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PRESS RELEASE

02/10/2022

QATAR PRIX MARCEL BOUSSAC - CRITÉRIUM DES POULICHES

PARISLONGCHAMP – Sunday, October 2

Blue Rose Cen lands a first Group 1 for his young trainer Christopher Head

Christopher Head set off on his pathway as a trainer in Chantilly at the end of 2018. He is the son of the legendary Freddy Head, nephew of Christiane Head, who has won three runnings of the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and grandson of Alec Head, one of the greatest trainers in France and also the head of the extremely successful breeding operation Haras de Quesnay. Christopher Head is the fifth generation of trainers and on Sunday, he landed a first Group thanks to the talented filly Blue Rose Cen, who was a fantastic winner of the Prix Marcel Boussac under jockey Aurélien Lemaitre. Blue Rose Cen was carrying the silks of Yeguada Centurion, which is the creation of Leopoldo Fernández Pujals, a Cuban entrepreneur who made fortune in Spain through Telepizza. Blue Rose Cen was bred by her owner, who worked in association with the Haras de l'Hotellerie, under the watchful eye of Jean-Pierre and Guillaume Garcon.

Blue Rose Cen crossed the line five lengths clear of the Irish trained fillies Gan Teorainn and Never Ending Story.

Race Result

QATAR PRIX MARCEL BOUSSAC - CRITÉRIUM DES POULICHES

Group 1 – 2yo Fillies - 1.600m - 400.000 €

1st BLUE ROSE CEN

Jockey : Aurélien Lemaitre – Trainer : Christopher Head

2nd GAN TEORAINN

Jockey : Kevin Manning - Trainer : Jim Bolger

3rd NEVER ENDING STORY

Jockey : Ryan Moore – Trainer : Aidan O'Brien

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REACTIONS FROM CONNECTIONS

Christopher Head (trainer of Blue Rose Cen, 1st) - Chantilly (Oise)

“It was really important to prove that the yard was capable of competing at this level of competition. We have been incredibly lucky to receive some very well-bred horses. She won the preparation race for this last time out and managed to make a successful transition up to Group 1 level. She handles the track and the ground very well and we are excited for the future.”

Aurélien Lemaitre (jockey of Blue Rose Cen, 1st)

“This victory is a real pleasure. Christopher and I have come on this journey together. Blue Rose Cen is a little Ferrari. She is not very big but she has a huge heart. When she got to the front, she had a look around and then just kicked on. She is so easy to ride, and you can ask her to do anything. Then, once you ask her to go... she responds instantly.”

Jim Bolger (trainer of Gan Teorainn, 2nd) – Ireland

“We are delighted with that. She really handled the ground and looks to have a huge future. She finished out her race well and looks like the type of filly to do well over further. We will take a look at those distances when she comes back in 2023.”

Aidan O’Brien (trainer of Never Ending Story, 3rd) – Ireland

“We are very happy with that. She was unlucky the last day and today she has put it all together. She is a filly who I am sure will be better at three. If she comes out of today well then the Breeders Cup could be an option but next year is the real aim.”

Press Release

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