

BLACK ALBUM WINS \$75,000 INDIANA GRAND LISTED STAKES OFF BENCH RUDY BRISSET PRIMES COLT TO RUN NEW BEYER (94) AND RAGOZIN (10) TOPS



The Black Album left his previous United States form well behind him Wednesday evening in the \$75,000 John B. Schuster Memorial Stakes going a mile and a sixteenth to win drawing away by 1½ lengths for his third career black-type victory.

Trainer Rudy Brisset deserves all the credit for producing the 4-year-old French-bred colt in fine fettle for the race. The French trainer had been telling owners Team Valor and Gary Barber for the past month that the black horse had never been so strong in his preparations on the dirt. Credit also goes to Dr. Gary Priest for healing a wayward splint bone by use of a laser rather than traditional methods such as surgery or firing.

The tale of the race is as simple and straight forward as the colt's victory. He broke on top under Luis Saez, who eased him back just a bit to follow the pace of the rail horse Argentello, which under James Graham set a steady pace while remaining clear of the Gary Barber colorbearer. Fractions of :23 2/5 and :48 were slow on the fast course.

Saez allowed The Black Album, which rated kindly, to creep into contention rounding the turn. He entered the lane with a slim lead. Once Saez got the son of Wooten Bassett to switch leads early in the stretch run, he gradually opened up a larger lead. He put away the stubborn pacesetter and had plenty in reserve to not only repel a challenge from 2-to-1 favorite Hay Dakota, but to draw away at the end.

As each of the major contenders boasted mid-90 Beyer figures and The Black Album had a lowly top of only 81—he was relegated to the 4-to-1 third choice in the wagering. In the end, the colt left all of his speed figures in the rearview mirror, as he recorded new tops of 94 (Beyer), 10 (Ragozin), Equibase (9 point jump up), 5 ThoroManager (3 point increase) and 4 ThoroGraph (improvement by 3¾ points).