

ELYSIAN FIELD FINISHES STRONGLY TO GRAB \$500,000 WOODBINE OAKS MILLION-DOLLAR KING'S PLATE NEXT ON FILLY'S AGENDA ON AUGUST 20 CASSE FILLY HAMMERED LATE FROM 13 TO 1 TO 5 TO 1 IN LATE BETTING BARBER/IRWIN COMBINE AGAIN FOR MAJOR TRIUMPH AT TORONTO TRACK



Elysian Field joins Prized (Molson Million), Becrux (Woodbine Mile), Capla Temptress (Natalma Stakes) and Pluck (Summer Stakes) as a major winner of an important race at Woodbine for racehorses syndicated by Barry Irwin.

Elysian Field, perfectly piloted by Sahin Civaci, emphatically answered the question of whether she could be effective around two turns over a route of ground yesterday at Woodbine, when she hog-tied 13 rival sophomore fillies at the top of the home stretch and powered to a dominating 2 ¼-length victory in the Woodbine Oaks.

Such was the impression made by the Team Valor International and Gary Barber-owned filly that her connections likely will heed trainer Mark Casse's advice to supplement her at a cost of \$19,000 in United States greenbacks to the August 20 renewal of the King's Plate (formerly the Queen's Plate).

Casse has won Canada's main prize twice with fillies carrying the distinctive shocking pink silks of Mr. Barber twice, as Lexi Lou and Wonder Gadot crossed the line first for the Hollywood film mogul. "You know it was more difficult in those days, because it was only 3 weeks between races. That works better for colts because they generally are stronger.

“But now the spacing has improved and there is a month between the Oaks and the Plate. A big, strong filly like Elysian Field has a very good chance to pull off this double. That was a powerful effort and the time of the race underlined her quality.”

Elysian Field hit the line in 1:49.83. Barber’s Paramount Prince, a 5-length winner, completed his win in 1:49.99. He went wire to wire, in a bit slower fractions, but motored home his final furlong in a stunning :12 2/5 as he drew away. Elysian Field had a much more eventful trip and required slightly less than 13 seconds to finish off her race.

The Oaks and Trial were contested over a mile and a furlong. The Plate itself is raced over a mile and two furlongs. Based on the evidence from yesterday, both horses would appear to be able to handle the additional furlong.

Elysian Field, from the \$500,000 purse, earned \$226,836 from the \$380,329 pot in U.S. funds. The King’s Plate is worth double the money of the Oaks, and its \$1-million Canadian funds will gross about \$760,000 and yield about \$380,000 to the winner.

Although not Graded because restricted races like the Oaks and Plate are ineligible for Pattern Race designation, a win in the Plate would likely ensure Championships for both the filly and colt divisions, possible Horse of the Year status that would translate to big bucks in the sales ring at some point.

Year-end honors have been earned before by TVI runners such as Champion juveniles Added Edge and Demaloot Demashoot—both of which went on to further success for Barry Irwin’s stable in the United States.

Elysian Field now boasts a record in 6 starts of 2 wins, 2 seconds and 2 unplaced (maidens around 2 turns at Gulfstream Park), with a stakes win, a stakes second and earnings of \$306,692.