

FACTEUR CHEVAL WORKS STRONG 7 FURLONGS TODAY AT CAGNES-SUR-MER JEROME REYNIER GIVES 6YO LAST FRENCH WORK IN ADVANCE OF DIRT BOW GELDING TOSSES IN :33 4/5 MID-WORK SPLIT WHILE ON BRIDLE ON SATURDAY



Facteur Cheval effortlessly rolls past his workmate while on the bridle going 7 furlongs on Saturday on all-weather surface at Cagnes-Sur-Mer.

Facteur Cheval took to the all-weather surface on Saturday at Cagnes-Sur-Mer in a team work for Calas-based trainer Jerome Reynier, who was giving his 2024 Dubai Turf hero his final bit of serious work in advance of sending him to race for the first time on a dirt racing surface in the January 24 renewal of the Grade 1 Al Maktoum Challenge as a test to see if the now 6-year-old gelding can act over that surface.

Choosing the synthetic track to allow the Grade 1 winner a chance to experience some kick back, which figures to be more severe on the Meydan dirt track, Reynier was very happy with how the large animal handled the track in the workout.

"He was never off the bridle, yet he delivered some speedy internal splits, including 600 meters in less than 34 seconds," said the horseman.

Reynier consults with a software company that generates various particulars of a workout and the analyst told the trainer his stride length, heart recovery and respiratory rate compared favorably with the horse's best previous training moves.

Facteur Cheval basically worked 1400 meters, beginning slowly, picking up the tempo after half a mile, threw in 400 meters in :22 1/5 and 600 meters in :33 4/5. He finished up the work in 1:26 and galloped out an additional furlong in :14 1/5.

"He dipped under 11 seconds for one furlong at his fastest, which is moving right along in a workout," Reynier pointed out.

Facteur Cheval departs Reynier's Calas headquarters on Thursday for Chantilly and leaves from Europe to Dubai on Saturday, exactly 2 weeks before he steps on the dirt at Meydan for the Grade 1, \$1-million Al Maktoum Challenge.

Reynier said of the Team Valor International and Gary Barber-owned Irish-bred "If he takes to the dirt it opens up opportunities such as the Dubai and Saudi Cups. If he fails to handle the dirt, then he will defend his Dubai Turf title in late March."

Mickael Barzalona, who has ridden Facteur Cheval previously, returns aboard the horse in Dubai.