

Educational “Spotlight On” Veterinary Issues



On December 11 last year, a seemingly unremarkable five-year-old horse named More Than a Reason entered the starting gate at

Aqueduct racecourse in New York for the Queens County S. (G3). At 19-1 odds at the graded stake level, More Than a Reason once again showed that he is indeed a remarkable horse. Making his 60th career start, the former claimer and RNA yearling came charging from the back of the pack in the Queens County to win the race by a head. Walking into the winner’s circle in a Grade 3 race, More Than a Reason wasn’t just bucking the odds on the tote board, but he was seriously side stepping those that were seemingly stacked against him as a yearling.

Four years prior to More Than a Reason’s success in the Queens County S., the colt was prepped for the 2006 Keeneland September Yearling Sale by Craig and Carrie Brogden’s Machmer Hall for the colt’s breeders Ron and Tom Kirby. Consigned by Bluewater Sales, More Than a Reason’s sale x-rays showed that he had a quarter-size cyst on a weight-bearing surface in a hind ankle. The veterinary prognosis regarding the colt’s racing future was bleak. As such, More Than a Reason passed through the sale ring unsold at \$9,500.

Still owned by his breeders, More Than a Reason took a little time to find winning ways on the racetrack. He broke his maiden at Mountaineer Park early as a three-year-old in his eighth start after

MORE THAN A REASON



Adam Coglianese photo

making six starts as a two-year-old.

After being claimed for \$15,000 while running in his 16th career start, the colt successfully worked his way through claiming, starter allowance and open allowance conditions in New York. With continued patience, More Than a Reason ultimately developed into a consistent listed and Grade 3 stakes performer by age five. His longevity and dura-

bility are remarkable, and would be remarkable for any horse in the current age of Thoroughbred racing. But considering the story the radiographic results tried to tell about the colt at the sale a few years ago, More Than a Reason’s nearly 70-start career is yet another example of an x-rays result’s inability to predict racing success.

Still going strong at age 6, More Than a Reason has 12 wins, 11 seconds and 13 thirds from 68 starts for career earnings of \$522,576. In addition to his Grade 3 win, he was also 3rd in a Grade 3 and placed in 5 other stakes. More Than a Reason is yet another fine example for both buyer and consignor of how caution should be exercised with the utilization of x-ray reports in the sale arena.