

July 21, 2013

TRIPLE THREAT STORMS HOME TO WIN GROUP 2 EUGENE ADAM EASED UP HOMEBRED PUTS STARTING GATE PROBLEMS BEHIND HIM IN “ARC” PREP A. FABRE WINS MAISONS-LAFFITTE ARC POINTER FOR FOURTEENTH TIME



Barry Irwin and Gary Barber's homebred 3-year-old Triple Threat showed he had learned his starting gate lessons well from California "horse whisperer" Monty Roberts by storming to an impressive 2-length win in the Group 2 Prix Eugene Adam today at Maisons-Laffitte.

The manner in which he routinely handled the 10 furlongs and was eased down through the final sixteenth of a mile by Pierre Charles Boudot stamped the dark-coated French-bred as a legitimate candidate for the October 6 renewal of the Group 1 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

Andre Fabre, who was winning the venerable fixture for an unprecedented fourteenth time, has a loaded holster for this season's Arc, but Triple Threat moved himself front and center today, as he beat a field of emerging and progressive sophomores, including HH The Aga Khan's Royal Ascot runner-up Shikarpour, the streaking Wertheimer colt Pilote and Sheik Mohammed's recent Listed hero Buckwheat.



Triple Threat is eased in final sixteenth of a mile.

In his two previous outings this season, Triple Threat stayed in the starting gate when the doors were opened. He was able to overcome a deficit in his seasonal bow to take the Group 3 Prix La Force, but when he remained inside the Iron Monster for 2 full seconds in the Group 3 Prix de Guiche, he was hard pressed to make up enough ground to finish third.



Irwin prevailed upon longtime California associate Roberts to spend a few weeks in France with Triple Threat in hopes of making the French Derby. The colt was too tired from his daily lessons and was unable to make the Derby, but Fabre made the most of the colt's improved temperament to send him out fresh, fit and ready for the Eugene Adam.

"Andre warned me that Roberts' lessons would take their toll in the short run and, of course, he was correct," Irwin said. "But the two great horsemen combined their talents to get our colt over the hump. I am truly grateful to both of them for their genius. We are really excited about the Arc."

Triple Threat became Team Valor International's first double stakes winner of the season, a year in which the stable has won 10 stakes with 9 individual runners, including the Grade 1 Dubai World Cup with Animal Kingdom. Team Valor has now won 4 Graded stakes in 2013 with Animal Kingdom, Triple Threat and Infinite Magic. TVI's seasonal earnings are approaching the \$7 million mark.