes. For now, we are going to give her the time off she needs to grow into the monster body she seems to be developing and will look to bring her back into training later this year.



## Slew City Lou Breezing at Twin Oaks

Slew City Lou continues to march forward. She breezed for the second time this week moving through a swift quarter mile both times. We expect her at this point to be ready to ship in six-to-eight weeks. She appears to be growing into the durable filly we had hoped for. Her sire Slew City Slew continues to rank at the top of

the sire standings for progeny with the highest average lifetime races. Both of her siblings were competing through the first half of this year. It looks like Slew City Lou will be hitting the Louisiana-bred restricted races at their most lucrative points, just as the Fair Grounds and Delta Downs meets are starting.

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## Yearling Sales Season is Here Again

Many of the select yearling sales are already in the books and a few more are yet to come. The large mainstay sales--the Ocala August Breeders Sale, Keeneland September Yearling Sale, and Fasig-Tipton October Sale are forthcoming along with many regional sales. Royal Colors Racing will attend the Fasig Tipton Texas sale, one or two of the Louisiana hosted sales, and the Keeneland sale again this year. At first glance, the shrinking foal crop looks to be bringing better pedigree quality into the Keeneland Sale well beyond the first six sessions encompassing Books 1 and 2. Early trends seem to point towards continuing increases in average and median prices, but we are confident we will find some diamonds that slip through the cracks.

If you want to join us at any of the sales for a portion of the day, please contact us and let us know. We welcome the chance to show you around and involve you in our decision making process.



## Royal Colors Racing Friends and Family in Photos



*Click on Photo to view RCR Summer Album*

The summer provided some great racing, fun field trips, and camaraderie shared by many RCR owners, friends, and fans. Click on the attached photo to see an album with some of the highlights.



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