

## **GOLDAUE DOMINATES “WINTER QUEEN” PREP TO SCORE AS THE FAVORITE WINTERKONIGIN ANTE POST PICK NOW OFFICIALLY RATED AT 100 OFF WIN OCTOBER 20 BADEN-BADEN GROUP 3 GOING MILE WILL CROWN CHAMPION**

**Goldaue** (Best Solution), surprisingly in the face of an opponent with black-type form from all-conquering Great Britain, was dispatched as the 5-to-2 favorite for yesterday's Listed Winterkonigin Trial at Cologne Racecourse.

Given how raiders from France and England invariably win the best prizes on the German Turf, this strong show of support in the betting pointed out Goldaue as being something out of the ordinary. As it turned out, early second favorite Miss El Fundi (trained by Sir Mark Prescott in Newmarket) drifted badly in the wagering, going off at nearly 6-to-1 and never featured in the race.

Goldaue was all the rage for the Winterkonigin Trial, based on her sensational debut victory by 4 lengths at Mulheim the month before. When she won for fun that afternoon, the distant fourth-place finisher came back to win next time and actually finished third yesterday at Cologne in the Trial. The betting was prescient, as Goldaue the favorite finished first, the 4-to-1 second choice Lips Vega finished second and 5.7 third choice Sorceress finished third in the field of 7 juvenile fillies racing in the black-type contest.

Goldaue won on debut going 7 furlongs on ground labeled “soft.” Yesterday she was up half a furlong in trip on grass labeled “good to soft.” Next time at Baden-Baden the third week of October, if the historic weather pattern holds up, the ground will be very testing over the 8-furlong trip. Generally most Winterkonigin runners are put away for the winter, and Barry Irwin plans to send her directly to Francis Graffard in France to winter her before cranking her up for the European 3-year-old filly Classics.



*Says Barry Irwin “When confronted with a young horse that seems wise beyond its years, old time Turf Writers like me are wont to say that they act like they’ve been here before. This is definitely the impression this filly gives me.”*



*Says Irwin "Not only has our filly run to historically impressive ratings, but unlike many winners of the Trial and the Winter Queen, she has the physical quality and scope, not to mention pedigree, to train on next season."*

Trial runner-up and second choice Lips Vega, which ran a good second on debut to Trial third-place finisher Sorceress, set the pace from the off, while Rene Piechulek settled Goldaue about 4 lengths from the leader and behind 4 runners over the initial furlongs, with a pair of fillies behind her.

Goldaue enjoyed a perfect trip. She had cover until hitting the homestretch. When a hole presented itself with about 500 meters remaining in the contest, the chestnut filly on her own volition moved into it. When her rider figured it was time for his mount to pick up the tempo, he began to urge her just before the 400-meter mark.

The favorite quickly joined the pacesetter 200 meters from the finish. Goldaue did not readily run past Lips Vega, but gradually wore her down and looked a bit green in doing so. Once she got the better of the daughter of Lope de Vega (he stands for a fee of \$140,000 in Ireland), Goldaue quickly put daylight between herself and the runner-up, winning a bit cozily by 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  length. It was another 5 lengths back to Sorceress in third. [LINK](#)

Goldaue ran to marks of 100 (Official Rating), 99 (Racing Post) and 98 (Timeform).

Last season the juvenile Zarak filly Shagara ran in the same trio of races earmarked for Goldaue. In the middle race, the same as yesterday's Trial, Shagara ran second. Like Goldaue, she had won at Mulheim on debut. And in the Group 3 Winterkonigin itself, last year's 2-year-old filly Champion Shagara won the biggest prize on the German racing calendar for first-season fillies. When she ran second in

the Trial, both her Racing Post and her Timeform marks were 90. When she won the Championship event itself she ran a 95 Timeform and 92 Racing Post.

In the last 5 renewals of the Winterkonigin two winners ran to Racing Post marks of 100, while one of them Quantanamera ran to a 104 mark. Racing this season at age 4, that Lope de Vega filly roundly defeated males in the Group 2 Grand Prix de Deauville with a 116 Racing Post rating.

The Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe-winning jockey and trainer of the winner were all smiles after the race. Says the jockey Rene Piechulek, "This is a real racehorse, you can go in all positions with her in the race. She moved a little sooner than I had planned, but it all worked out nicely in the end for her."

Says winning trainer Marcel Weiss said "Rene was a little too early in front. If he had come forward a little later, she would have won even more easily. But he could hardly do anything because it was so open and she ran to the front on her own. The filly came out of the race in top shape and I am sure that next year she will also come over longer distances."



"Goldie" coming home on a loose rein under Piechulek