



ROYAL COLORS RACING

June 2011 Newsletter

Candy Ride Filly Sells Out in Less than One Month

Appropriately named “Quest for Candy”

The limited shares available in the Candy Ride Filly introduced just last month were quickly gobbled up as many jumped on their own quest for candy. Our filly has finished a four week rest and rehabilitation period at Twin Oaks and went back under saddle this week. She is looking great and will embark on a training syllabus that should have her race-track ready by this fall.



Candy Ride

When owning a filly one is always more mindful of pedigree enhancements as the potential residual value of that horse can increase, assuming she performs at a respectable level on the track. Quest for Candy’s sire, Candy Ride, continues to be ranked among the top 30 sires in 2011. In addition, his 4-year-old, Grade I-winning son, Sidney’s Candy, was purchased early in the month by Winstar Farms to be raced and eventually retired as a

stallion. Another four-year-old colt, Twirling Candy, captured headlines as he won the Grade II Californian Stakes. This was his seventh win of nine starts and pushed his earnings to \$684,900. Even closer to our Candy's bloodline, her half brother, Gamberoni, recorded another win in Woodbine this month.

We should have a clearer indication of our plans regarding Quest for Candy as the summer progresses.

Saracen Remains Race Ready



He is training like a monster, loves the Indiana Downs surface, and is very healthy, so why will the entire month of June come and go without a race? The opportunities become few and far between as you record wins and progress through the conditions races. Following is an article addressing that very challenge.

Saracen is doing very well and we are hopeful he will have an opportunity to race in the first two weeks of July. The next target race in the condition book at Indiana Downs is July 6th with a possibility following on the 13th. He recorded one of the best Indiana Downs' breezes at five furlongs this month as he covered the distance in 1:00 flat. We will look to convert that training into a race performance soon.

Finding the Best Race for a Winner *aka "The Conditions Conundrum"*

Statistically only 75% of all thoroughbreds make it to the races at all. Of those that make it, only 60% ever become winners. So, the universe of competition and thus potential horses available to fill races narrows substantially as one marches down a narrowing funnel filled with multiple winners. This presents challenges to owners, breeders, and the track racing secretaries trying to keep everyone happy and high-quality, large fields on their race cards.

A thoroughbred is normally presented with four "condition races." The Maiden race is typically either a Maiden Claiming or Maiden Special Weight Allowance race.

A thoroughbred has only one opportunity to win against this level of field...the colt or filly might race multiple times at this level, but once they win they will never again race against a field composed completely of non-winners. The next three conditions vary slightly, but at their most simple form they are races for non-winners of two, three, and four races. Most tracks will make exceptions and not count wins in state-bred restricted races or in claiming level races but otherwise the horses in the field should share a relatively comparable win history.



The best of all scenarios is to find races limited by the age of the competition and a maximum number of wins, for example “three-year-old fillies, non-winners of three races, six furlongs, purse \$45,000.” Perfect. However, most tracks struggle to fill these races because the number of horses that fit this category, are ready to run, desire the distance specified and the surface specified, is a very small number typically collocated at that one track. So, the racing secretaries write races typically for three-year-olds and greater in age, exclude claiming and state bred wins, and offer an option of entering the race regardless of historical number of wins if you are willing to enter at a set claiming price. Consequently, one will often see “three-year-old & up, fillies and mares, non-winners of two races with the exception of maiden, claiming, or state bred, six furlongs, purse \$45,000 or optional claiming \$40,000.” Even with these more open considerations, the available universe of horses often seems limited.



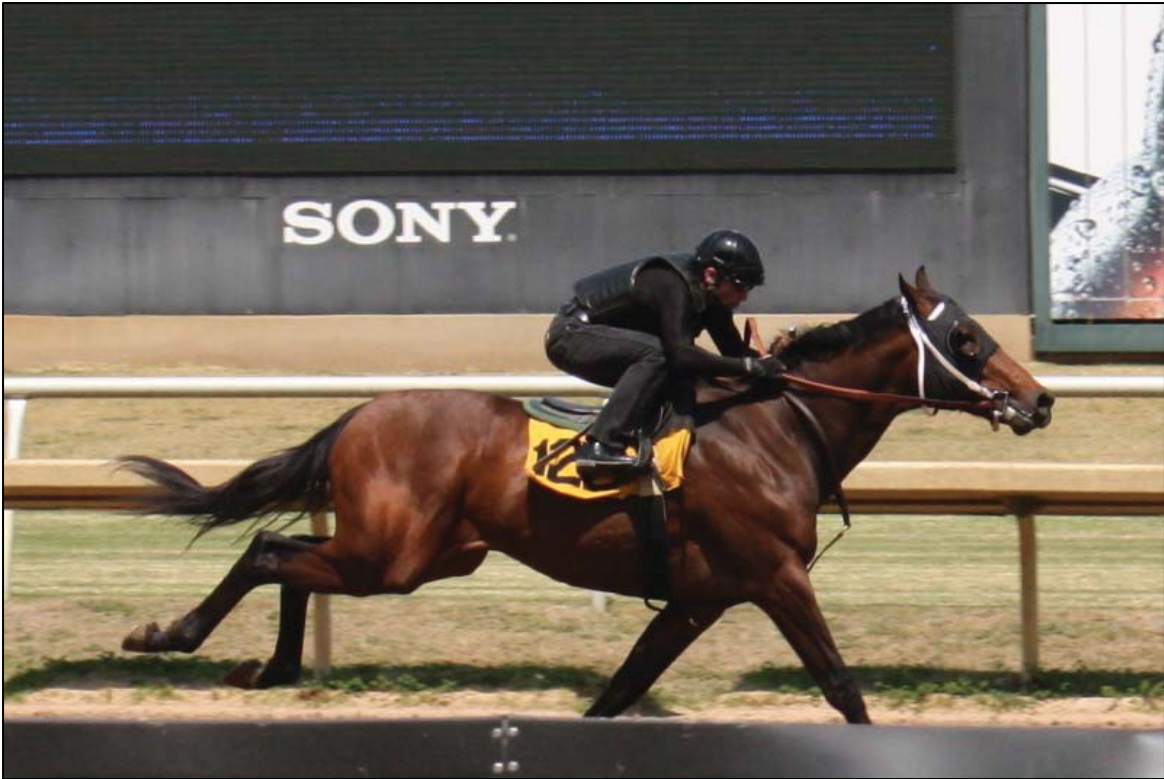
So, what is an owner to do? Well, patience is often the required medicine. It seems that eventually enough time passes and the racing Gods hear enough from the trainers to realize what condition and race type they need to write to get an appropriate race filled. Flexibility is also a key to success. It may require shipping to another track to get the race of choice, or recalibrating purse expectations to race at an alternate location. The good news is...a successful horse usually works through his condition races. The bad news...the options become fewer at that point unless the horse is in stakes company or the owners are prepared to put him at risk with the optional claiming tag hung around his neck.

Doc Hudson Returns to Training

Doc Hudson has received a full green light to return to training and is currently building a base at Selway. We expect him to spend about two more weeks there before he will ship down to Twin Oaks Training Center. Eddie Milligan and his team will have him back in shape in no time and ready to return to the track. We are optimistic he will make it to Remington Park during the first half of their thoroughbred meet. He currently looks good, is carrying a balanced weight, and seems eager to work.



Featured Horse of the Month Forty Winks



This young horse is far from napping...he is moving towards a date with his maiden race. During the past few months he has continued to grow physically and mentally. Since becoming a gelding he has really begun to stretch out and lost much of the heavy neck weight he was carrying. His front shoulder looks very strong, his rear leg has developed nicely, and his chest looks wide and is hopefully holding a big heart

and large lungs. His stride seems to be gaining length and his initial burst from the gate looks pretty explosive.

During recent works he has shown a willingness to move forward and gain the lead and has only been limited by his conditioning. In a recent work, Eddie Milligan was able to take Forty Winks out fast, let a stalking horse close and take over the lead and then ask our horse to rally at the end and finish in front. Mentally, the Twin Oaks staff say he can still be a “hard head,” but seeing responses like the one in this recent work are clear indications that he gets it.



First break from gate, initially rank, but very quickly off to the races...

His Sire, Master Command, has established himself early as one of the leaders in the first-crop sire standings. He has ranked as high as second in total progeny earnings,



Master Command

and is currently in the top ten. Most of his runners should be better suited to two-turn, longer races, so this early productivity is a positive sign of things to come.

Limited shares remain in Forty Winks and he will be closed out prior to his first start, most likely in August. If you are interested in owning a share in Forty Winks reply to this email. Details on pricing and his profile can be found in the current opportunities of the Royal Colors Racing website.