

L'HIPPODROME EN FAMILLE

Lâchez-leur la bride

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AUTEUIL - CHANTILLY - SAINT-CLOUD
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Press Release

Sunday July 7th 2024

Puchkine impresses in the Haras d'Etreham Prix Jean Prat



The first Group 1 race of the summer season at Deauville-La Touques racecourse, the Haras d'Etreham - Prix Jean Prat, was dominated by locally-trained colts, who took the first three places. Puchkine, ridden by Ioritz Mendizabal, and representing the trainer-owner combination of Jean-Claude Rouget and Alain Jathière, who is also the colt's breeder, was the clear winner. Supplemented for the race, the colt justified the confidence of connections, having enjoying a dream run in the slipstream of the pacemaker Zandy. Also trained at Deauville by Jean-Claude Rouget, Havana Cigar took second place at the main expense of the running-on Beauvatier. The latter is also trained at Deauville, but by Yann Barberot.

The victory enabled the colours of Alain Jathière to win for the first time at G1 level on the flat, although they had previously shone at the top level over jumps.

The technical result

1st PUCHKINE (Ioritz Mendizabal)
2nd HAVANA CIGAR (Christophe Soumillon)
3rd BEAUVATIER (Maxime Guyon)
Distances: 2 ½l - Nose – ¾l.

What connections said:

Alain Jathière (owner-breeder of Puchkine, 1st) – Trained at Deauville (Calvados region)

«He's proof that you have to run in races if you hope to win them! Of course, I wasn't sure that I had done the right thing when we supplemented him, but, in the Poule d'Essai, the rain that fell just before the race really put a spanner in the works. Ioritz Mendizabal rode him very well and let him stride on: as in no circumstances should you fight him. Halfway through the race, I knew he'd won! We're going to head for the Prix Maurice de Gheest. It's a great pleasure for me to have won the race, especially as I bred him at the Haras du Cadran. »

Jean-Bernard Roth (the assistant trainer of Jean-Claude Rouget, the trainer of Puchkine)

« Puchkine has always had enormous potential. It's took us a little time to fine tune him. He has come on a lot from two to three. We have had to teach him how to race, and were lucky that he began his career in the South-West of France, where he was able to evolve with 'no ill effects'. He was subsequently bound for Deauville, with the logical expectations for the rest of his career that this entailed. Physically and mentally, he has developed into a genuine group class colt, and he's now affirming himself at Gr1 level. Honestly speaking, he looked a an absolute picture – and even better than a month ago! Straight courses are certainly his cup of tea. On this occasion, we had a race with pace, thanks to the presence of a pacemaker, and given the presence of British horses. He was able to enjoy a race run at a strong pace in the wake of the pacemaker. The Poule d'Essai is a trappy race, as the 1,600m course at Longchamp often gives rise to bumping and boring, and there was also a storm before the race [which didn't help].... The Prix Maurice de Gheest is an option [for him. »

Michel Zerolo (The representative of White Birch Farm, the owner of Havana Cigar, 2nd) – trained at Deauville (Calvados region)

«He had only run once previously at Gr1 level, but over a distance that was too long for him on heavy ground. The colt has turned a corner both physically and on the racecourse. He was truly magnificent. Christophe Soumillon, his jockey, told us that he was a bit far off the pace when making his challenge, but affirmed that his finishing kick was a very good one. We were worried that Havana Cigar might be a lit up, which is why we decided to hold him up for his run. He should be heading next to the Gr1 Prix Maurice de Gheest. »

Yann Barberot (the trainer of Beauvatier, 3rd) – trained at Deauville (Calvados region)

« He reassures us today. In the Poule d'Essai, he was really frightened by the storm, which forced us to unsaddle and then resaddle him again... He drifted a little bit to his right when making his effort which cost him second place. The 1,400m trip and the way the race unfolded were perfect for him. Perhaps 1,600m is as far as he cares to go. As for the rest of his programme we'll just have to wait and see: we just wanted to see him back on the racecourse today. »



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