

Sunday 5 August 2018

BLACK-TYPE BREAKTHROUGH FOR PLATINUM COMMAND



Platinum Command winning the Gr.3 Winning Edge Presentations Winter Cup (1600m) at Riccarton (Race Images South)

Platinum Command (NZ) (Red Giant) landed a timely win to boost her broodmare value when charging home to take the Gr.3 Winning Edge Presentations Winter Cup (1600m) at Riccarton on Saturday.

Platinum Command is in the twilight of her racing career and changed hands a few months ago with one of the original owners, Neville McAllister, benefitting from her

biggest win by remaining in the ownership to breed from the seven-year-old daughter of Red Giant.

"She was originally raced by Neville and John Street, but John isn't into breeding so she changed hands with Neville and Ashburn Lane Investments now racing her," trainer Lisa Latta said. "It's a great result for them."

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SWEYNESSE

Stunning first foals

*Sweynesse is a chip
off the old block*


Darren Beadman

Sweynesse, is a son of former champion racehorse and super sire Lonhro. Beadman rode Lonhro in most of his 26 wins and he gets to work with many of that horse's sons and daughters at Godolphin.

- A multiple Group One performer (2nd G1 Randwick Guineas, 3rd G1 Spring Champion) beating some of the best 3YO Group One winners in Australia including Kermedec, Preferment, Hampton Court, Shooting To Win, First Seal.
- Winner of first four starts including dual Group 3 wins in the Spring Stakes and Gloaming Stakes.
- A winner at only start as a 2YO.
- A top 3YO Timeform rating of 122 makes Sweynesse one of the top Australian 3YO colts of his year.
- By Lonhro -The Champion 3YO, the Champion miler, the Horse of the Year, and now a Champion sire. Lonhro set a new Australian record of 160 individual winners in a season. His son Pierro, unbeaten juvenile Triple Crown winner, was rated the best juvenile colt in Australia since 1977.
- Out of the multiple winning mare Swansea by Champion Sire Singspiel (5xG1 Winner and sire of 98SW).
- Sweynesse is a magnificent individual. He stands 16.2 hh. He has a powerful hind quarter, a strong shoulder and a great athletic walk. He is very correct.
- Sweynesse is syndicated amongst many of New Zealand's top breeders who are strongly supporting him at stud.



Ray Knight

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(Continued from page 1)

It was the 10th win and first black-type success for Platinum Command. She had come so close to winning the same event two years ago when going down a mere short head to Miss Three Stars (NZ) (Perfectly Ready).

She returned to finish fourth to Nashville (NZ) (Darci Brahma) in last year's Winter Cup and among her other black-type placings is a second in the 2016 Gr.3 Merial Metric Mile (1600m) at Awapuni.

Her most recent success leading into Saturday's race was in the North Island Challenge Stakes (1400m) at Trentham in May and there was hope in the camp of another win after her fourth to Dez (NZ) (Zed) in the Whyte Handicap (1600m) last month.

"She has gone on better tracks like this before and it was a gem of a ride from Ryan (Elliot)," Latta said.

"She can pull very hard and that's been her undoing in a lot of her runs. That's why she goes better on the back-up.

"She went down in her preliminary relaxed and she was relaxed in the race."

Elliot settled Platinum Command midfield and tracked one of the leading hopes, She's Poppy (NZ) (Alamosa), into the race from the 600 metres.

Platinum Command surged past She's Poppy to win convincingly by a length, while the lightly raced Dez wound-up late to grab third placing.

For Latta, the win was her third in the Winter Cup, following on from Tuscany Warrior (NZ) (Tuscany Flyer) in 2003 and Mikki Street (NZ) (Cape Cross) three years later.

Platinum Command is now likely to back up on the last day of the Grand National meeting in the Christchurch Casino Winter Classic (1800m), as she did last year when fourth.

– NZ Racing Desk

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kiwi bred earns a break

Princeton Spirit (NZ) Nadeem will head for a spell off a winning note.

The Julius Sandhu-trained gelding proved too strong for his rivals in the final on the card at Moonee Valley, the Sheamus Mills Bloodstock 1200, where he held off a fast finishing Highland Beat (Exceed and Excel) to win by 0.2L.

"He is the kind of horse that the more you throw at him the better he goes and I was confident when he got a horse beside him he would fight," Sandhu said.

"He kicked on and won which is good."

Princeton Spirit, who was sold as a weanling through Little Avondale's New Zealand Bloodstock draft, has now won six of his nine starts. Three of these wins were for Sandhu who took over the training of the son of Nadeem from Michael Kent.

"He's given so much from the time we got him," said Sandhu.



Race	Winning Edge Presentations Winter Cup Gr.3 1600m
Winner	Platinum Command (NZ) 2011
Owners	Ashburn Lane Investments Ltd & N J McAlister
Trainer	Lisa Latta (Awapuni)
Breeding	by Red Giant (USA) out of Wednesday Rocks by Encosta De Lago (AUS)
Breeder	G Harvey
Sales	2013 National Yearling Sale – Festival Sale; V: Westbury Stud, P: Lisa Latta Racing Stables; \$40,000





NAANTALI WINS FOR NEW TRAINING PARTNERSHIP

Progressive mare **Naantali (NZ)** (Rip Van Winkle) has given the newly formed training partnership of Ciaron Maher and David Eustace a city win at the opening metropolitan meeting of the new season.

Eustace had been Maher's assistant but was elevated to co-trainer from the start of this season, which began on Wednesday.

Reserve Street (Street Cry) got the partnership off the mark with a win at Pakenham on Thursday and Naantali has

Race	1Print H. 1600m
Winner	Naantali (NZ) 2014
Owners	Greenwich Stud Pty Ltd (Mgr: G J Perry)
Trainer	Ciaron Maher & David Eustace (Caulfield)
Breeding	by Rip Van Winkle (IRE) out of Zaloot by Zabeel
Breeder	Mrs C A & C C Chamberlain, Mrs H M & M J Moran
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale – Premier Sale; V: Windsor Park Stud, P: Ciaron Maher Racing; \$180,000

followed that up with a city victory in Saturday's 1PRINT Handicap (1600m) at Moonee Valley.

"There's a lot of demands on racing now," Maher said.

"It's seven days a week, with night and day meetings and interstate racing. Dave has been an integral part of the stable and it's good for him to get on the ticket and have a crack with me."

Four-year-old Naantali took her record to four wins from eight starts and made it back-to-back city victories after winning at Flemington over 1400m two weeks earlier.

With Damian Lane aboard, Naantali, the \$2.15 favourite, settled midfield before chiming in rounding the home turn.

She raced clear to defeat Ma Jones (Bianconi) by 1-1/4 lengths.

"She's still quite raw and very progressive and I think she's only going to get better," Maher said.

Maher said he would let to mare try to keep building

through the grades but could give her the opportunity to snare some valuable black type at some stage this spring.

"But I'd say she's going to be a nice mare in the autumn," Maher said.

-AAP



Naantali scores back-to-back wins when successful at Moonee Valley (Quentin Lang)





OLD MARVEL ON TRACK FOR GRAND NATIONAL

The old-timer **Amanood Lad (NZ)** (Germano) took a step toward achieving the dream result when scoring a fortuitous win in the NZI Koral Steeplechase (4250m) at Riccarton on Saturday.

It's a day Paul Nelson will never forget as the win by the 14-year-old credited him with his 200th training success.

"He's won the Great Northern Steeples and the Wellington Steeples and it would be nice if he could win all

three big ones," the Hastings trainer said, referring to the Racecourse Hotel & Motor Lodge Grand National Steeplechase (5600m) at Riccarton next weekend.

Amanood Lad was right in contention early in the run home, but coming to the last fence Notabadrooster (NZ) (Thano) had swept to the front and looked likely to score while Chocolate Fish (NZ) (Colombia) was unleashing a strong finish.

Just as Notabadrooster's supporters were ready to celebrate, he came to grief on landing over the last obstacle and Chocolate Fish was checked when having to leap the fallen horse.

Meantime, Amanood Lad rallied again on the inside and took the lead for rider Aaron Kuru and stuck on strongly to win by a half neck from Chocolate Fish, who did well to recover and finish strongly ahead of The Big Opal (NZ) (Storm Creek) and Kings Deep (NZ) (Viking Ruler).

Continued on page 6



Amanood Lad (rails) defeats Chocolate Fish in the NZI Koral Steeplechase (4250m) (Race Images South)





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OLD MARVEL ON TRACK FOR GRAND NATIONAL

(Continued from page 5)

“It’s bad luck for Chris (Notabadrooster’s trainer Chris Faulkner), but we know about not jumping the last,” said Nelson.

“You’ve got to marvel at this old horse. We’re very lucky to get him to train. Thanks to Ben (Foote, former trainer) and the owners for letting us be part of it.

“The aim is to take the big three and it would be great if he could do it.”

Amanood Lad became the oldest horse to win the Koral Steeplechase and in winning he gave Nelson his second triumph in the race.

Nelson’s other Koral Steeplechase winner was No Hero (NZ) (Heroicity), who completed the Koral - Grand National Steeplechase double in 2005.

Nelson has also won the Grand National Steeplechase with Just A Swagger (NZ) (Just A Dancer) in 2008,

but no victory would be sweeter than Amanood Lad winning again next Saturday. - NZ Racing Desk

Race	NZI Koral Steeplechase 4250m
Winner	Amanood Lad (NZ) 2004
Owners	J D & Mrs S A Blair
Trainer	Paul Nelson (Hastings)
Breeding	by Germano (GB) out of Anood Dash by Alleged Dash (USA)
Breeder	J D & Mrs S A Blair

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TRUSTY LAD SHOWS STAYING POTENTIAL

Toowoomba trainer Matt Kropp's trip across the Tasman in search of a young staying type horse has paid off with **Trusty Lad (NZ)** (Reliable Man) at Doomben.

In a thrilling finish to a five-horse race on Saturday, Trusty Lad beat Red Stina (Red Dazzler) by a nose in the The Mission Three-Year-Old Handicap (1630m).

Kropp went to the New Zealand Bloodstock Ready To Run Sale of 2yos at Karaka last year and was taken by Trusty Lad who is a son of Group One winner Reliable Man out of Anabaa mare Miss Juventus.

"We got him at the Karaka Sales and it looks like being a good buy. He is obviously still learning but he shows potential and we are looking forward to him getting out over more ground," Kropp said.

Jockey James Orman continued his good recent form with a well timed run to get Trusty Lad home in the last stride.

"I reckon he might be even a bit better with the ear muffs off. It was a strong effort today," Orman said.

Trusty Lad was purchased for \$180,000 out of the draft of Westbury Stud.

Later in the day Gold Ambition (NZ) (Savabeel) recorded his first Queensland Saturday metropolitan win since moving north.

Group One placed for Bjorn Baker, Gold Ambition relocated to the Gold Coast stable of Michael Costa and flew home to win the LUCRF Super Plate (1630m) from former Tony Pike charge Sacred Rebel (Sepoy).

- AAP

Race	The Mission @ Aquis Farm 1630m
Winner	Trusty Lad (NZ) 2015
Owners	R J Hovey & Mrs S J Hovey
Trainer	Matt Kropp (Toowoomba)
Breeding	by Reliable Man (GB) out of Miss Juventus (AUS) by Anabaa (USA)
Breeder	G Harvey
Sales	2017 Ready To Run Sale of 2yos; V: Westbury Stud, P: Matt Kropp Racing; \$180,000



Kiwi bred Trusty Lad scores at Doomben (Grant Peters)



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PROMOTED TINY TERROR A TONIC FOR WHITBY

The Michael Moroney and Pam Gerard-trained **Tiny Terror (NZ)** (Shamexpress) was a debut winner at Te Rapa on Saturday, but it was anything but plain sailing for the son of Shamexpress.

The three-year-old was promoted to first following a Stewards' Enquiry that saw the strongly supported favourite Von Trapp (NZ) (Swiss Ace) relegated to second.

In an on-speed dominated affair, Tiny Terror sat outside the leader Von Trapp for much of the contest but was denied clear-running in the home straight by the wayward favourite, who shifted out over the concluding stages.

The final margin of just a head was telling in the placings being reversed, with Cyber Attack (NZ) (Shamexpress) three-quarters away in third.

"It's not the ideal way to win and I feel a bit sorry for the other owners, but I think it was a fair decision," Gerard said.

"He was a first-starter against some quite good horses and we wanted to get a line on him.

"We do think he is pretty good. He's a very strong horse that trialed up really well.

The win of Tiny Terror will provide a small tonic for prominent Sydney racehorse owner Max Whitby, who recently lost his wife Jenny after a long-running battle with illness.

A passionate racing man, Whitby is a friend to many in the racing industry on both sides of the Tasman.



Tiny Terror (closest to camera) was promoted to first over Von Trapp following a successful protest (Trish Dunell)

"We have had a few offers for the horse but Max Whitby has been a fantastic owner for me," Gerard said.

"I've had three horses for him and all three of them have been named after his grandchildren and this is the last one.

"Max lost his wife Jenny recently and this victory is for her."

"We will see how the horse pulls up. He seems to be matching-up pretty well against the other early three-year-olds, so he will probably keep going."

The hitherto unbeaten Von Trapp lost no admirers in defeat, with trainer Richard Collett saying raceday

experience was the key to overcoming his greenness.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	John Letts Guest Speaker 17th August 1100m
Winner	Tiny Terror (NZ) 2015
Owners	The Whitby Bloodstock Trust
Trainer	Michael Moroney & Pam Gerard (Matamata)
Breeding	by Shamexpress out of Thora by Thoreau (FR)
Breeder	JML Bloodstock Ltd
Sales	2017 National Yearling Sale – Premier Sale; V: Blandford Lodge, P: Kitchwin Hills/Whitby Bloodstock; \$70,000





EXCELLENT GRAND NATIONAL DRESS REHEARSAL

Northern raider **Laekeeper (NZ)** (Zabeel) moved into Hospitality NZ Canterbury 129th Grand National Hurdles (4200m) favouritism following his victory in the Sydenham Hurdles (3100m) at Riccarton on Saturday.

It was the first trip to Riccarton for both Laekeeper and his owner-trainer, Morrinsville dentist Simon Rees, and the win in the Racecourse Hotel & Motor Lodge-sponsored 3100-metre event was the first on the track for talented jumps rider, Emily Farr.

Laekeeper headed south with a record of four wins and two placings from six hurdle starts, being unbeaten in his last three races over fences, each with Farr aboard.

All four hurdle wins had been at Te Aroha, but he had no trouble handling the Riccarton fences after being a reluctant

leader in the early stages and leaving Farr to control the race throughout.

"The plan wasn't to lead, but he's super fresh," Farr said. "He's just so economical in his jumping but he can take the long ones too. He's improved with every single start."

Laekeeper was travelling well in front entering the home straight and had no trouble shaking off a determined finish from Jackfrost (NZ) (Gallant Guru) to score by three-quarters of a length with Drumgold (NZ) (St Reims) four lengths astern in third placing.

The race was marred with the early defection of the favoured runner, The Shackler (NZ) (Istidaad), who went amiss. He looked in trouble after jumping the first fence and was pulled up after the next fence by rider Aaron Kuru.

The Sydenham Hurdles has always been a good guide to the Grand National Hurdles and Laekeeper assured favouritism next Wednesday, while there was also plenty to like about the performance of Jackfrost, who had to overcome a check at the 700 metres in which he lost momentum.

Rees was talked into making the trip south after Laekeeper

won the restricted open hurdles at Te Aroha on July 6.

"I thought I'd give it a go rather than wait for the Grand National Hurdles later on," said Rees. "He's a great jumper and I wasn't too concerned about him leading."

Rees is now looking forward to the \$75,000 Hospitality NZ Canterbury Grand National Hurdles (4200m) and has no concerns about the extra 1100 metres.

"He'll appreciate the further ground, too," he said.

- NZ Racing Desk

Race	Racecourse Hotel Sydenham Hurdles 3100m
Winner	Laekeeper (NZ) 2011
Owners	Hudson Rees Ltd
Trainer	Simon Rees (Morrinsville)
Breeding	by Keeper (AUS) out of Laezeel by Zabeel
Breeder	Hudson Rees Ltd



Northern raider Laekeeper en route to winning the Sydenham Hurdles (3100m) at Riccarton on Saturday. (Race Images South)





JULIUS IMPERIOUS IN FOXBRIDGE LEAD-UP

Talented sprinter **Julius (NZ)** (Swiss Ace) returned to action in Saturday's Allied Security 1200 at Te Rapa and turned in a dominant performance in an ominous sign of things to come.

The patiently-handled seven-year-old notched the seventh victory of his career after absorbing the early pressure from eventual placegetters Resurrect (NZ) (Shinko King) and Contessa Vanessa (NZ) (Bullbars) to stamp himself as the horse to beat in the Gr.2 Lisa Chittick Foxbridge Plate (1200m) on August 18.

"He's only seventy-five or eighty-five per cent fit really," winning trainer John Bell said.

"What he did was more than satisfactory and we will look after him for the next two weeks and come back for the Foxbridge."

"We don't do a lot with him. We keep the weight off his legs as he's a heavy boy. He is doing everything right and he just keeps improving."

Bell said a start in the Gr.1 Tarzino Trophy (1400m) at Hastings on September 1 would depend how he came through his next assignment.

The Cambridge-trained galloper has never finished out of the placings in his 11 career starts.

Winning rider Jason Waddell was delighted with the return of one of the country's most exciting gallopers.

"They were just running themselves into the ground taking him on," Waddell

said. "It is a bad way to try and race against him because he's a heart-breaker.

"He showed his class with 59.5kgs fresh-up and he hasn't been wound up at all.

"I've got a pretty easy job. He's an uncomplicated horse to ride and all credit goes to John and the staff.

"It would be very easy to get carried away with a horse like him, but they've played the long-game and given him time to mature, so I really hope they reap the rewards that they deserve."

Waddell said Julius would be more effective on a better surface than the Heavy10 track at Te Rapa.

"I didn't want to ride him like that as we've been teaching him to settle, but I just had to play the percentages today and use his good gate-speed and lead on him.

"He really would be better on a

better track."

A son of Swiss Ace, Julius is now the \$9 equal favourite for the Tarzino Trophy with Group One winners Melody Belle (NZ) (Commands) and Start Wondering (NZ) (Eighth Wonder).

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Allied Security H. 1200m
Winner	Julius (NZ) 2011
Owners	M Balzer MNZM, Miss Summer Bell, G H Davey, W G Harris, R E Hawkins, H R Jones, S P Read, M I Robins & P Smith-Schmidt
Trainer	John Bell (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Swiss Ace (AUS) out of Oh So Royal (AUS) by Danzero (AUS)
Breeder	G Harvey
Sales	2013 National Yearling Sale – Select Sale; V: Westbury Stud, P: John Bell Bloodstock & Racing; \$44,000



Julius, ridden by Jason Waddell, cruises to victory at Te Rapa (Trish Dunell)





Sunday 5 August 2018

EXCITING FIRST WIN FOR MUDHOO

The 2018 Grand National meeting started off in exciting fashion for 19-year-old Rohan Mudhoo.

Mudhoo registered his first win when he guided debutante **Frankie The Fox (NZ)** (Ego) to an impressive win in the El Doute Cashmere Plate (1200m) at Riccarton on Saturday at odds of 24/1.

Frankie The Fox was still in the last couple until halfway down the home straight and he unleashed an irresistible finish to overhaul Miss Maxipark (NZ) (Ocean Park) inside the last 75 metres to win by a half-length.

Mudhoo is apprenticed to Frankie The Fox's Riccarton owner and trainer, Mike McCann, and recorded four seconds from his previous 34 rides, all last season.

The delight in finally notching his first win showed as Mudhoo celebrated with a flourish of the whip.

"It's a really good moment for me, especially being on a big day like this," he said.

McCann bought Frankie The Fox, a son of Ego, from the 2017 Festival Yearling Sale at Karaka for a mere \$500.

"He's done everything right and he's never been beaten in a gallop," said McCann, who was confident of the victory. "I'm happier for Rohan than me and the horse."

-NZ Racing Desk



Jockey Rohan Mudhoo and trainer Mike McCann (Race Images South)

Race	El Doute Cashmere Plate 1200m
Winner	Frankie The Fox (NZ) 2015
Owners	Mike McCann
Trainer	Mike McCann (Riccarton)
Breeding	by Ego out of Impact by Keeper (AUS)
Breeder	J D & Mrs S Lurie
Sales	2017 National Yearling Sale – Festival Sale; V: J.D. & S. Lurie, P: Mr MP McCann; \$500



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TRIPLE TRIO BEATS TRAFFIC SNARL TO DOUBLE SCORE

Champion jockey Vlad Duric navigated a stop-and-start affair in the S\$60,000 Class 4 Premier race over 1400m to get a laudable win on **Triple Trio (NZ)** (Sebring) at the Singapore Turf Club on Friday night.

In the end, Duric threw caution to the wind and let the \$31 shot rip forward on the outskirts of the 11-horse field.

After a short tussle the strength of Duric in a tight finish came to the rescue again and the Singapore champion hoop was a sight to behold as he extracted the last drops of petrol left in Triple Trio's willing tiny frame.

The hungry chasing pack was closing in, but Triple Trio scrambled to the line first by a neck in a winning time of 1min

23.25secs for the 1400m on the Long Course.

Winning trainer Michael Clements could not quite ascertain the nature of the early scrimmage, but was glad the budding talent in his yard survived it and won.

"He hit a lot of trouble in the early part. He was supposed to sit midfield with cover, but he jumped pretty well and showed more speed than expected," said the Zimbabwean-born handler.

"I'm not quite sure what happened. I think he was caught wide and as there was no pace upfront, he had to push forward.

"From a wide position and under the circumstances, Vlad did very well. They faced a lot of difficulties in the race, but they got the job done.

"He showed what he was capable of doing tonight, thanks also to a good ride from Vlad. This horse has a bright future here."

Duric was actually standing in for Triple Trio's regular partner, the suspended Glen Boss, but he certainly knew which buttons to push in clinching that second accolade for the New Zealand-bred gelding.

Race	STC Class 4 Premier 1400m
Winner	Triple Trio (NZ) 2014
Owners	Sharon Stable
Trainer	Michael J Clements (Singapore)
Breeding	by Sebring (AUS) out of Darcybee by Fasliyev (USA)
Breeder	Pencarrow Thoroughbreds Ltd.
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale – Premier Sale; V: Pencarrow Stud, P: Lyndhurst Farm; \$75,000



"We were supposed to run midfield, but we were caught four wide in a bunched-up field," said Duric.

"Then they crawled again, and I had to go forward, but I was three deep. I also had Oli (Placais) on my back at the 900m, and I had to make sure I was clear of him.

"He strode away and showed great determination in the straight. He should win again."

With that second win from three starts, Triple Trio has already seen his prizemoney snowball to around S\$80,000 for the Sharon Stable.

- STC

Triple Trio (Vlad Duric) pulls out all the stops to score in Race 7 on Friday night. (STC)

