



Sunday, October 4th, 2020 - ParisLongchamp - #QPAT

Trainer Jean-Claude Rouget: Sottsass is back to his old self

The 2020 season hasn't been easy for anyone. Jean-Claude Rouget, owing to the difficulties of racing being halted owing to the Covid-19 crisis, has had difficulty in cranking up his champion Sottsass: third in last year's Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

He said: "*I'm of the opinion that **Sottsass is on much better terms with himself at this stage of the season.** His race in Ireland did him a power of good. He should give a good account of himself on Sunday. As things stand, I have in the same condition as last year; so I'm rediscovering the same horse as I did in the lead up to the 2019 race. This year, I haven't managed to get in the same condition as now owing to a racing calendar which has been perturbed by the pandemic. However, neither have I wished to go overboard, so as to ensure that that he's a fresh horse come the Arc, which has always been his objective. He knows the score, having acquitted himself well in the race last season, so he has the right to be concerned at the finish again. I share the opinion that he hasn't shown the required level of form to win the Arc this season, but I believe that he will run well and finish in the first three.*"

Sottsass worked with **Raabihah** – another Arc candidate trained by Jean-Claude Rouget – at Deauville on Tuesday.

The handler added: "***Sottsass and Raabihah** both worked well this morning. **Raabihah is similarly in peak condition.** Our only question mark is the ground. This isn't in the sense that she would be inconvenienced by a heavy track; for we simply don't know as she has yet to tackle very soft conditions.*"

Jean-Claude Rouget's Arc record

12 runners.

Still waiting for a first win.

Best showing: 3rd (2019)

2019	Sottsass	3 rd
2019	Soft Light	6 th
2017	Brametot	5 th
2015	Prince Gibraltar	7 th
2014	Prince Gibraltar	7 th
2014	Avenir Certain	11 th
2010	Behkabad	4 th
2009	Stacelita	7 th
2005	Windya	Unplaced
2004	Silverskaya	8 th
2000	Hésiode	9 th
1994	Millkom	9 th



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PRIX DE
L'ARC DE
TRIOMPHE**

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3 & 4 OCTOBRE
PARISLONGCHAMP

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The trainer has also outlined his other running plans for the week-end.

On Sunday he will also be running **Tawkeel** in the **Prix de l'Opéra Longines...**

He said: "***Tawkeel** worked well this morning and did it all very easily. She doesn't share that characteristic that has bedevilled other members of the same family that I've trained, in the sense that they've made flying starts to their career which they haven't backed up. She, on the contrary, has done nothing but progress and, each time, she has astonished me. In the Opéra, we will be seeking to maintain her unbeaten record.*"

Continuing on the Sunday theme, **Cœursamba** has been earmarked for the **Qatar Prix Marcel Boussac - Critérium des Pouliches.**

"***Cœursamba** is a generous filly. After her third place in the Prix d'Aumale, she should be capable of running well. She has more on her plate – that's for sure – but she's deserving of her place in this field, and I believe that she has ability to be concerned at the finish.*"

On the eve of the Arc, **Glycon** will go for the **Qatar Prix Dollar.** "***Glycon** is in peak condition! He acts well in heavy ground. So the rains that are forecast this week are clearly to his advantage. Unraced as a juvenile, he raced very little as a three-year-old, and his four-year-old campaign has hardly been taxing! He has a lot of leeway to make up! I'm of the opinion that he has a very good chance on Saturday.*"

The **Prix Haras de Bouquetot - Critérium de la Vente d'Octobre Arqana**, also run on Saturday, has attracted Jean-Claude Rouget's **Pouvoir Royal.** "*He's a horse which I like a lot. He easily opened his account at La Teste on August 15th. He's primed to run a good race in the Critérium.*"