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PRESS RELEASE

02/10/2022

QATAR PRIX JEAN-LUC LAGARDÈRE (GRAND CRITÉRIUM) SPONSORED BY MANATEQ

PARISLONGCHAMP – Sunday, October 2

The colt Belbek draws first blood for France

The first Group 1 race on the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe card, the Qatar Prix Jean-Luc Lagardère (Grand Critérium), which was sponsored by Manateq, and restricted to 2-year-old colts and fillies, went to Belbek, trained at Chantilly (Oise) by André Fabre. He is owned by Nurlan Bizakov and was ridden by Mickaël Barzalona. Belbek, who made an early start to his campaign, in April, showed his experience on a testing track, which is currently riding very soft (3,9 on the penetrometer).

After racing in fourth place, Belbek finished strongly to deprive Gamestop of the win by a neck. The latter is trained at La Teste (Gironde) by Christophe Ferland. French-trained juveniles completed a clean-sweep, as the third, Breizh Sky, is trained at Chantilly by Alessandro and Giuseppe Botti.

This marked a first Group 1 victory for Belbek's owner-breeder, Nurlan Bizakov, who hails from Kazakhstan. He acquired the Normandy stud, the Haras de Montfort et Préaux, in 2019, followed by the Haras du Mézeray two years later. The two structures are grouped under the Sumbe banner, the name of the breeding entity of Nurlan Bizakov, who also owns a stud in Britain. It is also enabled André Fabre, France's most successful trainer, to break the ice at Gr.1 level this year.

The technical result

QATAR PRIX JEAN-LUC LAGARDÈRE (GRAND CRITÉRIUM) – sponsored by MANATEQ

Group 1 – 2-y-old colts & fillies - 1.400 metres (7f) - 400.000 €

1st BELBEK

Jockey : Mickaël Barzalona - Trainer : André Fabre

2nd GAMESTOP

Jockey : Maxime Guyon - Trainer: Christophe Ferland

3rd BREIZH SKY

Jockey : Christophe Soumillon - Trainers : Alessandro & Giuseppe Botti

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WHAT CONNECTIONS SAID:

Nurlan Bizakov (the owner-breeder of Belbek, 1st)

« This victory means a lot because it is our first Group 1 success with the very first colt which we bred in France, a country where we tend to do well! We will see how the colt recovers from this race. It is possible that he will be supplemented for a British Group 1 race, the Vertem Futurity Trophy. It's André Fabre who will decide. I have bought two studs in Normandy, the Haras de Montfort & Préaux, followed by the Haras du Mézeray. We have also just acquired a share in Mishriff, who is running in the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe today, and who will join our stallion roster next year, and who will, I hope, take over from where Le Havre, who passed away too soon, left off. »

Mickaël Barzalona (the jockey of Belbek, 1st)

« I was getting to know the colt today. The race panned out for him tactically and that made the difference, and he liked the ground. It's a great team effort. He showed speed at the beginning of the year, but he was immature and needed to acquire more experience. »

Christophe Ferland (the trainer of Gamestop, 2nd) - La Teste (Gironde region)

« Gamestop was relaxed today. I think that the hood helped him get into the zone, and he enjoyed a race which had tempo. He had worked very well twice coming into the race. Last time, given his draw, he couldn't show the full extent of what he is capable of. Today he had a good draw, and we believed in our chances. He was awash with sweat before the race but that's him. We will see him out again next year. »

Alessandro Botti (the trainer of Breizh Sky, 3rd) - Chantilly (Oise region)

« Breizh Sky was a bit unlucky because where he was racing was hardly ideal, and Christophe Soumillon didn't want to deliver his challenge on the wide outside. It was the right choice. When the pace quickened for the first time, he found himself behind horses that weren't making much headway. Despite this, the colt ran an excellent race. He finished at a rate of knots. We knew that the soft ground wouldn't inconvenience him, and it was only his fourth start. I hope that he will have more scope for improvement next year. If the colt is in good order, we could make the trip to the Breeders' Cup. He could be stepped up to 1,600m. »

Press Release

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