

AXANA IMPRESSIVE BLACK-TYPE WINNER TO COMMENCE 5YO CAMPAIGN WOEHLER MARE'S 111 TIMEFORM MARK EQUALS HER CAREER TOPPER AT 3 EDDIE PEDROZA "NOW THAT SHE CAN BREATHE AGAIN, SHE MOVES GREAT"



The real Axana showed up Sunday at Hoppegarten racecourse in Eastern Berlin and she looked as good as ever in winning the Listed Gestüts Röttgen going a mile as the third choice to 4-year-old No Limit Credit. The runner-up was favored. Last December at the Arqana sale in Deauville, the second-place finisher sold for more than \$580,000.

Double Champion at 3 among Milers, Axana did not win in 2020, although on debut at 4 she missed by a thin nose to the still unbeaten French and German

Group heroine Jin Jin. Axana failed to place in her subsequent two races and it was discovered she suffered from an entrapped epiglottis. The issue did not clear up in time to race her again before she went through the ring at Arqana to dissolve her partnership.

Barry Irwin bought out the partner at the sale and was quickly successful in encouraging longtime South African partner Gaynor Rupert to pick up the 50-percent interest at the same figure which Axana realized at the vendue.

There was a question mark about whether the epiglottis had fully healed. The surgery went fine, but the throat took quite a while to resolve itself. Dr. Gary Priest monitored the situation, advised patience and finally the throat was normal just one month ago.

Reunited with Eddie Pedroza, who has always ridden her best and a week before the race announced that the mare was back to her best, Axana tracked wide, moved up in a position to challenge longtime leader Paloma Ohe a quarter-mile from home and responded instantly when Eddie P. asked her to quicken. The mare drew off under hands and heels to win by an ever-widening 3½ lengths. [RACE LINK](#)

No Limit Credit, rated at 105 by Timeform, finished with interest without bothering the winner, and had 1 ½ lengths to spare over pacesetting Paloma Ohe.

Timeform gave Axana the same 111 topper it had rendered at 3 and, the manner in which she won, suggests that Group wins in Germany and, probably France, are on the immediate horizon. Barry Irwin and trainer Andreas Woehler wanted to go next to France, but only a Group 2 versus males is available at present, so the mare will have 2 months between races and aim for the May 3 Badener Meile raced this year over the Dusseldorf track that she likes so much. Then a race in France should be in the cards.

RacingPost gave the mare a 103 (106 is her best). The Official Rating from the German racing authority came back at 93, which equals 106 and is 4 pounds lower than her best of 95 (110). The Germans are reluctant to assign big figures to Listed races.

Axana in 10 starts now has 5 wins, including black-type scores in the Group 3 Schwarzgold-Rennen, the Group 3 Hamburger Stutenmeile, the Listed Soldier Hollow and now the Listed Gestüts Röttgen. Additionally she was runner-up in the Group 2 German One Thousand Guineas. As a 3-year-old she was Champion Miler in Germany and Champion Filly at 3 over a mile.