## MOONEY LOVE STUNS COLOGNE RACEGOERS WITH LISTED STAKES SCORE ITALIAN IMPORT ROMPS BY 2 3/4 LENGTHS GOING 2100 METERS IN 4YO BOW IRWIN "HE WANTS TO FOLLOW A FAST PACE ON HARD TURF AND HE GOT IT"



Mooney Love skipping away to a daylight victory in the Jubilaums Preis at Koln Racecourse in Germany.

Barry Irwin bought Mooney Love over the winter from the estate of a prominent Italian breeder and was able to syndicate him for a surprisingly low figure, even though he already had Group form in Italy.

"I took a chance because he seemed to only lose his good form when tried on wet ground," he said. "I made him an ideal tool to prepare to raid Saratoga this summer, where he would be eligible to the first allowance condition, which figures to offer substantial prize money. After all, a 105 Timeform rated runner would look salty against that bunch."

Irwin sent Mooney Love to Andreas Woehler with instructions to prep him once or twice in Germany but not to win a first prize of \$15,000 or more because he would lose his first-condition eligibility in America. The only suitable race Woehler found, with Saratoga beckoning right around the corner, was a Listed event yesterday at Cologne racecourse that drew 8 runners going ten and a half furlongs.

On the type of fast ground over which he acts, and behind the type of solid pace he needs to be his most effective, Mooney Love was content to trail under Wladimir Panov, who was substituting for the bed-ridden rider of last year's German-owned/bred winner of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

Mooney Love was last with 600 meters remaining. Panov switched him to the outside in the final quarter-mile and got him rolling right toward the odds-on favorite that looked home free. Mooney Love generated a tremendous closing punch to not only reel in the favorite, but to leave that one in his dust. "I didn't need to use the stick or anything, he did it all on his own," Russian-born Panov said. "It was a strong effort and very impressive."

**RACE VIDEO**