

The Day I made it to the Winner's Circle

By Phillip W. Weiss

On May 11, 2019 I made it to the winner's circle. This is how it happened.

I am a part owner of a thoroughbred race horse, a three-year-old filly named True Prosperity, also known as TP. Now, I own only a small fraction of the horse. Nevertheless, I am one of the partners and have the paperwork to prove it. Anyway, on May 9, Jerry Restel, the principle managing partner for True Prosperity, emailed me and the other partners informing that on Saturday, May 11, True Prosperity would be racing at Monmouth Park Race Track, race 8, a \$25,000 claiming race, six furlongs on the dirt. The last time TP raced was on January 19, 2019 at Aqueduct Race Track. At that race, she finished fifth. A lackluster performance. At first, I was undecided whether I should go to Monmouth Park. For me, it would mean taking a 90-minute train ride from Manhattan where I live. Finally, I decided to go. After all, I was a part owner and in horse racing anything can happen, including scoring a win. I texted my nephew and grand-nephew, both of whom live in New Jersey and who are sports fans, inviting them to join me at the track. Both declined due to other commitments. As things worked out, they missed being part of a truly wonderful day, at least for me.

So, on May 11, I caught the train at Penn Station and 90 minutes later arrived at the Monmouth Park station, which is a station in name only. I entered the track and soon after met with Jerry and Sharlene Kenny, the other managing partner. Soon after, TP's trainer, Rory Huston, joined us. Then, after some pleasant conversation we headed to the paddock where TP and the other horses would be prepped prior to the start of the race. Jerry, Sharlene, Rory and I went to the paddock area. I personally watched and videoed Rory and three handlers prepare TP for the race. (Please understand that It takes a team of persons to properly prep a horse for a race. First, a hot walker must walk the horse to calm the horse and loosen it up for the race. Then the horse is placed in a stall where the trainer and at least two other persons keep the horse steady while trainer saddles the horse. Then the horse is hot walked again to further calm the horse. Finally, the horse is ready to accept the jockey.)

About ten minutes before the race, TP's jockey, Jomar Torres, arrived. All of us greeted him and wished him well. Jomar had already won a race and was all set to drive TP. Excitement was already building. At the command, "riders up," Jomar mounted TP and along with the other six contestants left the paddock area and paraded onto the track. The weather was bright, sunny, a slight breeze, temperature about 70 degrees F. In short, perfect racing weather. The track was fast. Soon, TP would be running six furlongs. She came in fifth place at Aqueduct. Would she do better today? Would she win? Only time would tell.

Please understand that nobody can predict with certainty how a horse will perform on the track. A horse is immune to the kind of influences to which humans are vulnerable. Hence, a horse cannot be induced to throw a race, and it is the horse which does the running.

Anyway, race 8 started on time. I decided to watch the race from the mezzanine stands in order to get a better view of the race and to video the race. TP got off to a slow start. As the horses headed to the far turn, TP was trailing by fifteen lengths. Then, as the horses headed toward the top of the final stretch, Jomar skillfully and adroitly found a clear pathway for TP to run and TP began quickly moving up. At the top the stretch, TP began a final surge, overtook the other contestants and won the race by one-half length. It was a huge come from behind victory for TP. I was elated. I quickly left the mezzanine and joined Jerry, Sharlene, Rory, Jomar and others in the winner's circle. Of course, also present was the star, True Prosperity. Everyone congratulated Jomar. The track took pics of us. I was part of a winning team; at that moment I was a winner. Wow!

After the race, Jerry, Sharlene and I went to TP's stable. TP had not yet arrived back. After about a half hour wait, TP appeared. She was steady, calm and quiet. Her handlers sponged her down and she was returned to her stall. Sharlene fed TP some carrots which TP ate with gusto. To me, TP appeared to be in fine shape. Everyone was happy with her performance, and with good reason, because she won! And because she won, we all won! For me it was a special and wonderful experience. Because of Jerry and Sharlene, I became part of a project that produced a winning thoroughbred racehorse. Wow!



Rory, Sharlene and Jerry (photo by Phillip W. Weiss)



True Prosperity in her stall after the race. (photo by Phillip W. Weiss)



Winning ticket (photo by Phillip W. Weiss)



“Team True Prosperity” in the winner’s circle. At top from left: Bergen Stables president Jerry Restel, trainer Rory Huston, TP part-owner Phillip W. Weiss, managing partner Sharlene Kenny, jockey Jomar Torres and Mrs. Torres. At bottom, the team with True Prosperity. (Photo by Equi-Photo.com)

Sources:

Monmouth Park Race Track, chart for race 8, May 11, 2019
<http://www.equibase.com/static/chart/pdf/MTH051119USA8.pdf>

Phillip W. Weiss. True Prosperity, May 11, 2019 - being prepped in the paddock before the race. Youtube
<https://youtu.be/pY9atog4QIY>

Phillip W. Weiss. True Prosperity, May 11, 2019 - winning race 8 at Monmouth Park. Youtube.
<https://youtu.be/qAZ1PM8LcSk>

Phillip W. Weiss. True Prosperity, May 11, 2019 - returning to the stable after the race. Youtube.
https://youtu.be/aEoPX3F_xEQ