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PRESS RELEASE

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GRAND PRIX DE PARIS (Gr1)

FRANCE'S ONESTO SHOWS HIS CLASS IN FRONT OF A 17.000 STRONG CROWD



At Paris-Longchamp, in front of crowd in excess of 17,000, the French colt Onesto won the Group 1 Grand Prix de Paris, one of Europe's most prestigious races for 3-year-olds over the 2,400m (12f) distance, in style. It marked the third success in this prestigious race for his jockey Stéphane Pasquier. However, trainer Fabrice Chappet who is also based in Chantilly, was breaking his ice in this race. An unlucky fifth in the Qatar Prix du Jockey Club (Gr1), following a very difficult race, Onesto took his revenge at ParisLongchamp by comfortably turning the tables on the colt who had finished second in the Chantilly classic!

Onesto was reined back on exiting the stalls and was held up in the last position. At the head of affairs, Simca Mille dictated a muddling pace. Turning-in, having established a clear lead of a length over his nearest pursuers, Simca Mille showed his courage by digging-in. However, that was counting without Onesto who exuded class in what was his first win at this level.

Simca Mille was a solid second, having preceded the English raider El Bodegon who was coming off a second in the Qatar Prix du Jockey Club (Gr1).

Owned by eight different owners!

Gerard Augustin-Normand has a 25 per cent stake in Onesto, and he has already won the Grand Prix de Paris (in 2016 with Mont Ormel). The colt's other co-owners are trotting professionals Jean-Etienne Dubois, Matthieu Millet (Ecurie Hunter Valley) and Fabien Rycroft (Ecurie Elag). The renowned Haras d'Etream also own a stake in the colt along with Stéphane Billon (Ecurie Billon Stables), trainer Fabrice Chappet and the bloodstock agent Hubert Guy (who sourced the colt at the Florida sales).

What connections said...

Fabrice Chappet (the trainer of Onesto, 1st)

« The way the race was run to suit Onesto. Canter down to the start, he was quite free, but he was a little bit colder in the race. Stéphane [Pasquier, editor's note] left him alone, because we know he can get a bit tense. He showed his good turn of foot when it came to the finish. In the Jockey-Club, he had a bad draw, and unfortunately the Jockey Club only comes about once during a colt's career. That said, it is far from certain that he would have beaten the winner with a better draw. It was a different race today with fewer runners. He is very good over 2,400m, and has enough speed for 2,000 metre races. We won the Grand Prix de Paris and we can think about the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe now... and entertain ambitions too! »

Stéphane Billon (co-owner of Onesto, 1st)

« It's wonderful! I was told how incredible it is to win a Gr1, but you have to live it, I don't have the words to describe it! He had shown that he was capable of finishing off his races in the straight on his debut, and also at Saint-Cloud in the Prix Greffulhe. It's his trademark, namely the ability to pick as the race progresses. He just keeps going. I made my mark when, from the United States, Hubert Guy called me to tell me that he had seen an exceptional horse: I don't know much about it, but I went to see the videos I could see that he was. I said yes to Hubert Guy and he said: he's going to fetch \$500,000. So I retorted no way (laughs)! In the end, I took a share in the colt and many of us are stakeholders in him. Everybody gets along well. We can dream of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe: it's incredible! »

Stéphane Wattel (trainer and co-owner of Simca Mille, 2nd)

« He's a super colt. He's got a lot of stamina. And he's easy to ride. We made the running because that is something that he likes doing. He can move up through the gears. Today, it required a good horse, and one with a real turn of foot, to reel us in. What is really admirable is that Simca Mille tries to dig in... In fact, he's produced another thrust. However, logic dictates that he gets beaten. We had a lot going for us this evening. Apart from the fact that we had no idea whether he was a Group 1 horse. This performance shows that he's part of a clutch of good horses over this distance. That offers

a lot of possibilities for the future. Before the race he was quite upset. I think that his sire, Tamayuz, was a rather delicate horse. But Simca Mille should age well. I hope to make a good horse of him. The owner wants to keep him. He could run as a 4-year-old. I could see him running well over a further 100m in the Grand Prix de Deauville (Gr2) if impressions at home are anything to go by. It all depends on he recovers from the race...»

James Ferguson (the trainer of El Bodegon, 3rd)

« He ran remarkably well on this ground - because he is even better on soft ground. He's a super horse, a Gr1 class performer, and he confirms that again today. He has been performing well in France. The winner, in my opinion, is an excellent horse. El Bodegon also proved that 2,400m holds no terrors for him. I think the colt is underrated. »

The technical result

GRAND PRIX DE PARIS

Groupe 1 – 3-y-olds - 2.400 metres (12f) - 600.000 €

1st ONESTO (C3)

Frankel & Onshore

Jockey : S. Pasquier

Trainer : F. Chappet

Owners : Gerard Augustin-Normand, Jean-Etienne Dubois, Ecurie Hunter Valley, Haras d'Etreham, Ecurie Billon, Ecurie Elag, Fabrice Chappet & Hubert Guy

Breedert : Diamond Creek Farm

2nd SIMCA MILLE (C3)

Fast Company & Lights On Me

Jockey : T. Bachelot

Trainer : S. Wattel

Owners : Haras de la Perelle & Stéphane Wattel

Breeder : Haras de la Perelle

3rd EL BODEGON (C3)

Kodiac & Andalyya

Jockey : I. Mendizabal

Trainer: J. Ferguson

Owners: Nas Syndicate & A. F. O'callaghan

Breeder : C. & M. Mccracken

Dist : Neck – 2 1/2l – 2 1/2l (6 ran). Time: 2'27''76.

: J. Ferguson

Propriétaires : Nas Syndicate & A. F. O'callaghan

Éleveur : C. & M. Mccracken