

DIMANCHE 12 MAI
PARISLONGCHAMP

EMIRATES POULES D'ESSAI

Le fabuleux destin d'un poulain

PRESS RELEASE

Sunday May 12th 2024

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Emirates Poule d'Essai des Poulains

Race resume and quotes



The coronation of the French colt Metropolitan took place in the Emirates Poule d'Essai des Poulains at ParisLongchamp on Sunday. It was a first victory in this race (and in a Group 1 race) for his young trainer Mario Baratti. An Italian national, he chose France, and more specifically Chantilly, as his training base five years ago, having previously been assistant to Pascal Bary, who is also Chantilly-based. Metropolitan was ridden by young Alexis Pouchin, the up and coming star of the jockeys' division. He, too, was winning the classic for the first time. The winner is owned by the US bloodstock agent Peter Bradley, in partnership with the Scuderia Scolari.

Only fifth in the Group 3 Prix de Fontainebleau, one of the benchmark prep races, Metropolitan peaked on the big occasion. Alexis Pouchin gave him an excellent ride - helped in his endeavours by the colt's number one draw. Metropolitan mastered the British-trained Dancing Gemini by half a length, with the French-trained Alcantora a close third.

The technical result

Emirates Poule d'Essai des Poulains

1st METROPOLITAN (A. Pouchin)

2nd DANCING GEMINI (D. Browne McMonagle)

3rd ALCANTOR (M. Barzalona)

What connections said :

Mario Baratti – the trainer of Metropolitan (1st) – Chantilly (Oise region)

« In the main prep race, his performance wasn't as bad as all that. That day, we were didn't go into the race thinking that we were going to win: it was a real pipe opener so as to get him perfectly tuned. He needed the run after a break and he was given a very prudent ride. Looking back at that race, and the result, I said to myself that we were at the same level as the others horses in that race. Physically-speaking, he was in splendid shape and he's done nothing but improve mentally. We drew the one gate and that was manna from heaven! As for the future, I'm sure that he could hold his own and go a bit longer, but Pascal Bary told me that when you have a horse who performs well over a mile – there's no need to go longer! So we're not ruling out Royal Ascot and the St James's Palace Stakes, even though we haven't entered him in the race. After his comeback race, it seemed very presumptuous. However, I've always believed in him, and the Poule d'Essai has been his objective since last year. I won the German 2,000 Guineas last year... However, winning a French classic is a whole different ball game! I work with a very good team of employees who are both very good and passionate about what they do. The groundwork has been laid down by all concerned. »

Alexis Pouchin – the jockey of Metropolitan (1st)

« I was confident before the race. We weren't overly hard on him on his reappearance and the horse has paid us back in spades today. He's very straight forward. He made a good start and and I was able to take up a good position. I then made my move in the open-stretch. It's my first classic win, it's a dream! »

Roger Teal – the trainer of Dancing Gemini (2nd) – trained in Great Britain

«It's wonderful but also cruel at the same. He did us very proud today. His breeding suggests that he was born to win a Derby. On this evidence I'm thinking that perhaps the 2,400 metres of the [Derby trip] at Epsom would be to his advantage. His change of gear was fantastic. We'll go back home and think about it calmly. The colt has only run one bad race: that was on very soft ground and he was still growing at the time. He's got stronger and has found his best form. Finding this type of horse is difficult. However, keeping hold of them is even harder. It's up to us to choose the right races for him. »

Édouard de Rothschild – the owner-breeder of Alcantor (3rd) – Chantilly (Oise region)

«We rediscovered the real Alcantor again! We were drawn 13, and despite this, he had a very good race and was relaxed. It's great preparation for the Qatar Prix du Jockey-Club [editor's note: which is run at Chantilly on 2 June]. We're delighted

Aidan O'Brien – the trainer of Diego Velazquez (4th) and Henry Longfellow (8th) – trained in Ireland

« My two horses ran well but the race lacked pace. I'm happy with their performances and we're looking to the future now. The soft ground throughout the spring hasn't helped [their preparation. I think Diego Velazquez will stay at at least 2,400 metres. »

Christopher Head – the trainer of Ramadan (5th) – Chantilly (Oise region)

« Ramadan had quite a difficult race on the outside. We're going to continue with our planned programme with him, which includes the Qatar Prix du Jockey-Club. We were there to win, so there's naturally a bit of disappointment to contend with. But the situation was highly unusual given the deluge before the race... »



Contact Presse France Galop :

Hélène Dupuy

Mail : hdupuy@france-galop.com

Tél : 06 30 41 85 89