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Monday, February 13, 2017

Bold Eagle's legacy grows, wins Prix de France easily

It seems nothing can stop the French favorite in the big races during the winter meeting in Paris.

by Thomas Hedlund

Bold Eagle not only chases glory on the track, he is also poised to become one of the most memorable standardbreds of all time.

On Sunday morning in the €400,000 Prix de France at Vincennes Racetrack in Paris, the six-year-old son of Ready Cash out of the Love You mare Reethi Rah Jet was sent off as the heavy favorite and did not disappoint in the 2,100-metre event (about 1-5/16ths miles).

Franck Nivard, the dominant driver in the Paris area, settled Bold Eagle into a favorable location when the starting car accelerated as the machine-like Timoko and driver Björn Goop left quickly for the lead in the 14-horse field.

Sitting comfortably in third in the early going, Bold Eagle watched patiently as Un Mec d'Heripre took over the lead.

Nivard waited until a half-mile remained to make a

three-wide attack with Bold Eagle and in the last turn there was no question about the outcome. Bold Eagle had plenty of power and Un Mec d'Heripre became easy bait in the stretch.

Bold Eagle's margin of victory was three lengths and his winning time was a mile equivalent of approximately 1:54.

Behind Bold Eagle, Timoko raced well and caught the silver medal in safe distance in front of Voltigeur de Myrt in third.

It was a repeat victory in the Prix de France for Bold Eagle, trained by Sébastien Guarato, owned by Pierre Pilarski and



Gerard Forni

Bold Eagle and driver Franck Nivard stormed to an easy three-length victory in Sunday's €400,000 Prix de France at Vincennes in Paris.

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p, 2, 1:52.3s; 3, 1:50s; 1:47 (\$2,072,450)

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To the delight of his growing French faithful, Bold Eagle (winning Sunday's Prix de France) is expected to attempt to win the French Triple Crown by contesting the Prix de Paris on Feb. 26.

bred by Jean-Étienne Dubois. The trotter's connections earned €180,000 for the victory. It was Bold Eagle's 32nd win in 37 career starts. His career earnings now sit at €2,923,300 (about \$3.1 million U.S.).

It is expected Bold Eagle's next start will be on Feb. 26 at Vincennes when he will attempt to win the French Triple Crown by contesting the €400,000 Prix de Paris.

To win Prix d'Amérique, Prix de France and Prix de Paris the same year takes an exceptional horse and it appears Bold Eagle belongs in that company.

A year ago, Bold Eagle was five when he won the first two legs of the French Triple Crown. Lionel was then too strong in the Prix de Paris — a marathon test contested over 4,150 metres (approximately 2-5/8ths miles) — but it would be



Gerard Forni

After winning, driver Franck Nivard (left) congratulated Timoko's driver Bjorn Goop on a hard-fought race.



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Bold Eagle's winning connections celebrating victory (from left): trainer Sébastien Guarato, driver Franck Nivard and owner Pierre Pilarski (far right)

surprising if Guarato does not try for redemption this year, especially with a €300,000 bonus up for grabs for the winner of the French Triple Crown.

All of which has France buzzing about Bold Eagle. The whole entourage around the champion horse and two-time winner of both Prix d'Amérique and Prix de France has really succeeded in marketing harness racing at home. Pilarski has become a well-known person in the industry and he's not slow to praise both his own horse and many of the opponents before and after the races. Good words of horses and the sport are welcomed in Paris and Pilarski's



Gerard Forni

Bold Eagle has won 32 of 37 career starts and €2,923,300 under the tutelage of trainer Sébastien Guarato (right).

gentlemanly behavior is not difficult to embrace.

Meanwhile, it's no secret Pilarski and Guarato have thoughts of going to Sweden and racing in The Elitlopp at the end of May. Different conditions are waiting for the French champion if he goes north, and harness racing fans all over the world can't wait to see the son of Ready Cash tackling the task against the best sprinters in the sport.

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McKee out of ICU

Sam McKee has reached another recovery milestone this week, his wife, Christine, reported via email Sunday night (Feb. 12).

A little more than a week ago, the Hall of Fame race caller suffered a major stroke and is recovering in a New Jersey hospital.

"He was moved from ICU yesterday into a 'step-down' unit, meaning he is healing well and needs only intermediate care," Christine wrote. "Although he is still working on speech and mobility, we are encouraged that the doctors feel he's close to heading off to rehab. Sam smiles when we read him your notes and comments, and we know he can feel the love and support from you all."

MacDonald, Millard honored by SBOA

The Standardbred Breeders of Ontario Association (SBOA) has given its two highest honors to Anthony MacDonald and Doug Millard as part of its awards for 2016.

MacDonald has been named the Lloyd Chisholm Achievement Award winner and Millard has been named the winner of the Chris Van Bussel Memorial Award.

Established in honor of one of the founding fathers of the Ontario Sires Stakes (OSS) program, the Lloyd Chisholm Achievement Award recognizes a member of the harness racing community for their ongoing meritorious service.

Since 2012, trainer/driver MacDonald has served as an advocate for the harness racing industry, offering ideas and engaging in discussion on his Standardbred Canada blog. In

2015, the Guelph, ON resident and his wife Amy launched fractional ownership venture The Stable (www.thestable.ca) in an effort to lower the cost and risk associated with yearling ownership and attract new owners to the industry. MacDonald has also hosted open houses at his training centre and participated in a variety of speaking engagements in an effort to raise awareness about The Stable and harness racing in Ontario.

The Chris Van Bussel Memorial Award was established in memory of the Seelster Farms founder to recognize persons of integrity who have been of service to both the SBOA and the greater harness racing industry.

During his long-time participation in the harness racing industry, Millard has owned everything from claimers to stakes horses, including the great trotting filly Eleganimage (\$955,368). Millard's Woodstock-based Chelemark nursery has also produced a number of impressive performers, most recently Eleganimage's daughter Elegant Serenity, who retired in October with \$511,173 in earnings.

A staunch supporter of the OSS, Millard has both bred and bought horses to race in the program, partnering with a variety of trainers from locally-based to Grand Circuit-focused. In addition, Millard has served the harness racing community as a member of the Woodbine Entertainment Group Board of Directors, sitting on the Standardbred Racing and Audit Committees.

In 2016, Ontario Sired and Ontario Bred horses once again made history, both within the OSS program – producing two new, all-time speed records, as well as just the third competitor to ever go undefeated through two seasons – and beyond its borders, with, among others, a Little Brown Jug champion (Betting Line).

As it has done for over two decades, the SBOA is proud to recognize the leading money winners in the eight OSS divisions, along with the program's leading driver and trainer.

This year, in lieu of hosting a banquet and presenting trophies, the SBOA has chosen to honor each division champion, the SBOA Stakes champions and the other award winners with donations to the Ontario Standardbred Adoption Society and the Standardbred Racetrack Chaplaincy of Canada.

Here is a complete list of other SBOA award winners:

Sylvain Filion - Lampman Cup winner (O'Brien Award winner)

2016 OSS statistics: 199 47-26-23-28-13; \$2,171,210; 511 Lampman Cup points (fourth Lampman Cup title).

Leading drives: Yaris Bayama, Streakavana, Emoticon Hanover, Warrawee Roo, Tymal Peacemaker, Gerries Sport, Mayhem Seelster, Soiree Seelster, On A Sunny Day

Mark Steacy - Johnston Cup winner

2016 OSS statistics: 132 14-13-21-28-12; \$603,540; 269 Johnston Cup points (first Johnston Cup title).

Stable stars: Forever Liza, Royal Charm, Sass, Dream Massive, Nocturnal Bluechip

Yaris Bayama

Two-year-old pacing filly (O'Brien Award finalist)

Sportswriter – Lucky Josie

2016 OSS record: 6 3-1-1, \$216,600, 1:52.4s

2016 overall record: 10 5-1-2, \$231,820, 1:52.4s

Owner/Breeder: Bayama Farms Inc.,
Saint-Andre-D'Argenteuil, QC

Trainer: Stephane Larocque • Driver: Sylvain Filion

Streakavana - Two-year-old pacing colt

Big Jim – Stonebridge Madona

2016 OSS record: 6 3-1-0, \$179,750, 1:52.2s

2016 overall record: 7 4-1-0, \$187,750, 1:52.2s

Breeder: Angie Stiller, Arva, ON

Owners: Brad Grant & Teresa Davidson, Milton, ON

Trainer: Scott McEneny • Driver: Sylvain Filion

Winter Sweet Frost - Two-year-old trotting filly

Kadabra – American Frost

2016 OSS record: 6 3-2-0, \$244,000, 1:55.4s

2016 overall record: 11 3-3-2, \$323,691, 1:55.4s

Owner/Breeder: Robert Key, Leechburg, Pennsylvania

Trainer: Paul Reid • Driver: Doug McNair

Mass Production

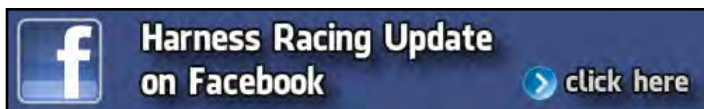
Two-year-old trotting colt (O'Brien Award winner)

Muscle Mass – All Time Favorite

2016 OSS record: 6 4-1-1, \$273,400, 1:54.4s

2016 overall record: 9 5-1-1, \$285,673, 1:54.4s

Breeder: Stan Klemencic, Trenton, ON



Owners: Rick Zeron Stables, Oakville; James Walker, Port Perry;

Bruno Dipoce, Wasaga Beach, ON; Rene Allard, Matamoras, PA

Trainer/Driver: Rick Zeron

L A Delight

Three-year-old pacing filly (O'Brien Award winner)

Bettors Delight – West Of L A

2016 OSS record: 6 6-0-0, \$387,500, 1:50.3s

2016 overall record: 19 9-4-2, \$787,898, 1:49.1f

Open stake wins: Nadia Lobell & Jugette. Only the third horse to go undefeated through two seasons of OSS competition

Owner/Breeders: Robert McIntosh Stables Inc., Al McIntosh Holdings Inc., ON; C S X Stables, Liberty Center, OH

Trainer: Bob McIntosh • Drivers: Randy Waples & John Campbell

Betting Line

Three-year-old pacing colt (O'Brien Award winner)

Bettors Delight – Heathers Western

2016 OSS record: 5 5-0-0, \$335,000, 1:49.3s

2016 overall record: 2016: 15 14-1-0, \$1,698,096, 1:47.2f

Open stake wins: Somebeachsomewhere, North America Cup elim & final, Carl Milstein Memorial, Battle of Brandywine, Simcoe Stakes, Little Brown Jug heat & final

Breeder: Fair Winds Farm Inc., Cream Ridge, NJ

Owners: West Wins Stable, Cambridge; Christine Calhoun, Chatham; Mac Nichol, Burlington, ON

Trainer: Casie Coleman • Drivers: Jonathan Drury & David Miller

Emoticon Hanover

Three-year-old trotting filly (O'Brien Award finalist)

Kadabra-Emmylou Who

2016 OSS record: 6 4-2-0, \$335,000, 1:53.1s

2016 overall record: 15 7-4-2, \$604,168, 1:53.1s

Open stake wins: Casual Breeze & Simcoe Stakes

Breeders: Linda Wellwood, St. George Brant; Tammy Aspden, Caistor Centre; Anne Shunock, Dorchester; & Diane Ingham, Mount Pleasant, ON

Owner: Determination, Montreal, QC

Trainer: Luc Blais • Driver: Sylvain Filion

Warrawee Roo - Three-year-old trotting colt

Majestic Son – Karoon

2016 OSS record: 5 2-1-0, \$203,750, 1:53.3s

2016 overall record: 14 5-1-1, \$246,421, 1:53.3s

Breeder: Warrawee Farm, Rockwood, ON

Owner: Determination, Montreal, QC

Trainer: Luc Blais • Driver: Sylvain Filion

Goodwill Hanover - SBOA Stake pacing filly champion

Big Jim – Go For Best

16 4-1-0, \$204,719, 1:50s (set in the SBOA Final)

Breeders: Hanover Shoe Farms Inc., Hanover, PA

Owners: GLB Stable, Lakeview, NS

Trainer: Dr. Ian Moore • Driver: Chris Christoforou

Flowers N Songs - SBOA Stake trotting filly champion

Deweycheatumnhowe – Pleasures Song

33 11-6-6, \$577,608, 1:53s (set in the SBOA Final)

Owner/Breeder: Robert Key, Leechburg, Pennsylvania

Trainer: Paul Reid • Driver: Doug McNair

Cabrini Hanover

Masterfeeds Outstanding Pacing Broodmare

(p, 2, 1:51s \$1,473,729) - Western Ideal – Cathedra

Breeders: Hanover Shoe Farms Inc., Hanover, PA

Owners: David Willmot, King City & Clay Harland Horner, Toronto, ON

Dam of \$1,175,468 winner Solar Sister (Mach Three), the 2015 OSS three-year-old pacing filly champion. In 2016, Solar Sister won the Sam "Chip" Noble III Memorial Pace and the Artiscap for aged pacing mares and is an O'Brien Award finalist. Cabrini Hanover is also the dam of \$197,955 winner Wherethegirlsare (Somebeachsomewhere).

In The Mean Time

Masterfeeds Outstanding Trotting Broodmare

(3, 1:54.4m, \$233,554) - Muscles Yankee - Soutaine Hanover

Breeders: David McDuffee, Delray Beach, Florida & Irving Liverman, Hampstead, QC

Dam of Gold Series winners Could It Be Magic (\$222,656) and Magic Presto (\$393,049) (both by Kadabra). Magic Presto was also victorious in the 2016 Goldsmith Maid and is an O'Brien Award finalist.

– **SBOA / Sandra Snyder**



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MEADOWLANDS *report*

Saturday's Results:

3, M, \$16,000, P, N/W \$15,500 in Last 5 Starts AE: N/W \$100,000 in 2016/17, 29.3, 57.1, 1:24.4, 1:51.3, FT

1-Missile J (g, 4, American Ideal--Cantor's Daughter, by Cambest), \$100,000 2014 SHS-HBG O-John E McGill & Brian K Carsey. B-Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc & Av & Son Bloodstock LLC. T-Scott Di Domenico. D-Jonathan Roberts, \$8,000, Lifetime Record: 22-11-2-2, \$333,502

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2-Rodeo Romeo (h, 5, Rocknroll Hanover--Southwind Vanna, by Artsplace), \$30,000 2013 SHS-HBG O-Oompa's Farm Inc & Robert A Mondillo. B-Perretti Farms. T-Chris Ryder. D-Yannick Gingras, \$4,000

3-Somesizesomestyle (h, 6, Somebeachsomewhere--Honey Bunny, by Precious Bunny), \$50,000 2012 SHS-HBG O-Bradley J Grant, CA. B-Tara Hills Stud LTD, CA. T-Larry Remmen. D-Drew Monti, \$1,920 Calls: 1Q, 1Q, 1H, 1H, HD - Finish Order: K-lees Shakenbake, Parnu Hanover, Calvin B, El Bloombito

To watch the race replay click here

7, M, \$15,000, P, DASH FOR THE "G" NOTES - FINAL, 27.2, 56.2, 1:24.3, 1:52.0, FT

1-Gravelsinmytravel (g, 6, Voracious Hanover--Die Searching, by Die Laughing) O-Van Otterloo Stables. B-Van Otterloo Stables. T-Patricia Minnella. D-John Campbell, \$7,500, Lifetime Record: 75-12-14-11, \$70,014

2-Rock Star (g, 7, Rocknroll Hanover--Lovely Assistant, by Art Major), \$80,000 2011 SHS-HBG O-Robert J Zakian. B-Save H Stewart & Diane L Giuliano. T-Bryan Andersen. D-Drew Monti, \$3,750

3-Prince Palani (g, 6, Village Jove--Princess Starlight, by Albert Albert) O-Harmon Racing Stable LLC. B-Melvin Robert Fuchs. T-Patti Harmon. D-Jim Marohn Jr, \$1,800

Calls: 1, 1H, NS, H, 2 - Finish Order: Bettorsluckystreak, Tauranga, Giddy Up Delight, Sir Sam's Z Tam, The Fire Within, Relentless Dreamer, Frankie Boy

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