

ELYSIAN FIELD BET DOWN TO 8 TO 5 FAVORITISM, SCORES BY 3 1/4 LENGTHS SOPH SAVES GROUND ALONG FENCE, SHOWS MOXIE, SPLITS RIVALS TO WIN IRWIN “SHE RAN TO HER LOOKS AND WORKS AND IS SET TO IMPROVE NOW”



Elysian Field came good yesterday fourth time out and first time up in her homeland of Canada.

Dropped in trip from a pair of 2-turn Gulfstream Park races to a sprint for the first time since she was a good runner-up on debut sprinting at Saratoga on the grass, she not only displayed plenty of talent, but a lot of moxie, as she rated kindly inside along the fence, had the agility to split horses and the raw talent to draw off down the lane to score easily by 3 1/4 lengths at Woodbine over the Tapeta surface.

Strictly on form, Sunday's maiden special at Woodbine was a 2-filly race between a pair of 3-year-olds trained by Mark Casse. On paper, Elysian Field had the look of being categorized as "The Other Casse" to the Hall of Famer's rail-drawn Calabrian Queen.

Barry Irwin said "In the flesh, Calabrian Queen looked like a Quarter Horse and she showed that type of speed last time in a brilliantly speedy grass sprint at Gulfstream that saw a half in :43 and five eighths in :54. Elysian Field looked more like a Canadian Oaks prospect visually given her substantial height and frame. The wild card in the race was the U.S. raiding debutante Timeless Elegance."

When push came to shove, however, the tote board told the story, as Elysian Field was hammered down to 8 to 5 off a couple of brilliant moves over the Tapeta since arriving from Florida last month. Calabrian Queen got away with soft fractions of :23.50 and :47, her jockey nursing her speed as she

was suspect over this longer trip after three consecutive abbreviated dashes in Florida. Elysian Field was on the fence in tight quarters in fourth place all the way to inside the stretch. Wesley Ward's Worst Behavior did her job in trying to soften up the pacesetter, but she fell away at the eighth pole. Under an excellent ride from Turkish-born, Canadian-raised Sahin Civaci, Elysian Field was deftly maneuvered off the rail to split horses, take command inside the furlong grounds and draw off to an easy score while covering 6 1/2 furlongs in 1:17 2/5. The 71 Beyer speed figure seems quite low.

Trainer Casse said "She is an absolutely gorgeous filly. We all know that. And today she ran like she has trained for us at Woodbine. We hope that we do have a Canadian Oaks prospect on our hands. I don't know what is next but it will be important to give her a chance to develop at her own pace."

Elysian Field earned \$38,718. The Hard Spun filly is bred to get a middle distance.

[Race Video](#)