



### Blue Laser zaps 'em in Grey

TORONTO, October 10...Winstar Farms' homebred Blue Laser, piloted by Corey Fraser, won a wild renewal of the Grade 3, \$253,250 Grey Stakes for two-year-olds, Sunday at Woodbine.

At the finish of the one mile and one-sixteenth contest, Blue Laser had scored an improbable half-length win over a closing Rockin Heat, with Classic Legacy just a neck further back in third, in 1:45.78. Top Pit Boss was fourth, another half-length in arrears.

Favoured Bear's Future, who forced the issue throughout, leading the field through a half in 47.34 and three-quarters in 1:11.89, came up empty for the stretch run and eventually finished sixth, while suffering his first defeat in three outings.

The Grey appeared over turning for home, when Classic Legacy, the 5-2 second choice with jockey Omar Moreno, who had trailed the field for most of the race, launched a six wide-bid, blowing past Blue Laser and Bear's Future, while catapulting to the front and opening two lengths on his pursuers at the eighth pole.

But suddenly Classic Legacy ducked in and appeared to lose momentum, as Blue Laser became resurgent in the middle, while Top Bit Boss and Rockin Heat threatened on the outside. But, in a thrilling four-horse finish, it was Blue Laser, a son of Bluegrass Cat, who prevailed.

"When we first got him, I communicated to Elliott Walden (of Winstar), that I thought Blue Laser was a 'boy', but I think he's becoming a 'man'," explained trainer Mark Casse. "He's shown a lot of determination in his last two races.

"We got hung really wide in the first turn after I had told Corey to try to get a forward position, so I wasn't too pleased going into the first turn. And then, down the backside, I thought Corey had moved into a good position. Then, the (number) one horse, (trainer) Bob Tiller's horse (Classic Legacy) came flying by and looked like he was a winner. I hadn't even got excited, but when the leader ducked in, I came out of my seat.

"This is a very important win for them (Winstar). He's by Bluegrass Cat, their freshman sire. When we walked out of the paddock today, I said to my son Norman, 'this horse has a pedigree'. Sometimes pedigree wins."

It was the second victory in three starts for the Kentucky-bred, who entered the Grey off a tough maiden win over Rockin Heat on August 28 at one mile and 70 yards. He'd debuted on the lawn on August 1, finishing a closing third.

Blue Laser picked up a pot of \$150,000 for the victory and returned \$18.50, \$9.50 and \$4.90, combining with Rockin Heat (\$6.10, \$3.60) for a \$63.80 (7-9) exactor. A 7-9-1 (Classic Legacy, \$3.10 to show) triactor was worth \$271.50 while a \$1 superfecta [7-9-1-6 (Top Pit Boss) fashioned an \$851.25 payoff.

(Photo courtesy of WEG/Michael Burns Photography)

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