

WITH GRADE 1 IN BAG, CAPLA TEMPTRESS HEADING BACK TO BOTTI PARTNERSHIP VOTED THIS WEEK IN FAVOR OF RETURN TO ENGLAND MORE OPPORTUNITIES ABROAD AS TURF 3YO, PLUS OPTION TO RAID AGAIN

Capla Temptress came away from her trip to North America with a Grade 1 triumph that was a huge success and a disappointing but hardly dreadful Breeders' Cup outing. Now she is headed back to England.



Partners in the juvenile filly voted this week to return her to the care of trainer Marco Botti, for whom she rocketed from an inauspicious debut winner at Chelmsford City to a top-level conqueror of the Natalma Stakes at Woodbine.

Botti was excited today upon receiving the news from Barry Irwin, who also was pleased on a couple of fronts.

“This decision shows that our partners are more and more open to racing internationally, which pleases me,” he said.

For the vote, Irwin shared the pros and cons of each option (keeping her in the U.S. or sending her back to England) but did not reveal a preference.

In a nutshell, these were the pros for returning her to Botti: a) she will have a better chance to stay sound, b) she will have more racing opportunities, c) she can take advantage of an ability to handle any type of soft footing and d) she loves the layout at Newmarket where many big races are contested. The cons: the competition is harder in England, and being an ocean away, partners would have less chance to see her race in person.

A major caveat to the latter column that may have swung the vote is that Botti has proven so effective through the years with international raiding opportunities, with Capla Temptress the latest addition to a list that includes this year's Arlington Million runner-up Fanciful Angel, Grade 1 Beverly D. winner and Grade 1 Dubai Turf runner-up Euro Charline, Grade 1 Canadian International winner Joshua Tree, Grade 1 Goodwood Stakes winner Gitano Hernando, and back-to-back winners of the Listed Arlington St. Leger.

Botti also knows Capla Temptress as well as anyone. Bill Mott was in a difficult position trying to gauge a new trainee while preparing for a major race. She ended up being too fresh for the Juvenile Fillies Turf as jockey Joel Rosario struggled to get her to settle early and she would up running up on the heels of another horse and having to check sharply.

By the time she was in position turning for home to unleash her usual closing kick, she was already sapped. She finished seventh, beaten 4 1/4 lengths for it all, while matching her 76 Beyer and 10 Thoro-Graph figure from the Natalma.