

## ELYSIAN FIELD SECOND TO G. BARBER COLT IN \$1-MILLION KING'S PLATE TEAM VALOR/BARBER FILLY CONTINUES HER REMARKABLE IMPROVEMENT

Team Valor International and Gary Barber's Elysian Field finished a strong second Sunday at Woodbine in Canada's most important race, the \$1-million King's Plate, as "The Other Barber" turned in a tour de force performance on the front end to lead a one-two finish for the Hollywood movie mogul and trainer Mark Casse.

The longest running major race run in North America, the King's Plate had been run for three-quarters of a century as the Queen's Plate until the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and upon her death, her son

Charles assumed the Crown and title of King, hence the adjusted name of the King's Plate. Barber had a lot of confidence in his colt, as well as his filly.



*Paramount Prince (white cap) leads stablemate Elysian Field (black cap) across the finish line of the King's Plate at Woodbine. Photo: Michael Burns*

There looked to be more questions than answers going into the race, but one of them was not whether either Casse runner would relish the trip. Both had won preps for the Plate half an hour apart going a furlong short than the mile-and-a-quarter distance of the \$1-million fixture.

Most of the issues before the race centered on the relative quality of the opposition and whether the inside stall of the filly and outside stall of the gelding would compromise their chances. Both horses broke sharply and cleanly. Barber's Plate Trial winner Paramount Prince, a 5-length masterpiece in his very first 2-turn effort, went right to the front. Elysian Field had her tactical speed employed to strike as forward of a position as was possible.

Barry Irwin said "Taking absolutely nothing away from the winner, who looks to be an exciting Champion in the making, but the inside draw definitely forced Sihan Civaci to race closer to the pace than ideal, but under the circumstances he put up a very polished ride. [LINK](#)

The tale of the race is a simple one. Patrick Husbands managed to get Paramount Prince to relax. Sivaci was forced to race inside, where he spent all of the race until the stretch. The inflection point of the race came at around the quarter pole, when eventual fourth place finisher Velocitor's jockey pinned Elysian Field down along the rail and behind Paramount Prince.

Irwin said "Had our filly not been forced to wait for room she likely would have made a race of it with the winner, who beat her a length and a half. But tactics in a lucrative race nearly always play a part and there was plenty of race riding on Sunday.

“Initially I thought Husbands has stolen the race, but upon further reflection the fractions were honest on the day. It was puzzling that the top finishers were always in the forefront of the race, but that can happen when 3-year-olds run a mile and a quarter for the first time.

“One thing is for sure: Elysian Field continues to develop and improve. Her Beyers this year have been 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s. She got a 90 for this race. The ThoroGraph is not in yet, but the Ragozin was another leap forward, as the filly went from 12  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 9 as Barber’s horse ran a 7, which is a 5-point forward move.