

July 18, 2010

**BRIGANTIN BECOMES STAKES WINNER IN PRIX FREDERIC DE LAGRANGE, TEAM VALOR HOMEBRED WINS FRENCH LISTED STAKES RACE AT VICHY, FABRE-TRAINED, FABRE CO-OWNED COLT FIRST-SECOND IN 7 OF 8 STARTS**



Team Valor International and Mrs. Elisabeth A. Fabre's Kentucky-bred homebred Cozzene 3-year-old colt Brigantin became a black-type winner for the first time today when scoring a convincing victory in the Prix Frederic de Lagrange at Vichy in the French Provinces.



Brigantin always looked like a winner, in spite of an awkward start when he broke inwards and bumped the rival to his inside at the break. Under French phenom jockey, Maxime Guyon, who has grown to love Brigantin, the hefty chestnut was prominent throughout, galloping comfortably in fourth for the first 10 furlongs of the 12-furlong event.

Guyon sat still as a statue until the 2-furlong marker, at which point he shook the reins at Brigantin, who responded to the summons with terrific energy and burst forward to inhale the leaders with consummate ease. Guyon had Brigantin do only what he needed to and the duo crossed the wire a measured 1 1/4-lengths on top.

The effort was solid in all respects and the Listed win was well-deserved for Brigantin, who has done little wrong in his career and continues to improve. The remarkably consistent colt has now finished first or second in all but one of his 8 races to date and has won 4 times, including consecutive triumphs in the lucrative Swiss Derby last time out and today in the \$75,000 stakes in France. Brigantin became the seventh stakes winner for Team Valor this season and his victory at Vichy was stakes win number 8 for the stable in 2010. Six of the wins have been in the United States, one has come in England and one in France.

From the French version of the *TDN* comes the following:



Sunday, in the Prix Frederic de Lagrange (Listed), Brigantin (Cozzene) gained his second consecutive victory following at the end of June in the Swiss Derby (one Local Listed which carries the label D to international level). Thus, Brigantin finally gained a Listed win he deserved, and this time he won with great ease.

“I did not have need to use the riding crop and he gained the win easily,” said Maxime Guyon, his jockey. “He is a good horse who had just won the Swiss Derby very easily as well.”

Indeed, the representative of Elisabeth Fabre had easily had his opponents over a barrel on at the Frauenfeld race course in Switzerland, before engaging in the Listed race Vichy.

Remarkably consistent, Brigantin has known failure only once, when unplaced in the Prix Maurice Caillault (Listed) at Saint-Cloud. Except for this uncharacteristic performance, he has never been worse than second in the four Listed races he has contested..



This Sunday, Andre Fabre trainee travelled with cover on the second line, in the back of its stablemate Royal Bengali (Tiger Hill). He was very relaxed and entered the last straight line to place one good attack, which quickly unraveled his adversaries. The 1 ¼-length margin of victory by Brigantin over Royal Menantie is not important, because the colt could have won by considerably more, if not of major significance, because his jockey respected the colt’s ability to the maximum. Brigantin is one honest horse which has not nearly tapped the reservoir of his talent and is still improving.



Double prize winner of Listed races, he could well prove effective raised in class to a higher category in his next race.

Royal Ménantie also is always there. This beautiful colt has three victories and seven places in only ten races. “He is always with the leaders at the finish and once again he runs his race”, said Joel Boissard, his trainer. In position of waiting to the back of the group, he gradually approached in last turn, then fought it out gamely for the second spot. Third in the Derby of the West (L) at the time of its last attempt, it was preceded a length by Marceti (Glaze), which it relegated to several lengths this Sunday.

*Brigantin is one of the most consistent horses in training in France, as he has finished first or second in seven of his eight races at 2 and 3, among them three Listed stakes races and one local Listed stakes race, all in Europe, where the Kentucky-bred was sent when he was a late yearling.*