

June 25, 2011

## SUMMER SOIREE ROMPS AT JERSEY SHORE IN GRADE 3 BOILING SPRINGS FILLY GOES ON 8 ½-LENGTH SPREE AT MONMOUTH IN HER GRASS DEBUT DEL MAR OAKS AND QUEEN ELIZABETH II CHALLENGE CUP ARE POSSIBLE

Summer Soiree, making her first start on grass, blew away her field today in the Grade 3 Boiling Spring Stakes at Monmouth Park, pulling away to post a stunningly impressive 8 ½-length score in the \$150,000 fixture.

Trainer Graham Motion and Team Valor International wavered back and forth most of the day about whether to run the filly in the 1 1/16-mile affair because an inch of rain had fallen on the previous day and the War Front filly figured to have her speed blunted by yielding sod.

When the track superintendent walked the course and upgraded it from yielding to good and a likely pace contender was scratched, Motion warmed up to the idea of running the speedy bay filly in the sophomore grass test.



When the filly arrived in the paddock she was wringing wet and Team Valor CEO was kicking himself. Motion was not as concerned, because even though she was dripping sweat profusely from her belly like somebody had turned on a water spigot, he noticed that the filly was calm as a cucumber.



**Trainer Graham Motion.**

Regular rider Gabriel Saez was asked by Motion to try to rate the filly behind a horse or two, as he figured it would give the filly her best chance to be effective. Saez rode to instruction, placing the Kentucky-bred filly third early, before moving her wide into second around the first turn and then putting her up alongside the early pacesetter. When Saez let her go and passed the front runner, Motion winced, as he thought the rider might have been able to hold her back a little bit longer.

“She’s been doing great since being at Fair Hill,” he said. “She’s a real handful around the barn in the morning. When I saw her move to the lead early, I was a little worried, but I guess for no reason. I was happy to see her relax. Having sat off horses early on is going to help her a lot down the road. She’s a very talented filly and today was a very impressive performance.”

Once Saez let the filly move to the fore, Summer Soiree was still tugging on the bit, trying to get her speed on. Saez gradually allowed her to establish a clear advantage. Once in front by herself, the filly finally did relax and raced well within herself, as she cut out the fractions, which were even 12-second furlongs the whole way around.

Saez steered her wide into the lane, then swung her back toward the rail in an effort to get her to switch leads. The slingshot effect hurtled the filly into a 4-length lead at the furlong grounds. She proceeded to separate herself even farther away from the field and was kept going to the winning post, as she dominated.



Saez said “Graham has done a great job with this filly. I wanted to sit off a couple of horses early on and see how she relaxed. After the first quarter I put her in the clear and she wanted to go to the front. I wasn’t going to fight her, just let her go on with it. Turning for home I hit her a couple of times and she really responded. I hand rode her the rest of the way. That was really something. She’s something special.”

On a course that was soft from rain and featured flying clods, divots and debris being kicked into the air, Summer Soiree ran 1:42 4/5. “I can’t wait to see the speed figures!” giggled Barry Irwin. “All of the other grass races were moved to the main track, so these numbers are going to be made up out of thin air. It should be a very instructive course in speed figure fiction!”



Summer Soiree could appear next for the \$300,000, Grade 1 Del Mar Oaks and essay the Grade 1 Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup at Keeneland, after which she could be put away for the rest of the 2011 season.

The filly was bought from breeder Brereton C. Jones and his son Brett after Irwin contacted them following the filly’s resounding victory in the Grade 3 Bourbonette Oaks at Turfway Park. She earned \$90,000 for her 8 racing partners that include long-time horseman Dave Munro of Canada.

*Summer Soiree was hand ridden to victory today in the Grade 3 Boiling Springs Stakes by 8 ½ lengths.*

Summer Soiree trained brilliantly for the Grade 1 Kentucky Oaks, but got slammed coming out of the gate, probably got the wind knocked out of her, after which she ran off, ran as far as she could and then ran out of gas and air. She could have used an old fashioned filling station right about then.

“Absolutely,” answered Irwin when asked whether he would consider racing her on the dirt again.