



ROYAL COLORS RACING

December 2010 Newsletter

Brigade Commander Wins



Horse illustrates peaks and valleys of the sport

After nearly a year on the bench, Brigade Commander returned to the races on December 6th and won impressively, coasting across the finish line more than six lengths in front of the balance of the field. Brigade Commander was claimed during this race, so will no longer be part of the Royal Colors Racing stable.

This horse was representative of the thrilling peaks and challenging valleys that are a big part of this sport. BC was purchased out of a consistent top 10 sire, Stormy Atlantic, and a stakes winning mare named Sariano. He was on the small side when purchased at the 2008 Keeneland Yearling sale, but had the conformation and athleticism we wanted. He blossomed into a fabulous looking two-year-old and was heading to the track midway through the year when he was hit with colic (an intestinal problem) and was rushed to emergency surgery to save his life. This event set him back, but by November 2009 he shipped to the Fair Grounds and posted a series of works as good as any two-year-old in the country. He left the gates in his maiden race as the 6-5 favorite and took the lead entering the stretch only to pull up with a furlong to go. He had chipped his left knee and would require surgery.

Absent the knee injury, we would have been in for a thrilling spring. As a result of it, we were faced with a six-month rehab. By July of 2010 he looked as good as one could desire and had a heart that wanted nothing more than to run. He showed up at Lone Star Park and on his first work recorded the best time of more than fifty horses at the half-mile distance. Again, we were excited, however, the next morning he was lame and x-rays showed he had once again chipped the same knee. After this surgery, we knew his body would never deliver on the talent he possessed and his racing career would be limited, but he remained sound and made it to the track where he was able to show some of what could have been.



Trainer Update

Bret Calhoun increased his total earnings to nearly \$8,000,000 by the middle of December moving him into the sixth spot among all active trainers. His 232 wins on the year have him ranked fourth.



Ollie Figgins, III ranks third among trainers at Charles Town Races with a 20% win rate and 60% in-the-money record this meet.



Doc Hudson Debuts at Fair Grounds

Royal Colors Racing sees 80% of stable start as two-year-olds

Doc Hudson saw racing action for the first time on December 30th at the Fair Grounds in New Orleans. His start was an experience builder with mostly positive reviews from his trainer, Bret Calhoun, and jockey, Jamie Theriot. He finished 7th in a field of 11, but ran a race that we all believe can set him up to move forward.



To date, Doc Hudson has shown all the characteristics of a two-turn horse. Eddie Milligan noticed his long stride very early in his training and had him labeled as a mile+ winner from the start. Bret Calhoun has commented that the horse trains at the Fair Grounds as if he could run forever. Thus, we made a decision to not confuse him early with a

speed race and to launch his career with a one mile and 70 yards race from the start.

For a first race, we were very pleased with his behavior in the paddock, his professionalism in the gate, and his ability to remain focused while taking dirt in his face through the majority of his race. Doc broke a little slowly and settled in for a mid-pack, ground-saving trip on the rail. Coming out of the second turn he responded when asked and moved up into fourth, but then tired in the final parts of the stretch. The track was slow and sticky after nearly two days of rain and certainly did not help a horse going a mile under pressure for the first time.

Getting a horse “race fit” for a mile-plus race is tough to do purely through training. Many trainers will say that a single race is worth thirty days of training, and can move a horse forward substantially both mentally and physically. Jamie and Bret both thought this race set Doc Hudson up very well for a repeat try at two turns next time out.



Stable News

Speedy Spice misses in allowance turf try

Speedy Spice returned to the turf in a 5.5 furlong sprint on December 20th. Her trip was reminiscent of some of her earlier wins this summer. She stalked the leaders through the first phases of the race and coming out of the turn she made a sweeping move around several horses. She saw daylight at the top of the stretch and Miguel Mena, her jockey, stated, “if she fires, I clearly win the race.” Unfortunately, she bobbled a few times on the turf and struggled to find firm footing and it seemed to throw her off her game very quickly. She steadied at that point, and while still earning a check, finished fifth in a field of nine.

The turf course at the Fair Grounds is in terrible shape. At this point, it will probably remain so throughout the balance of the meet. For Speedy, we are challenged as she has shown a preference towards turf and synthetics and unfortunately none exist in the immediate area. We will most likely have to re-enter a similar race at the Fair Grounds and hope she handles the surface better. She continues to train well and we will look to see her improve during her next start.



As shown above the Turf at Fair Grounds is loose, chunky, and simply put in bad shape.

Pink October races twice in December

Pink October was presented two opportunities to race in allowance company, with non-winners of three races. In her December 4th race, she left the gate at odds of 19-1 and finished a game second, nearly stealing the win. This race may have been her best to date, as she showed a willingness to drive for a win while passing others. Later in December she ran into a very talented group that set a pace that finished slightly more than a second off of the track



record. Pink ran a competitive race in line with her prior two starts and finished fifth in a field of nine. As she turns three, we will continue to look for additional opportunities at the 4.5 furlong sprint distance where she has found success.

Saracen arrives in New Orleans



Saracen arrived at the Fair Grounds earlier in the month. He has adjusted well to his surroundings and recorded his first work about two weeks ago. His most recent breeze was a five furlongs in 1:01.20, 4th best of 59 at the distance. Prior to departing Texas, he impressed the staff at Twin Oaks Training Center with some great works, however, he also proved a little hard headed when it came to

entering the starting gates. According to Bret, he has worked acceptably in the gates at the Fair Grounds and hopefully has these challenges behind him. Everyone affiliated with this horse is very excited to see him begin his racing career. He has shown a little sensitivity in his shins recently, but seems to be training through this fairly well. We are hopeful that he will see his first start in January.



Forty Winks gets a holiday break



Forty Winks continues to train well at Twin Oaks Training Center in Athens, TX. Eddie Milligan has been putting the horse in several different situations; working alone, in company with one other, and in full fields of horses. Forty Winks has been progressing very well and worked a few short sprints in mid-December. This young colt has continued to work since being saddle broke back in October, so Eddie decided to give him a short

break to “just be a horse.” This is very typical and gives the young horse a chance to shed some stress and often times go through a growth spurt. He will be back in training in early January.

Brigade Commander departs stable on a winning note

Brigade Commander adds another stable win in 2010.

