



ROYAL COLORS RACING

January 2012 Newsletter

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2011 Year In Review

Royal Colors Racing Finishes Year in Top 7% of All Stables

RCR finished the year with earnings that placed our stable in the top 7% of the more than 32,000 owners and stables starting horses in 2011. Since establishing RCR, our cumulative win rate through the end of 2011 was 18% with 50% of our finishes in the top three positions.

Trend of Precocious Horses Continues

We have not focused on picking early runners. Our strategy continues to center on picking the most well bred, well conformed, athletic horse we can find in an affordable price range. However, those attributes often lead to early success on the track and that trend of finding precocious horses continued in 2011 as our sole two-year-old Forty Winks started in the fall. To date, among those of racing age, 86% of horses introduced into the RCR stable have seen action on the track as two-year-olds.



2011 Racing Highlights

- Saracen breaks maiden at Oaklawn Park by four lengths and records an 8 1/4 on the Ragozin Sheets.

- Quest for Candy wins as a first time starter and follows it up with two wins in her first three starts.
- Bret Calhoun finishes the year ranked 8th overall in number of wins - 199, and 11th in earnings - \$5,904,495.

Current Runners in Stable Set for Next Race

Quest Quest for Candy Starts Year off with a Win!

Entered in a five furlong sprint at Delta Downs on January 13th, Quest for Candy went wire-to-wire to secure her second win. The filly impressed us by remaining calm, while her outside neighbor in the gates unseated her rider twice and then reared as the gates opened. Candy broke well, moved to the front, and never looked back, finishing in 58.7 seconds. To view her winning race, [click here](#).



Quest for Candy, on rail, holds off Point for win.

Finding non-winner of three race opportunities early in a horse's three-year-old campaign is challenging. We are looking for possibilities and hope to run her back by mid-month potentially on the turf.



Saracen Moves to Charles Town

After a two-month layoff, Saracen returned to the races at the Fair Grounds on January 13th. We took a shot at running him on turf in a Starter Allowance over 5.5 furlongs. Saracen ran a strong race off his break, he vied for the lead until entering the stretch and finished fifth overall. While fifth is not the outcome we would like, we were pleased with his performance. He was in a competitive field with some former stakes placed or winning horses and ran a big race.

Since his first race Saracen has shown brilliant speed out of the gate and often times set a blistering pace through the first half mile, however, sustaining that pace has been hit or miss. After evaluating his past performances we determined he would best be served running short-distance sprints at Charles Town. Jeff Runco will train Saracen and we will target appropriate 4.5 furlong races for him in the months to come. Jeff is based at Charles Town and for six consecutive years has been the top trainer at the track. Runco won 118 races in 2011, finishing amongst



Trainer Jeff Runco

the country's top 25 trainers in wins for the fourth straight year. Jeff reached a major milestone in 2011 when he recorded his 3,000th win. As a former jockey, horse owner and trainer, Jeff is a professional horseman that we welcome to the Royal Colors Racing Team.



Forty Winks on Track for Second Start at Oaklawn Park

Forty Winks flashed some early speed in his first race at Oaklawn, a six furlong Maiden Special Weight, but could not sustain the momentum once the closers came running. Forty Winks has shown consistent performance race to race, however, has not taken big steps forward as of yet. We need to get the horse in a spot where he can compete and gain some confidence, so we are going to pursue a Maiden Claiming start, next time out. Currently, we are looking at a race on February 4th and are hopeful it will make the Oaklawn card.

Two-Year-Olds Snapshot

To take a closer look at any of the available two-year-olds in the stable, [visit the current opportunities section of the Royal Colors Racing website.](#)

Valentine Eddie

Eddie is thick with muscle and is clearly well stamped by his sire Valid Expectations. This colt is doing everything right and is now breezing 3/8ths. He is going to be early and fit from the start. With a powerful stride and a quick turn of foot, his owners could be in for a very fun spring and summer.



Sassy Kiss

The star on this filly's head was placed there for a reason...she looks to be the real deal. Also breezing 3/8ths, she is moving well, beating the foes she is placed against, and seems to be on track for an early two-year-old campaign. With her pedigree and the athletic look she is showing, this filly could put on a real show.



Effour

This two-year-old colt was big when we bought him as a yearling, but is huge now. He is standing head and shoulders taller than his peers and is a professional on and off the track. He has a long stride, has begun to two-minute-lick, and looks like a two-turn monster in the making. As a Louisiana-bred, this horse will find the right competition and right purses waiting for him this summer/fall when he hits the track.



Why Rock

One hopes lightning rarely strikes close by, but it did in the case of our filly, Why Rock. This filly was growing up to be a nice-bodied, route-running horse. Unfortunately, while turned out to grow, she was either kicked or took a very bad step, hyper-extending her knee and breaking one of the small bones composing the back portion of her knee. We gave her 60 days of stall rest to see if it might heal in a way that might

allow her to race in the future, however, the probabilities are slim. Thus, we have found a good home for her with a local breeder that plans to put her in foal this year. She will not leave a legacy as a race horse, but who knows, with her great physique and the solid sire power in her pedigree she may leave her mark on thoroughbred racing through her offspring.