

October 27, 2011

PLUCK TO BEGIN COMEBACK ON FAMILIAR TURF NEXT THURSDAY JUVENILE TURF WINNER TARGETS CHURCHILL'S G3 COMMONWEALTH JULIEN LEPAROUX HAS THE MOUNT FOR COLT'S FIRST RACE SINCE SPRING

Pluck will resume his racing career on November 3 in the Grade 3 Commonwealth Stakes at Churchill Downs, the site of his victory in the 2010 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf.



In rallying from the back of the pack in last year's Juvenile Turf, Pluck became the first home-bred to win a Breeders' Cup race for a public racing syndicate.

Churchill's feature race on Thursday of Breeders' Cup week.

Last November, Pluck overcame the outside post and a horrendous start in the Juvenile Turf when he almost went to his knees at the break and had to weave around a fallen horse in the first turn. He circled the field and kicked away to a 1-length victory that followed a Grade 3 triumph in the Summer Stakes at Woodbine.

Team Valor is double-handed for a defense of the Juvenile Turf, with Lucky Chappy and State of Play in line for the \$1-million race on November 5. Motion trains both stakes winners.

Campaigned by Team Valor International and the Vinery, the son of More Than Ready has been out of action since April, when he was sidelined only 2 races into his 3-year-old season with bone bruising of the cannon bones.

Pluck healed with 2 months in a grass paddock in Maryland and returned to Graham Motion at Fair Hill Training Center at the end of June. He has recorded eight published workouts there since late August and will have a final tuneup over the weekend in Kentucky.

Julien Leparoux, the leading jockey at Keeneland this fall, is booked to ride Pluck for the first time in the 1 1/16-mile Commonwealth,