

Woodbine Mile against males in September and was a fast-closing second to Informed Decision in the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint at Santa Anita on Nov. 6.

The Program showing maturity

With his summertime antics apparently behind him, The Program, a 2-year-old colt trained by Bob Baffert, is showing signs of significant promise this fall.

A Harlan's Holiday colt, The Program beat maidens in his third start on Oct. 30, his first start at a mile. On Friday, he starts in an allowance race over 1 1/16 miles at Hollywood Park, a race that could lead to a stakes appearance this winter.

Baffert is just delighted that The Program has settled down and is no longer performing his impression of a bucking bronc, seen at Del Mar.

"He looked like he was getting ready for the National Finals Rodeo," Baffert said. "He's heading in the right direction and acting like a man. I think the distance will help him, and he's been behaving better since Del Mar."

Owned by the Thoroughbred Legends Racing Stable, The Program drew the rail in a field of six. There is one stakes-placed runner in the field - Privileged, who was third in the Jack Goodman Stakes over six furlongs at Santa Anita on Oct. 31. Friday's race is his first start around two turns.

Thomas Baines, purchased for approximately \$32,000 at a horses of racing age sale in England in October, is making his debut for trainer Doug O'Neill. Thomas Baines needed six races to beat maidens, finally doing so in a seven-furlong race for 2-year-olds on Polytrack at Wolverhampton, England, on Sept. 11. A week later, he finished well to be third in a seven-furlong race at the same track.

"I'm hoping he runs the way he's training," O'Neill said. "He's really been training well."



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