

Spring Quality

Spring Quality Own: Augustin Stable	B. g. S (Mar) Sire: Quality Road (Elusive Quality) \$71,000 Dam: Spring Star (Deputy Minister) Br: George Strawbridge Jr. (Pa) Tr: Motion H. G(23 5 S 2 .22) 2018:(455 71 .15)	2018 2017	4	1 3	3 1 1 1 2 (0 (1 \$672,500 0 \$252,507	102 100	Wet(403) Synth Turf(334)	2 0 6	02	1 0 1	0 0 1	\$114,447 \$51,350 \$0 \$802,500 \$107,500	91 102
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1:142 B 45 TRAINER: 1-70avs/11.00 \$0.000 Turf1651 13 \$1.480 Routes(801.15 \$1.62) Stakes(288.16 \$2.10)

Although Spring Quality's latest effort – seventh in the Joe Hirsch Turf Classic Stakes on September 29 – was his lowest finish in 13 starts, this Quality Road son has some serious cachet when it comes to showing up big in top-tier races. The Pennsylvania-bred has six wins and nearly \$1 million in career earnings.
He made the grade, so to speak, when he took the Grade 3 Red Smith Handicap at Aqueduct last November, going on to earn his second graded victory in the Grade 1 Manhattan Stakes, on June 9 at Belmont. He was third in the Grade 1 Sword Dancer before his seventh in the Joe Hirsch.

• "He ran very disappointingly in the Joe Hirsch, over what was extremely soft ground," offered trainer Graham Motion. "I don't think he handled it all. He had never run on ground like that. My inclination is to run him in this race. I kind of geared his whole season towards the fall. He's pretty lightly raced, which makes me feel comfortable running him back fairly quickly."

• Motion believes the Augustin Stable star will rebound with a strong outing in the International. "I don't see any reason why he wouldn't. I have no explanation for he ran the way he did in the Joe Hirsch. It's the only bad race he's ever run in his life. He seems to have come out of it absolutely fine. Edgar (jockey, Prado, who will be aboard on Saturday) said he kind of wrapped up on him after a mile because he just wasn't handling it. He asked him to go on with the favourite and he just couldn't quicken on that kind of turf – he just bogged down."

• Motion would love to check off the International among the races he's won, at a place where he's enjoyed plenty of success. "No doubt. We've coming up to Woodbine for quite a long time, trying to win races on this weekend. It's a race I'd love to win. I feel like I'm coming to Canada with two very legit horses. We like to run up here and it would be a feather in our cap to say we won this race."

Owner - Augustin Stable

Racing in the name of Augustin Stable, George Strawbridge is an internationally known owner and breeder who has had great success in steeplechase racing in the U.S. and in thoroughbred racing in North America and Europe. He is the all-time leading steeplechase owner by purse earnings in North America. Much of those earnings came from horses developed by Jonathan Sheppard, who has been Strawbridge's trainer for five decades. Other trainers for Strawbridge include Graham Motion in the U.S., and John Gosden and Freddie Head in Europe. Jonathan Pease in France also was a long-time trainer for Strawbridge until Pease's retirement in 2015. Strawbridge's runners include U.S. champions Forever Together, Informed Decision and Waya, and the European champs Selkirk, Silver Fling, Ristna, Treizieme, Tikkanen and Turgeon. He owns a 700-plus acre farm in Chester County, Pa.

Trainer - Graham Motion (www.hgrahammotion.com)

Born May 22, 1964 in Cambridge, England, Graham Motion moved to the U.S. with his family in 1980 where he graduated from Kent in Connecticut. Motion worked for trainer Jonathan Sheppard for six years then briefly for Jonathan Pease in France. He returned to the U.S. in 1990 and joined trainer Bernie Bond, taking over the stable upon Bond's passing in 1993, then saddling his first winner, Bounding Daisy, at Laurel Park later that year. Since then, he's trained several stars, including 2004 Breeders' Cup Turf winner Better Talk Now, 2010 Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf champion Shared Account, Animal Kingdom, winner of the 2011 Kentucky Derby and 2013 Dubai World Cup, and 2014 Breeders' Cup Turf winner Main Sequence. The primary trainer for Team Valor from late 2010 until April 2013, Motion now operates a public stable in Fair Hill, Maryland.

Jockey - Edgar Prado

Born in Peru, Edgar Prado's big break came in 1997 when he won 536 races, making him the fourth rider in history to win 500 races in one year. Among his career highlights, Prado rode Barbaro to victory in the 132nd Kentucky Derby on May 6, 2006. He had not won a Breeders' Cup race until 2005, when he won two, riding Folklore to victory in the Juvenile Fillies and Silver Train in the Sprint. Prado received the New York Racing Association's 2006 Mike Venezia Memorial Award in a paddock ceremony at Belmont Park. The winner of this award is decided by the votes of fellow jockeys, turf writers and an online vote by fans. It honours those "who exemplify extraordinary sportsmanship and citizenship." Prado was formally inducted into the National Museum of Racing Hall of Fame in 2008. This year on May 15, he became the eighth North American rider to reach 7,000 career wins.