

## ELYSIAN FIELD RENEWS LOVE AFFAIR WITH WOODBINE'S TAPETA TRACK CHAMPION STORMS HOME TO TAKE GRADE 3 SEAWAY STAKES IN TORONTO LIKELY TO RACE ONCE MORE BEFORE NOVEMBER FASIG-TIPTON AUCTION



*ELYSIAN FIELD was an ears-pricked winner of Woodbine's Grade 3 Seaway Stakes.*

Despite dropping to a sprint for the first time since early in her Championship season at 3, Canadian Champion Elysian Field roared home down the lane at Woodbine over the Tapeta surface she adores to claim a well-deserved victory going 7 furlongs on Saturday to win the Grade 3 Seaway Stakes. Stripping in magnificent condition and packing more poundage around the middle than usual, the gorgeous chestnut daughter of Hard Spun was dispatched as the 7-to-2 second choice in a field of 8 fillies and mares, no less than half of which were trained by double Hall of Famer trainer Mark Casse.

The complexion of the race changed dramatically before the off when Chad Brown's likely race favorite Weigh the Risks became a non-starter. In addition to boasting a last out Saratoga win with a 101 Beyer, she looked to have even more pace to inject into a contest that already had plenty of potential speed.

The contest looked like a match race early with Casse's Olivia Rose, the mount Elysian Field's regular rider Sahin Civaci chose to ride over the Team Valor International and Gary Barber runner, zipping along on a daylight lead over the Casse-conditioned 9-to-5 favorite Stormcast.

Layoff returnee Stormcast appeared to be sitting in the "catbird seat" as the pacesetter zoomed through splits of :22 2/5 and :44 3/5. Meanwhile, Elysian Field was racing in fifth and sixth about 9 lengths in arrears as the leaders seared the artificial surface as they burned up the carpet fuzz.

Young baby-faced apprentice rider Pietro Moran, a second generation jockey that is just after winning the Kings Plate and currently leads the standings at Woodbine, kept second-favorite Elysian Field outside and out of trouble. He let her roll down the lane and she fired as in days of yore when she was winning the \$500,000 Woodbine Oaks over the same course.

So fast was Elysian Field rallying that when Stormcast reached the eighth pole in 1:08 4/5 the Team Valor colorbearer was head and head with her. Through the final furlong Elysian Field managed to pull a length away from her and reach the line clear of her superior sprinting rival. Final time was 1:21 4/5. Trainer Casse had the Trifecta, his runners filling the first 3 places on the line, something that he has made a habit of doing at Woodbine. [LINK](#)

Casse said that young Moran is “even a better rider than his father already” and Irwin said “it was a sensitive, confident and basically flawless ride by the young fellow.”

Elysian Field earned a 91 Beyer speed figure. She picked up a check of more than \$78,000, part of which included a cash award as a Canadian-bred, and she increased her lifetime earnings to just shy of \$750,000. Her career record from 16 starts now reads 5-6-0. The victory was her third in a stakes and second in a Graded race following her tally last season in the Grade 3 Maple Leaf Stakes.

As Elysian Field is scheduled to enter the sales ring the first week of November as part of Fasig-Tipton Company’s Night of the Stars auction in Lexington, Kentucky, she likely has only one more race left on her dance card.