



QATAR PRIX DE L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE WHERE RACING TRIUMPHS

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PARISLONGCHAMP RACECOURSE - FRANCEGALOP-LIVE.COM



Press release

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PRIX DE L'OPÉRA LONGINES Blue Rose Cen takes her place back at the top

Result and quotes from the winners

The French filly Blue Rose Cen won again at ParisLongchamp, this time in The Prix de l'Opéra Longines, which we often call « the Arc de Triomphe for females ». Trained in Chantilly by Christopher Head, the three-year-old filly had remained half hearted over two outings. Firstly in the Qatar Nassau Stakes in England then in the Qatar Prix Vermeille, two Group 1s.

However, earlier in the season, Blue Rose Cen, already winner at 2 years old in the Qatar Prix Marcel Boussac on the day of the Arc, entered into history of horse racing after her victories during Spring in the Emirates Poule d'Essai des Pouliches (Group 1) and then again in the Prix de Diane Longines (Group 1), making it a third historic win that only the champions Allez France, Divine Proportions and Zarkava had succeeded up till now.



Born and raised in France, at the stud called haras de l'Hôtellerie, Blue Rose Cen represents the Yeguada Centurion, the racing entity of Leopoldo Fernández Pujals, a Latin American businessman with Cuban origin.

Two Irish fillies completed the podium : Jackie Oh, trained by Aidan O'Brien, and Lumière Rock, a filly in training with his son Joseph O'Brien.

The technical result

1st BLUE ROSE CEN

Trainer : Christopher Head – Jockey : Aurélien Lemaitre

2nd JACKIE OH

Trainer : Aidan O'Brien – Jockey : Ryan Moore

3rd LUMIERE ROCK

Trainee : Joseph O'Brien – Jockey : Dylan Browne McMonagle

Distance : by a neck - 1 - 3. Time : 2'03"71.

Ground : 3,3 (good to firm)

Reaction from connections

Christopher Head (trainer of Blue Rose Cen, 1st) – Chantilly (Oise)

« This filly is incredible ! The season has been long and difficult for her, but she has always responded well here. I am delighted to have the chance to train her. This win really means something to me. She has known combats like this and to see her shine again at this level on the day of the Arc is incredible. Aurélien Lemaitre straightened her up because there on the rail it is always a little treacherous. He succeeded in moving her and having her on the outside. We were able to assist in a beautiful race and a beautiful ride. We ran her in the Qatar Prix Vermeille in order to see her ability at this distance. We now know what her limit is and we have her in a good position for us to make a plan for her racing next year. Her last outings did not worry me at all. We have seen her tested at Goodwood and over 2,400 metres. Her owner loves a challenge. We will discuss the next with her owner, but she could be entered in to the Breeders' Cup. »

Leopoldo Fernández Pujals (breeder and owner of Blue Rose Cen, 1st)

« It is a team win. For me, this win is very special. It encourages me to try to do even better tomorrow. The understanding with Christopher Head is perfect. There is lots of discussion between us. We are perpetually dissatisfied. He started as a trainer when I threw myself into it as a breeder : we have grown together.»

Aidan O'Brien (trainer of Jackie Oh, 2nd) – Ireland

« We are very happy, the filly performed really well. She will be seen next at Ascot over 2,400 metres. Furthermore, she runs against Lumière Rock who we ran her against previously at the Curragh. »

Dylan Browne McMonagle (jockey of Lumière Rock, 3rd) – Ireland

« The mare ran well over a distance of 2,000 metres, which she appreciated. She would have perhaps preferred softer ground, but she steps on to a podium of a Group 1. It is perfect. »

MEDIA INFO :

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France Galop Media contact :

H el ena Dupuy – hdupuy@france-galop.com – Tel.: +33 1 49 10 22 10