

April 7, 2013

## TRIPLE THREAT ENTERS FRENCH DERBY PICTURE WITH GROUP 3 SCORE MONSUN COLT MISSES BREAK, EASILY WINS LA FORCE AT LONGCHAMP HOMEBRED COLT WINS RECORD-TYING SIXTH LA FORCE FOR MON. FABRE

Triple Threat put himself squarely in the picture for the Group 1 Prix du Jockey Club-French Derby, this afternoon with an impressive triumph in the Group 3 Prix La Force at Longchamp.

One of a pair of Group winners on the card today sired by deceased Monsun, he races in Team Valor International CEO Barry Irwin's personal silks. He was bred by Irwin in partnership with MGM CEO Gary Barber of Los Angeles, California.



Triple Threat became the record-tying sixth winner of the venerable French fixture for perennial top trainer Andre Fabre, who last year coaxed a 5-length allowance victory out of the high-strung black colt, before he finished fourth as the favorite in the Group 1 Criterium International at Saint-Cloud.

Regular rider Maxime Guyon was in the saddle, as the colt acted stubborn in the gate and was left at the post when the doors opened, losing anywhere from 3 to 5 lengths at the break. Triple Threat was in the rear for the entire early part of the running, which was contested on a course labeled "bon."

Guyon was brilliant in his judgment on the afternoon, not panicking when he found himself several lengths behind the odds-on favorite, Jean Claude Rouget's unbeaten colt Sefri. Guyon gradually allowed his mount to make up ground. When the final straight was reached, Triple Threat was about 6 or 7 lengths behind Sefri, who was stalking in second.



The rider asked Triple Threat to accelerate in midstretch and the colt responded, although he had no place to go. Finally, a seam materialized and Guyon drove the French-bred through. In a matter of a sixteenth of a mile, Triple Threat built up a tremendous amount of speed, which allowed him to reach contention in the final 50 meters and assert himself nearing the wire for a three-quarter length win.

Fabre was very impressed, but expressed some concern about the colt's temperament.

Triple Threat was a handful in the paddock, warming up and in the gate, explained the horseman. He and Irwin will have a chat next week to lay out plans for the colt's future at 3 this season and, based on how the horse behaved today, the campaign may take a slightly unconventional twist or two. But Triple Threat appears to be the genuine article and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe could be in the mix.