

Sunday 14 April 2024

PRIDE OF JENNI STEALS QUEEN ELIZABETH SHOW



Declan Bates punches the air as Pride Of Jenni crosses the line well clear of her rivals. (Bradleyphotos.com.au)

On a day of great racing at Randwick, bonny Trelawney Stud-bred mare **Pride Of Jenni** (Pride Of Dubai) was the undoubted star with her dashing display to win the Gr.1 Queen Elizabeth Stakes (2000m) under another daring Declan Bates ride.

The duo are an inseparable combination as Bates allowed the

Ciaran Maher-trained Pride Of Jenni to do as she pleased.

Upping the tempo substantially after the first furlong to run her rivals ragged, Pride Of Jenni had a remarkable margin of 91m on her rivals with 700m to run, and try as they might, she still had six and a half lengths to spare On Via Sistina (Fastnet Rock) and Mr

Brightside (NZ) (Bullbars) at the finish.

Winning trainer Ciaran Maher was as stunned as the crowd, describing the performance as "phenomenal".

"That's the biggest win I've ever seen, let alone had anything to do with," Maher said.

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PRIDE OF JENNI STEALS QUEEN ELIZABETH SHOW

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"(Leading by 40 lengths) in a Group One, and not just any Group One.

"I don't think it will get any better than that.

"I knew she'd get better the more she raced at 2000m, but my God, that was mind-boggling to know a horse could even do that."

When asked if he was waiting for Pride Of Jenni to stop after going so fast, Maher said he had complete faith in Bates.

"I never doubt Dec. She must have given him some amazing feel," Maher said.

However, Bates didn't get a chance to savour the moment, too consumed in trying to get Pride Of Jenni to relax beneath him.

He said he didn't set out to be so far in front but was over-ruled by the horse.

"Over the last six months, the times I've ridden her we had a nice rhythm with each other and when I'd ask her to come back, she'd come back a bit," Bates said.

"Today, when the horse on the outside came to her, she grabbed the bit and she didn't drop it at any point.

"I couldn't tell you what the sectionals were, generally once we're doing it nice and smoothly, I'm aware.

"Today, I just knew we were going quicker than I wanted to so it was a matter of coming back, coming back, and she said 'nah I'm going'. She knows better."

A daughter of Pride Of Dubai, Pride Of Jenni was bred by Trelawney Stud and is out of the O'Reilly mare Sancerre (NZ), who was prepared by Cambridge trainer Tony Pike to win on four occasions for the Stud.

The star mare stems from a family fashioned over generations at the famed Kiwi nursery, which has been in the Taylor family's ownership since 1993, having been established by Seton Otway in the 1930s.

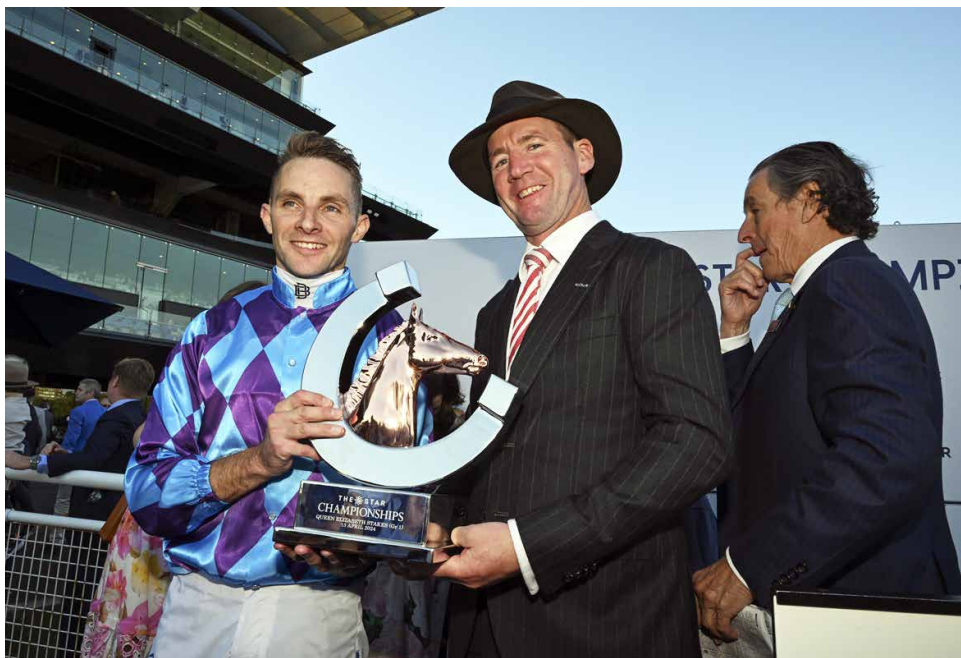
Group Two winner Real Success (Success Express), the taproot of star Trelawney Stud graduates Vouvray (NZ) (Zabeel), Loire (NZ) (Redoute's Choice), A Touch Of Ruby (NZ) (Pins) and Pride Of Jenni and many others around them was one of the first families the Taylors bought into upon taking ownership of Trelawney.

Pride Of Jenni was sold at the Sydney Classic Sale for A\$100,000 through the Segenhoe Stud draft, where she was purchased by Tony and Lynn Ottobre's Cape Schanck Stud.

Sancerre has a yearling filly by Per Incanto which has been retained by the Taylors and is in foal to Cambridge Stud stallion Hello Youmzain.

Pride Of Jenni is now the winner of seven races with a further 10 placings and A\$8,654,240 in prizemoney.

– NZ Racing Desk



Race	ATC Queen Elizabeth S. Gr.1 2000m
Winner	Pride Of Jenni (AUS) 2017
Owners	Mr T Ottobre, Mr M Ottobre, Mrs L Ottobre
Trainer	Ciaron Maher (Warwick Farm)
Breeding	by Pride Of Dubai (AUS) out of Sancerre by O'Reilly
Breeder	Trelawney Stud

Delcan Bates and trainer Ciaron Maher.
(Bradleyphotos.com.au)



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GROUP ONE QUINELLA **FOR ALMANZOR**

Cambridge Stud stallion Almanzor has sired the first two runners home in the Gr.1 Sydney Cup (3200m) with **Circle Of Fire** and Athabaskan dominating the finish.

The Ciaron Maher-trained Circle Of Fire claimed top honours and completed his rapid rise to the top of the staying ranks since his arrival in Australia.

He had finished fourth in his first two appearances before producing the perfect Cup lead-up when he triumphed in the Gr.2 Chairman's Quality (2600m) last week.

"I can't thank my team and the owners enough, they've done a great job to get a horse in this condition to do it seven days apart, it's some effort," Maher said.

Circle Of Fire had few favours in the run under Hong Kong-based rider Andrea Atzeni and was caught wide without cover near the pace, but the four-year-old was resolute in the straight to have two lengths on a gallant Athabaskan at the post.

"The plan was to get into a nice rhythm with a bit of cover. He raced very keen last time so we wanted to get in behind something," Atzeni said.

"Wherever he landed I wanted to get cover. I tried early on to get in behind something and I couldn't, so I went forward.

"He did it the hard way. so I didn't know if he had a lot left in the tank. To be fair to the horse, he dug deep when the second horse came to him and the further he went, the better he was."

Circle Of Fire is a half-brother to the Gr.3 San Francisco Mile winner Evening Sun with their dam the Galileo mare Fiery Sunset, who won at 2400 metres.

He began his career in the colours of The Queen from the Newmarket stable of champion trainer Sir Michael Stoute and recorded a win and three stakes placings from six starts before relocating to Australia.

Race	ATC Sydney Cup Gr.1 3200m
Winner	Circle Of Fire (GB) 2020
Owners	Mr M Johnston, Mrs A J Johnston, Mr T N Porter, Mrs B E Porter, Mr H P Sambor, Eleven Royals, Shadwell Farm Racing, The Greene Machine, Mr A S Ingersole, Mr M J Burns, Mr B S David, B R A W Racing, Burning Ring, Mr T A Ginnane, Mr R McClure, Mr B G Noonan, Mr D J O'Connor, Mr G J P Van Ameyden, Mr D J House, Mr W B Keighran
Trainer	Ciaron Maher (Warwick Farm)
Breeding	by Almanzor (GB) out of Fiery Sunset (GB) by Galileo (IRE)
Breeder	The Queen



Circle Of Fire claims top honours in the Gr.1 Sydney Cup (3200m). (Bradleyphotos.com.au)

STAR FILLY RETURNS IN BLAZE OF GLORY

Elite level-winning filly **Joliestar** (Zoustar) successfully returned to racing on the second day of The Championships at Randwick.

The regally bred daughter of Zoustar was presented in prime order by trainer Chris Waller and she duly triumphed in the Gr.2 Arrowfield 3YO Sprint (1200m) in her first outing since claiming the Gr.1 Caulfield Thousand Guineas (1600m) in the spring.

Raced by Cambridge Stud principals Brendan and Jo Lindsay, Joliestar powered home under Jamie Kah to take her record to three wins and three runner-up finishes from six attempts.

"She had a long break and it is hard to gauge where they're at just from trackwork," Waller said.

"Most horses, they'd already had first-up runs and we're going into the race fresh with some boom horses and we just rode her comfortably where she was happy and Jamie cleverly found a way through the field.

"She has probably gone to a new level, racing quicker over shorter and beating the boys."

Joliestar had undergone minor surgery to remove bone chips following the Caulfield Thousand Guineas.

"We didn't know it was there and it was precautionary x-rays that found it," Waller said.

"She could have easily raced on, but we got it out and she had a career to fulfil without any problems to worry about."

A \$950,000 Sydney Easter purchase by Cambridge Stud from the Segenhoe Thoroughbreds draft, Joliestar has the impressive record of three wins and three seconds from six starts with prizemoney topping \$1.5million.

She has an outstanding pedigree as she is a daughter of the Fastnet Rock mare Jolie Bay, who won the Gr.2 Roman Consul Stakes (1200m) and finished runner-up in the Gr.1 Coolmore Stud Stakes (1200m).

She is a sister to the Australian and international Group One winner and young stallion Merchant Navy.

Race	ATC Arrowfield Sprint Gr.2 1200m
Winner	Joliestar (AUS) 2020
Owners	Mr B J Lindsay, Mrs J E A Lindsay
Trainer	Chris Waller (Rosehill)
Breeding	by Zoustar (AUS) out of Jolie Bay (AUS) by Fastnet Rock (AUS)
Breeder	Mr C Barham



Joliestar wins the Gr.2 Arrowfield 3YO Sprint (1200m) at Royal Randwick. (Bradleyphotos.com.au)





PANIC CONTINUES FREEDMAN'S WINNING ROLL

The in-form stable of Michael Freedman notched another stakes success during the Championships when **Panic (NZ)** (Time Test) scored a narrow victory in the Listed South Pacific Classic (1400m) at Randwick on Saturday.

Freedman sent out Manaal (Tassort) to win the Gr.1 Sires' Produce Stakes (1400m) and Ducasse (Trapeze Artist) to win the Gr.3 Carbine Club Stakes (1600m) on Day One of the Championships and was quick to claim further stakes glory on Day Two.

A three-year-old son of Time Test, Panic was always prominent throughout under jockey Tommy Berry and dug in late to stave off the challenge of favourite Razors (Sidestep).

"It's been amazing. For a relatively small team to be competing at this level and getting a few winners, it's a big thrill and a huge credit to the whole team. They're a great bunch of staff," Freedman said.

"I was getting a little bit anxious that last bit. Tommy made the suggestion that we put a set of blinkers on him earlier in the week. He has ridden him a bit and he was a bit wayward at Wyong when he got in front the other day, so credit to Tommy with the gear change.

"I would love to eventually see this horse ridden with a bit of cover. When you see what he can do at home when he works off the back of another horse, he's a nice sort of horse. I think there is more in store for him."

Further stakes options beckon Panic, who has now won four of his six starts and made it back-to-back victories this preparation after winning over 1200m at Wyong.

"I will see how he pulls up," Freedman said. "The Hawkesbury Guineas (Gr.3, 1400m) in three weeks' time is an option or maybe something in Queensland. We will just get through today and have a bit of a think."

Winning jockey Tommy Berry said Panic had been an immature type with good ability.

"I thought he was always going to make it up to this grade, I just didn't think it would be so early with what he has been doing at home," Berry said.

"It's a great training performance by the team. They have given him that win (at Wyong) to boost his confidence first-up and he has definitely gone on with it now."

A son of Little Avondale Stud stallion Time Test, Panic is one of seven stakes winners for the well-bred son of Dubawi.

Bred by Lib Petagna's JML Bloodstock, Panic is out of Per Incanto mare Daniela's Magic, a full-sister to Group Two winner Saracino (NZ) (Per Incanto).

Panic was purchased by Mick Wallace and Paul Moroney Bloodstock for \$80,000 from the draft of Blandford Lodge at the 2022 New Zealand Bloodstock Book 1 Yearling Sale.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	ATC South Pacific Classic L 1400m
Winner	Panic (NZ) 2020
Owners	Stallion Match, Mr C Battisti
Trainer	Michael Freedman (Randwick)
Breeding	by Time Test (GB) out of Daniela's Magic by Per Incanto (USA)
Breeder	JML Bloodstock Ltd
Sales	2022 National Yearling Sale - Book 1 V: Blandford Lodge \$80000 P: Mick Wallace/Paul Moroney B/stock



Panic scores a narrow victory in the Listed South Pacific Classic (1400m) at Randwick on Saturday. (Bradleyphotos.com.au)



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WAR MACHINE PROVIDES TONIC FOR MORONEY STABLE

A tough week for Ballymore Stables ended on a positive note after New Zealand-bred three-year-old **War Machine (NZ)** (Harry Angel) ran away with the Listed Bendigo Guineas (1400m) on Saturday under the guidance of Jordan Childs.

It had been a week since his trainer Mike Moroney was admitted to hospital and his long-serving right-hand man Anthony Feroce said the Guineas success will provide the trainer with a great boost.

"It's been a tough few days for everyone at the stable and so this is a great tonic," Feroce said after the son of Harry Angel ran clear to score at odds of \$4.20.

"The team has been terrific. Everyone back in the stables here and in New Zealand have been head down and bum up, so it's been fantastic.

"Mike would be so happy. It's just a great tonic for everybody. We bought him in New Zealand as a tried horse and its very special.

"I would just like to say, to everybody thanks for all the wishes that we've been receiving from all over the world about Mike.

"He's hanging in there and doing well so hopefully we'll see him back at the track really soon."

Feroce said he wasn't sure whether Moroney would have seen the race.

"I'm not sure as he's still in intensive care so when he comes out, he'll have some good news waiting."

Feroce said War Machine could now go north to Queensland to seek black-type over the winter carnival after winning his third race on end, following his maiden win at Kyneton and a five-length demolition in a class one at Cranbourne.

"There is always a possibility of Queensland," he said. "We'll have a look and see what's there.

"This time in, he's just kept improving, His work on the track



War Machine eases to victory in the Listed Bendigo Guineas (1400m) on Saturday. (Scott Barbour (Racing Photos))

on Tuesday morning was sensational and it's great to see him bring that to out here today."

Bred by MDJ Bloodstock Ltd, War Machine was offered for sale at both the New Zealand Bloodstock National Yearling Sales and the Ready To Run Sale via the Wallace family's Ardsley Stud, but failed to reach his \$100,000 reserve on both occasions.

By Harry Angel out of the winning Hussonet mare Caserta, the gelding subsequently went into training with Jim Wallace and won his only trial at Foxton by six lengths before his private purchase.

Race	Bendigo JC Bendigo Guineas L 1400m
Winner	War Machine (NZ) 2020
Owners	Ballymore Stables (Aust) Pty Ltd, R & C Legh Racing Pty Ltd, Mr N J Griffin, Mrs J S Griffin, Mr G B Robinson, Mr B C Hollow, Mr S W Kay, Ms M A Keating, Mr G Lygoyris, Mrs S Lygoyris, Mr A S Byron, Mr A Williams, Mr K McCaul, Mr J B Hart, Mr M J Davies, Mr D W Wallace, Mr J V Wallace
Trainer	Michael Moroney (Flemington)
Breeding	by Harry Angel (IRE) out of Caserta (AUS) by Hussonet (USA)
Breeder	MDJ Bloodstock Ltd



SPECIAL WIN FOR MILLAR IN HAWKE'S BAY CUP

New Plymouth trainer Janelle Millar secured the seventh black-type win of her career in Saturday's Listed Hawke's Bay Cup (2200m) at Otaki, and this one meant more than most.

Millar also co-bred and part-owns the emerging stayer **Testify Me (NZ)** (Atlante), who added Saturday's \$120,000 feature to his last-start success in the New Zealand St Leger (2600m) at Trentham last month. In an even more special twist, Testify Me races in the colours of her late grandfather, the highly successful Stratford trainer Jack Taylor.

"It's made me quite emotional, especially with those colours that he wears," Millar said on Saturday.

"A lot of the owners are family, and we bred him as well, and the fact that he races in Grandad's colours makes it even more special."

Testify Me was sent out as a \$3.20 favourite for the Hawke's Bay Cup on Saturday, and the race could hardly have gone any better. Jockey Chris Dell enjoyed a comfortable run in second as Sporting Chance (Dundeel) set a sedate pace out in front, then moved up on the outside of that runner approaching the home turn.

The strength and stamina of Testify Me shone through down the straight in testing Heavy10 ground, drawing away from Sporting Chance and turning back the challenge of the strong-finishing Titled (Exceed And Excel) to win by a length and a quarter.

"He beat a tidy field in the St Leger last start and did it well," Dell said. "Totally different track conditions today,

but he's two-from-two now on heavy, although I don't think he needs wet ground.

"I was outside the leader today, dictating the pace which wasn't fast. I was in control all the way, pushed the button a little bit at the 600m and he had more there. He's definitely a very nice Cups horse in the future – hopefully the handicapper won't hurt him too much."

Testify Me has now had 17 starts for five wins and four placings, along with a fourth in the Gr.3 Manawatu Cup (2300m) in December. He has earned \$199,080 in stakes, with \$161,250 of that amount coming from his breakthrough season as a six-year-old this year.

"We've always loved this horse," Millar said. "He showed us heaps right from the start, and we've always known that he has a big ticker."

"He does think about things a bit and can be a bit hard to handle, but when he does work, he's a good horse. He's gutsy and tough."

"We still think he's going to be better again next year, because he still has a bit of development to do."

The sixth individual stakes winner by the sadly short-lived stallion Atlante, Testify Me is out of the Volksraad mare Cherry Bomb (NZ), who Millar co-owned and trained for a five-start career headed by a four-length maiden win at Hawera in March of 2014.

– **LOVERACING.NZ News Desk.**

Race	Otaki Maori RC Hawke's Bay Cup L 2200m
Winner	Testify Me (NZ) 2017
Owners	G Aiken, R Aitken, K Suddaby, D & K Horo, J Bishop, S Taylor, G Taylor C Hitchcock, The Savage Syndicate, K & M Taylor, J Millar & W Rolton
Trainer	Janelle Millar (New Plymouth)
Breeding	by Atlante (AUS) out of Cherry Bomb by Volksraad (GB)
Breeder	J; J M & Mrs J S Millar



A triumphant Chris Dell celebrates Testify Me's victory in Saturday's Listed Hawke's Bay Cup (2200m) at Otaki. (Peter Rubery (Race Images Palmerston North))

EPEE BEEL WIN MARKS SPECIAL MILESTONE FOR PITMAN



Michael Pitman leads his 2000th winner back to scale in Epee Beel, winner of the Listed NZB Insurance Stakes (1600m) on Saturday. (Ajay Berry (RIS))

Underrated filly **Epee Beel** (Epaulette) claimed her first career stakes victory in the Listed NZB Insurance Stakes (1600m) on Saturday, and in doing so brought up a special milestone for co-trainer Michael Pitman as she became winner number 2000 in New Zealand for the Riccarton maestro.

The three-year-old daughter of Epaulette had been a model of consistency of late without standing on the top step of the podium, but she delivered when it mattered for Pitman and son Matthew as she fought off the challenges of Cambridge visitor Nephethi (NZ) (Charm Spirit) and local filly Quintabelle (NZ) (Embellish) to deliver her second career victory.

Rider Tina Comignaghi had Epee Beel beautifully situated

outside pacemaker Caffeinated (NZ) (Belardo) before taking the lead with 300m to run. The filly fought like a tiger over the closing stages to deny her challengers as she scored by a neat length at the line.

Pitman was thrilled to see the filly win who he believes will only improve as she gets over more ground.

"She's a very nice filly who we bought her off gavelhouse.com for \$5,000," Pitman said.

"We didn't have any owners for her, but I had people come in to form a syndicate who have really supported me over the years, so to get this result today is very satisfying for a number of reasons.

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EPEE BEEL WIN MARKS SPECIAL MILESTONE FOR PITMAN

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"Snow Thomas is one of the main players in the syndicate and he raced Just Tommy with me many years ago.

"It takes a good horse to do what she has today and in the manner in which she did it and we can't wait to see her go over further.

"We will line her up next week in the Warstep Stakes (Listed, 2000m) and I think she will be even stronger."

Pitman started the day on 1998 New Zealand winners and quickly added win 1999 when Movie Girl (NZ) (Telperion) and Comignaghi bolted home in the first event on the card. Epee Beel took him to the 2000 mark which places him second on New Zealand's all-time list behind Graeme Rogerson.

Race	CJC NZB Insurance S. L 1600m
Winner	Epee Beel (AUS) 2020
Owners	R W Dalzell, M P Dunn, I & W Harvey, R J O'Connell, P Silcock, T & W A Thomas & P K Whiston
Trainer	Michael and Matthew Pitman (Yarlhurst)
Breeding	by Epaulette (AUS) out of Pipi Beel by Savabeel (AUS)
Breeder	Monovale Holdings Ltd
Sales	2022 National Yearling Sale - Book 1 V: Landsdowne Park Ltd \$80000 P: Forsman Racing

The Pitman family already has more than 2,000 victories to its name, reaching that milestone in March of 2022. But 93 of those wins came when Pitman was based in Ballarat in the 1990s and his wife Diane took over the Riccarton stable.

"A long time ago Pat Finnegan, who kept all the records for New Zealand racing, told me I was close to breaking the South Island record for wins in a season which at the time was 51 so we've come a long way since then," Pitman said.

"We've averaged 50 wins a season for forty years which is a hell of a big ask, especially when there were plenty who told me I got my license out of a Weet-bix packet and didn't deserve it.

"I've won three New Zealand premierships and now this so maybe they might even consider me for the Hall Of Fame now.

"Funnily enough back in 1979 I was in hospital with four other blokes after I had lost my leg and was getting an artificial replacement.

"In the same ward was Robert Dunn who had had a bad smash on the harness track.

"He trained his 2000th winner a week ago and we've had plenty of talks about it and how good it would be if we could

do it at the same time, so to do that today with all my family including the grandkids here makes this very very special."

Epee Beel is a daughter of the stakes-placed mare Pipi Beel (NZ) with her great-grandam being the dual Group One winner Nimue while she is also related to Gr.1 New Zealand Stakes (2000m) and Gr.1 Herbie Dyke Stakes (2000m) winner Coventina Bay.

- LOVERACING.NZ News Desk



Epee Beel wins the Listed NZB Insurance Stakes (1600m) on Saturday. (Ajay Berry (RIS))





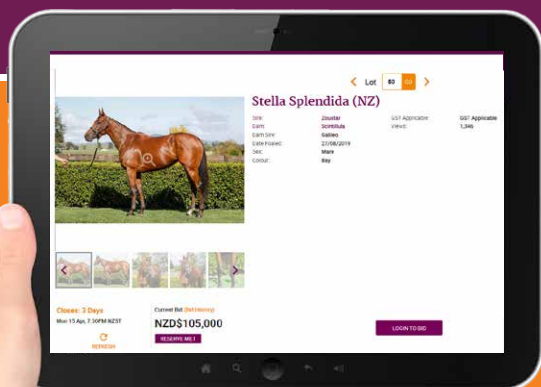
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Quality Zoustar mare Stella Splendida on the market now in 51 Lot sale.



High-class Zoustar mare Stella Splendida is already on the market while another quality mare in Surtout has attracted plenty of early interest. In foal to exciting first season sire Profondo, she also has her reserve met flag up.

This fortnight's offering includes 51 Lots, ranging from weanlings through to broodmares with foals at foot but the likes of Raise The Flag, Time Test and Vanbrugh. Covering sires featured in the sale include Ardrossan, Armory, El Roca, Profondo, Redwood, Swiss Ace, Sword of State and Tarzino.



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NUCLEOZOR DELIVERS IN WELCOME STAKES



Nucleozor dominates his rivals to claim the Listed Riccarton Park Function Centre Welcome Stakes (1000m) on Saturday. (Ajay Berry (RIS))

The Listed Riccarton Park Function Centre Welcome Stakes (1000m) has been moved to a new position on the South Island's racing calendar, but its first autumn running at Riccarton on Saturday brought no change to Te Akau Racing's dominance of the two-year-old feature.

The Welcome Stakes was previously run during the New Zealand Cup carnival in November, when Te Akau won it with Maroofity (NZ) (Maroof) (2002), Xbert (NZ) (Bertolini) (2005), Encosta Diablo (NZ) (Encosta de Lago) (2009), Bespoke (NZ) (Pins) (2010), Sassy 'N' Smart (Smart Missile) (2015), Al Hasa (NZ) (Exceed And Excel) (2017),

Avonallo (NZ) (Belardo) (2020) and Sky On Fire (Exceed And Excel) (2022).

That trend was widely expected to continue in the 2024 edition of the \$80,000 race on Saturday, with trainers Mark Walker and Sam Bergerson saddling the two favourites with **Nucleozor (NZ)** (Almanzor) and Discretion Rules (Alabama Express).

Nucleozor dominated the market at \$1.10 after scoring emphatic wins in both of his two previous starts, and on Saturday he completed a hat-trick with another blistering performance.

The Almanzor gelding broke well from the inside gate, but jockey Warren Kennedy was happy to settle in second

as stablemate Discretion Rules slid forward to set the pace.

Kennedy bided his time until the home straight, when he released the brakes and Nucleozor made a spectacular winning move. He burst through the inside to take the lead and then bounded away, winning by four and a quarter lengths. Discretion Rules held on for second in a Te Akau quinella, while the local Lil Zena (NZ) (US Navy Flag) made up late ground for third.

Bred and raced by Te Akau in partnership with Westonlea Bloodstock, Nucleozor has now earned

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NUCLEOZOR DELIVERS IN WELCOME STAKES

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\$92,000 from his perfect three-from-three career. He became the second two-year-old stakes winner in the southern hemisphere for Cambridge Stud stallion Almanzor, joining the Karaka Million (1200m) hero Dynastic (NZ).

"It was another really good win by Nucleozor," Walker said. "He was bred at Te Akau Stud, which always makes it special when a horse comes from the farm as a foal right through to this stage, and especially to win at this level."

"We've always loved the progeny of Almanzor. We think he's an underrated stallion and his progeny only get better each year."

"What Nucleozor is doing as a two-year-old is quite exciting and we can only expect him to get better as a three and four-year-old. He's a horse with a lot of promise and we look forward to the future with him."

Nucleozor is a full-brother to his three-year-old stablemate Qali Al Farrasha (NZ), who placed in this season's Gr.1 New Zealand Oaks (2400m) and Gr.3 Sunline Vase (2100m). Nucleozor and Qali Al Farrasha are the only foals to race so far for the twice-winning Burgundy mare Nucleonic (NZ), who is a half-sister to stakes performers Tijuana (American Pharoah) and Mexican Tycoon (NZ) (O'Reilly). Nucleonic's dam is the champion Singapore racehorse Mexican Rose (NZ) (Volksraad).

"He's proving to be a really good horse, Nucleozor, and it's quite incredible to think that we've won the Welcome Stakes nine times in just over 20 years," Te Akau Racing principal David Ellis said.

"He's a brother to Qali Al Farrasha, who is over in our stable at Cranbourne and preparing for the Australasian Oaks (Gr.1, 2000m) on April 27 at Morphettville, and the Almanzor-Burgundy cross is working incredibly well."

"It shows what a great job Hunter Durrant and his team are doing with the horses in our stables at Riccarton. Sam (Bergerson) has been down there looking over the horses and watched them all work this morning, and he's very pleased with their condition."

"We've had 15 individual two-year-old winners this season with horses we've either bred or bought as

yearlings, and it's particularly exciting because we buy horses with the scope to train on and it gives us some really nice three-year-old prospects for next season."

Nucleozor's Welcome Stakes heroics completed a Saturday two-year-old double for Walker and Bergerson, who also saddled Star Shadow (NZ) (Reliable Man) for a winning debut at Otaki earlier in the afternoon.

– **LOVERACING.NZ News Desk.**

Race	CJC Welcome S. L 1000m
Winner	Nucleozor (NZ) 2021
Owners	Te Akau Stud & Westonlea Bloodstock
Trainer	Mark Walker and Sam Bergerson (Matamata)
Breeding	by Almanzor (FR) out of Nucleonic by Burgundy
Breeder	Te Akau Stud & Westonlea Bloodstock



Co-trainer Mark Walker. (Trish Dunell)





WONDERFUL WIN FOR MYNOTT AT OTAKI

If ever a horse deserved a big race victory it is the consistent sprinter **Imwonderfultonight** (I Am Invincible), and the mare got that result at Otaki on Saturday when she took out the Listed City Of Napier Sprint (1200m).

Raced by Windsor Park Stud and Ben Kwok, Imwonderfultonight has come a long way in a short time since joining trainer Sam Mynott's Cambridge stable having gone from winning a 1200m maiden at Hasting just over a year ago to running fourth in the Gr.1 Telegraph (1200m) back in January.

Imwonderfultonight had five top four finishes in stakes company from her last six appearances before Saturday's Listed contest, but gave none of her rivals a look in as she dominated proceedings in front for Masa Hashizume, running out a two-length winner from Wewillrock (NZ) (El Roca) who had chased her gamely throughout.

Mynott was getting worried before the race as the rain tumbled down with the track downgraded to a Heavy 10, a surface that the daughter of I Am Invincible hadn't faced before.

"I don't think there was a horse in the race that deserved a stakes win as much as her but the rain on the day really had me worried," Mynott said.

"She was an unknown on a Heavy surface and I was probably lucky so were most of the others.

"We had planned to take a sit behind the speed and have one crack at them in the straight but when she jumped so well Masa decided to press on and that was exactly the right decision.

"She seemed to handle things well and she pulled up super afterwards as she hardly had a blow and she has coped well with her racing of late."

With Mynott recognising this could be the mare's last season

of racing before heading to the broodmare paddock, she has been harbouring ideas of a Queensland Winter Carnival campaign to round out her career.

"Going to Queensland is an option but we haven't set any plans as yet," she said.

"The way she has handled her racing gives me confidence she still has more to give and without knowing just what sort of tracks we would strike over there, having another string to her bow on a wet track is also a boost.

"We will get her home and see how she pulls up and make a decision after that."

Imwonderfultonight had three starts for two placings in Australia before coming to New Zealand where she has won three of her nine local runs and over \$178,000 in prizemoney.

- **LOVERACING.NZ News Desk**

Race	Otaki Maori RC City of Napier Sprint L 1200m
Winner	Imwonderfultonight (AUS) 2018
Owners	C W Kwok & Windsor Park Stud Ltd
Trainer	Sam Mynott (Cambridge)
Breeding	by I Am Invincible (AUS) by Forever Loved by High Chaparral (IRE)
Breeder	Lightning Thoroughbreds



Imwonderfultonight cruises to victory in the Listed City Of Napier Sprint (1200m) at Otaki on Saturday. (Peter Rubery (Race Images Palmerston North))





PROGRESSIVE SAMUEL LANGHORNE SHAPES AS STAYER OF THE FUTURE

Promising stayer **Samuel Langhorne (NZ)** (Shocking) came with a well-timed run under jockey Blaike McDougall to claim the lion's share of the prize in the Carlton Draught BM78 Handicap (2400m) at the standalone Bendigo meeting on Saturday.

The four-year-old son of Shocking did a good job to reel in Mi Rock Aly (NZ) (El Roca), who had shot to a commanding lead rounding the home bend before tiring late under a well-executed Celine Gaudray ride.

Prepared by Mick Kent, Samuel Langhorne scored by a long neck to land the third win of his ten-start career after a good win at Sandown at his previous start.

The gelding will now try to emulate his three-quarter brother Mark Twain (NZ) (Shocking) by claiming a berth in the Gr.1 Melbourne Cup (3200m), with the win-and-you're-in Listed Andrew Ramsden Stakes (2800m) at Flemington on May 18 a target.

"I thought he had got there," stable representative Mason Stevens said.

"I was a bit worried coming into the straight. The leader kicked away. He is a real stayer and he is only going to get better as he goes up in trip.

"He is one of those horses who only seems to do what he has to. We always thought the more up in class he gets, he will

improve himself. It was really good to see him do that today up in grade."

There are now options for the progressive stayer, with a Benchmark 84 Handicap over 2500m at Flemington on Anzac Day an option.

"We will see how he comes through the run," Stevens said. "He will either go to Anzac Day or straight into the Ramsden hopefully."

Samuel Langhorne is raced by Kent in conjunction with long-time friend and bloodstock agent Phill Cataldo and had a handful of runs in New Zealand for trainer Daniel Miller.

The son of Shocking is named after an American writer best-known by his nom de plume Mark Twain, who was in attendance and marvelled at the 1895 Melbourne Cup.

In a fitting twist, Roger James and Robert Wellwood recently prepared OTI Racing's Kiwi galloper Mark Twain to win the Listed Roy Higgins (2600m) at Flemington to book a place in this year's Melbourne Cup.

Along with his close-relation Samuel Langhorne, the well-named stayers were bred by Gail Temperton and her partner Stan Alexander under their Taikorea Thoroughbreds banner.

Broken in at Otaki by Buddy Lammis and prepared for the 2021 New Zealand Bloodstock Ready to Run Sale under the Prima Park banner, the pair breezed together as lots 226

and 241, but were withdrawn in the Covid-affected year. – **NZ Racing Desk**



Race	Bendigo JC Carlton Draught H. 2400m
Winner	Samuel Langhorne (NZ) 2019
Owners	Mr M C Kent, Mr P J F Cataldo
Trainer	Michael Kent (Cranbourne)
Breeding	by Shocking (AUS) out of Nosecondprize by Pentire (GB)
Breeder	Taikorea Thoroughbreds Ltd

Samuel Langhorne scores at Bendigo under jockey Blaike McDougall (Scott Barbour/Racing Photos)



MATSCOT TAKES OUT INAUGURAL SOUTHERN ALPS CHALLENGE

The brand-new \$350,000 TAB Southern Alps Challenge (1600m) was created with the goal of giving lower-profile southern stables their moment in the sun, and the inaugural running at Riccarton on Saturday could hardly have done that better.

The race was won by the underrated local **Matscot (NZ)** (Haradasun), whose trainer Sharon Robertson co-bred and part-owns the six-year-old with her partner Alan Reeves and fellow owner Ross Falloon.

There are currently just six horses registered to Robertson's Riccarton stable, which has been credited with a total of 44 winners since the 1994-95 season. Seven of victories have come from Matscot, who delivered a career highlight for Robertson in Saturday's lucrative new race.

Matscot headed into the Southern Alps Challenge as a three-time winner already during the current season, including the Listed Spring Classic (2000m) in October and a last-start success over 1800m. In between times, he finished close up in seventh in the Gr.3 Coupland's Bakeries Mile (1600m), eighth in the Gr.1 TAB Classic (1600m) and sixth in the Gr.3 White Robe Lodge WFA (1600m).

Saturday was Matscot's day. Given a dream ride by Joe Doyle, the Haradasun gelding settled in fourth-last as the highly rated favourite Mystic Park (NZ) (Ocean Park) attempted to lead all the way. The field bunched up approaching the home turn, and as the testing Heavy8 track began to take its toll on Mystic Park, Doyle spotted an opening along the rail. He saved a huge amount of ground and drove Matscot through

the inside, bursting into the lead with 200m remaining.

Willis (NZ) (Vadamos) and Dazzling Miss (NZ) (Proisir) chased hard wider out on the track and gave their all to try to run him down, but Matscot kept lifting and held on strongly to win by a length and a half.

Matscot's 26-start career has now produced seven wins, three placings and \$336,390 in stakes, with more than half of that prize-money coming from Saturday's \$175,000 first prize.

"He's a good horse and he's won a big cheque today," Doyle said. "It's fantastic for the connections.

"This is the type of horse that a small stable dreams about having. They can turn up on a Saturday and have a go for some great money. To get this win today is a fantastic achievement. Well done to the guys.

"They brought him here in absolutely great condition today and he travelled so beautifully during the race. I'd seen in replays that he can be a bit difficult sometimes, but he travelled like

a dream today.

"At the 600m, getting off the rail and going out wasn't looking great, so I decided to take the shortcut. I thought we might get a little bit of the money, and then once we got to about the 200m, I realised we were going to get it all!

"Races like this are a great incentive. It's a massive cheque for these people and will go a long way towards running their operation for the next 12 months. Hopefully they can head to the sales now and try to get the next one."

— **LOVERACING.NZ News Desk.**

Race	CJC Southern Alps H. 1600m
Winner	Matscot (NZ) 2017
Owners	Ross Falloon, Sharon Robertson & Alan Reeves
Trainer	Sharon Robertson (Riccarton Park)
Breeding	by Haradasun (AUS) out of Bewarned by Danske
Breeder	R W Adams; A L Reeves & Mrs S J Robertson



Alan Reeves & Sharon Robertson with Matscot. (Ajay Berry (RIS))

