GREEN UP ROMPS TO 5 3/4-LENGTH VICTORY IN HER BLACK-TYPE DEBUT PACO LOPEZ IS A PASSENGER IN FRONT-RUNNING TOUR DE FORCE IN JOISEY GRADE 3 MONMOUTH OAKS IN OFFING FOR TODD PLETCHER'S 3YO PROTÉGÉ



Green Up fashioned a facile daylight victory in the \$100,000 Boiling Springs Stakes on Sunday at Monmouth.

Green Up answered a lot of questions last Sunday when scoring a facile 5 3/4-length triumph in the Boiling Springs Stakes at Monmouth Park. She proved she could win around two turns, she proved that she could be just as brilliant in stakes company as she had been when beating up on bums in Florida and she proved that the sky could very well be the limit for her in terms of where her talent can take her.

Because of the presence in the \$100,000 race going a mile and 70 yards on dirt of Shug McGaughey-trained Radio Days, a recent fast-closing third in the Grade 2 Black-Eyed Susan Stakes, and Green Up, an easy daylight winner of both of her Gulfstream Park starts over the winter and spring, three of the seven original entrants were scratched. The race came up a lot tougher than the trainers of those other fillies had reckoned.

Radio Days, a \$750,000 yearling bought by Joe Allen of War Front fame, had earned an 87 Beyer when third at Pimlico and she was dispatched as the prohibitive favorite at odds of 2-to-5. Green Up had earned an 84 Beyer and TDN Rising Star status when winning her seasonal debut and was sent off at odds of 3-to-2. The remaining two runners went off at odds of 10-to-1 and 21-to-1.

Although the race was obviously a 2-horse affair, both of the lightly regarded fillies did play a role in the outcome, as there was plenty of rock and rolling in this contest. Green Up was the lone speed in the race, however she broke awkwardly. No matter, as the longshot filly on the rail stumbled, which allowed the Team Valor color bearer Green Up plenty of time to regroup and take command along the rail.

The rail filly recovered enough to follow Green Up along the inside and she would block any opportunity the favorite had to save any ground. The other longshot drifted out rounding the first turn and carried the favorite out with her, causing Radio Days to lose considerable ground and momentum. The entire field was separated by no more than a couple of lengths or so at the half-mile pole, with Green Up

setting a tepid pace through a half in :49 2/5 under a stranglehold from Paco Lopez and the favorite stuck out 3 wide in a 4-horse field under Joe Bravo.

Rounding the final bend Bravo eliminated the remaining long shot in the race as he put her in a jackpot and went after Green Up. But Leading Jockey Lopez was ready for the favorite and simply strode away from the field under a hand ride down the lane to the wire. Final time for the mile and 70 yards was 1:40.93.

The filly earned a new Beyer top of 86. Video of **Boiling Springs Stakes**.

Green Up, since finishing second beaten less than a length on debut in May of last year in a Churchill Downs maiden going 5 furlongs, has now won all 3 of her races at 3 and by margins 6 3/4, 4 and 5 3/4. Her \$60,000 increased her career gleanings in four outings to \$130,760. She also is in line to receive a bonus of \$6,000 as a Virginia-bred winner of a Mid-Atlantic race.

Her dam Green Punch, is back in foal on an April 14 cover to Upstart.