

EMOJI SCORES FACILE FRONT-RUNNING TRIUMPH IN LISTED GUINEAS PREP GERMAN IMPORT WINS BY 2 LENGTHS AS 13-10 FAVORITE AT SAINT-CLOUD BOUDOT BACKS UP PACE TO A CRAWL, SPRINTS AWAY NEARING THE FINISH



Leading French jockey P. C. Boudot walked the dog aboard favored Emoji and triumphed in the easiest fashion possible in Sunday's initial black-type French One Thousand Guineas Trial of the season over a very heavy course at Saint-Cloud.

Winning margin over the most experienced member of the 8-filly field was 2 lengths. Galova, the runner-up, went off at 25 to 1 in spite of having won at 2 and been placed in 5 of 6 starts.

"She behaved in the preliminaries, but she behaved like a first-time starter," winning conditioner Francis Graffard said. "Normally I would ask the jockey to take her back, as he has done in training, but I was worried about her being so green, so I told Boudot to play it by ear."

Emoji broke running from the inside stall and found herself in front at once. Mon. P. C. Boudot was able to get the Soldier Hollow filly to relax on a rocking-horse lead and she set yawning fractions while racing with her ears straight up.

Galova twice tried to apply some pressure and was able to get within half a length of Emoji turning into the stretch. When the remainder of the fillies were off the bridle and Galova was asked in earnest to challenge her at the 2-furlong marker. The inflection point in the race occurred about 1½ furlongs from the finish, when the outcome of the race was very much still in doubt, because most German horses lack the class to withstand the pressure.

Emoji is not a typical German filly. When Boudot turned her loose, she dug in, fought off her rivals and drew away to win easily. Boudot's agent Herve Neggar said "P. C. was never worried because he had a lot of confidence in the filly based on how she felt in the morning and in watching her debut video."

The time of 1:51 4/5 for a mile in the very heavy going (5.4 penetrometer; 6 is the highest is gets) on a very slow pace was 4 full seconds slower than males required in their version of this Listed Classic trial earlier on the card. The race video can be accessed by clicking on this [LINK](#).

Graffard, who also won the featured Group 3 Prix Exbury on the Saint-Cloud Sunday card, said "She is such a lovely filly. Thank you for sending her to me. What I like about her is that she can quicken, even after setting the pace, she still retains that ability. That ability to quicken is what wins French races.

"Obviously I have no plans for her yet, so let's just enjoy this win, see how she comes back and then we will see where we can run her next. The possibilities are great."

Emoji has won both of her starts, including the first one by an astounding 14 lengths.