

GO ATHLETICO IS CONVINCING WINNER AT THE CURRAGH OF GROUP THREE VETERAN GELDING RECORDS NEW TIMEFORM TOP OF 116 IN SUNDAY SPRINT

Go Athletico last Sunday at The Curragh caught the soft ground he likes, got the waiting trip he needs and began from the most favorable side of the course from an advantageous draw. And the 5-year-old gelding responded with what likely was the best effort of his 30-race career when winning the Group 3 Renaissance Stakes over six furlongs.



On ground that eased from yielding to soft for his race thanks to a steady rain in County Kildare on Sunday afternoon, the bargain Team Valor International and Shamrock Racing public auction buy was the 7 to 2 second choice to the heavily favored 3-year-old filly Ocean Crest.

Gale force winds only served to add even more buzz to the psyche of the favorite as she cantered down to the starting gate in her calming red-colored pacifying hood while her rivals were walking in the ring back in the paddock. Ocean Crest was never really in the race.

Trainer Ado McGuinness advised Barry Irwin 45 minutes in advance of the race that because of the prevailing winds he planned to advise jockey Ronan Whelan to keep the gelding closer to the pace than usual, as it looked difficult to make up ground on the day.

Fortunately, race-wise veteran racehorse Go Athletico has a mind of his own and, soon after the start, he placed himself. The son of France's top speed sire Goken found plenty of cover for much of the race while racing from his advantageous high draw on the freshest part of the course. Two furlongs from home he was at the back of affairs. With a furlong and a half remaining, a wide gap opened up just outside of the leader Big Gossy.

Whelan maneuvered Go Athletico over to challenge the leader. In a matter of a few strides, the TVI colorbearer engaged in combat with his grey-coated rival. So it was the two veterans in the field—the 5-year-old Go Athletico in start number 30 and the 6-year-old Big Gossy in start number 48—that locked horns inside the final furlong.

Go Athletico forged ahead in the final sixteenth of a mile, but the super-sharp Big Gossy, fresh off a big Premier Handicap sprint win 2 weeks earlier over course and distance with a new Official Rating top, came back at Go Athletico, whittling his nearly 1-length advantage in half at the finishing post. [LINK](#)

Go Athletico becomes the stable 105th Group or Graded stakes winner.