

Sunday 9 December 2018

DANZDANZDANCE GLIDES TO GROUP ONE SUCCESS



Danzdzandance winning Saturday's Gr.1 Rydges Wellington Captain Cook Stakes (1600m) at Trentham. (Race Images - Grant Matthew)

Four-year-old mare **Danzdzandance** (Mastercraftsman) made light-work of her rivals in Saturday's Gr.1 Rydges Wellington Captain Cook Stakes (1600m) at Trentham and could be New Zealand Racing's next weight-for-age star.

The Chris Gibbs and Michelle Bradley-trained mare was patiently ridden by Opie Bosson, who watched-on as many of his rivals jostled for prominent early positions, before unleashing a powerful winning burst centre-track to

score by four-lengths from warhorse Authentic Paddy (NZ) (Howbaddouwantit).

Danzdzandance, who is raced by a group of owners headed by international supermodel turned breeder and syndicator Kylie Bax, showed the benefit of a freshen-up after a luckless third placing in the Gr.1 Livamol Classic (2040m) in early October.

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DANZDANZDANCE GLIDES TO GROUP ONE SUCCESS

(Continued from page 1)

“She was outstanding,” Chris Gibbs said. “You’re always wondering if you’ve got them right and she was a bit above herself today, which scared me a little bit, but Opie rode her beautifully. There was a tonne of pace that just set it up beautifully for her.”

The daughter of Mastercraftsman is now likely to press on to the Gr.1 Cambridge Stud Zabeel Classic (2000m) at Ellerslie on Boxing Day before a campaign across the Tasman is considered.

“We will probably have to start planning something for Sydney as a fresh campaign,” Gibbs said.

“The way she goes fresh, we probably have to look at that but that is something that Kylie and ourselves will talk about.”

The victory capped a stellar day for champion hoop Opie Bosson, who earlier partnered Aotea Lad (NZ) (Savabeel) to win the Gr.2 Anuka Smoker Wakefield Challenge Stakes (1100m), and also scored in the last aboard Lincoln Raider (NZ) (O’Reilly).

“She is a very smart mare and it was some training effort too,” Bosson said.

“I was a little bit skeptical coming into it fresh-up over a mile with a bit of cut in the ground.

“It was a bit pushy (early), but I got in a three-wide position and wasn’t going to be pushed around. Turning for home I was just hoping I wasn’t going to get there too soon but she is a very classy mare.

“I didn’t realise the turn of foot she had.”

Bosson said the step-up to 2000m in the Zabeel Classic would be ideal and the mare would improve considerably.

The gifted rider returned to action at the beginning of October after being sidelined through the early part of the season with weight issues and has been quick to assert his class.

“It’s good to be back riding and I am fit and healthy and there are plenty more winners to come,” he said.

For winning part-owner Kylie Bax, it was the perfect result

for her syndication business in addition to a success her family could savour.

“I’m still shaking,” an excited Bax said.

“I cannot explain the excitement. We shouted-down the roof of the grandstand. It’s lucky to still be standing.

“It is wonderful to have such a great group of owners, including some people involved who have never had much to do with horses. Sharing the experience is incredible.

“She was bred by Mum and Dad and I bought her back at the Select Yearling Sale for \$5,000.”

Her parents Helen-Gaye and Graham Bax are part-owners of Blandford Lodge in Matamata with Wellington identity Lib Petagna.

The weekend could get even better for Bax’ reputation as a selector of bloodstock.

She purchased Beauty Generation (NZ) (Road To Rock) for \$60,000 at the same sale two years earlier and since his subsequent sale to Hong Kong he has gone on to be the world’s top-rated turf miler.

The Hong Kong Horse Of The Year and triple Group One winner is a strong favourite to defend his title in Sunday’s HK\$25million (NZ\$4.6million) Gr.1 Hong Kong Mile (1600m).

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	WRC Captain Cook S. Gr.1 1600m
Winner	Danzdanzdance (NZ) 2014
Owners	B.A.X Bloodstock Achieving Xcellence Ltd, S Barnao, M Hawes, J Loose, RJ Stern, R Tierney & L Wotton
Trainer	Chris Gibbs & Michelle Bradley (Ruakaka)
Breeding	by Mastercraftsman (IRE) out of Night Danza (AUS) by Danzero (AUS)
Breeder	WG & HG Bax
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale – Select Session; V: Blandford Lodge, P: NZB as agent; \$5,000





A MILLION REASONS **TO LIKE THE LAD**

Aotea Lad (NZ) (Savabeel) has the makings of a smart juvenile and a strong debut performance to win the Gr.2 Anuka Smoker Wakefield Challenge Stakes (1100m) at Trentham has all but booked his passage to the lucrative Karaka Million 2YO (1200m) at Ellerslie on January 26.

The Jamie Richards-trained son of Savabeel will derive plenty of benefit from the raceday experience after being only moderately into stride and showing signs of greenness over the concluding stages, yet his class meant

the result was never in doubt.

Ridden by Opie Bosson, Aotea Lad had half a length to spare over Snitzel colt Killin, with Aretha (NZ) (Charm Spirit) also finishing well for third.

“Earlier on in the spring, he was very colty and the decision was made to geld him and since then he has turned into a racehorse. He has got it all in front of him,” stable representative Paul Richards said.

“It was always the plan to ride him back, like he did at the trials, and just get a drag across the junction and try to get over them late.

Race	WRC Wakefield Challenge S. Gr.2 1100m
Winner	Aotea Lad (NZ) 2016
Owners	Te Akau Love Life Syndicate (Mgr: Karyn Fenton-Ellis MNZM)
Trainer	Jamie Richards (Matamata)
Breeding	by Savabeel (AUS) out of Corsage by Volksraad (GB)
Breeder	M W Boyd; D C Ellis; J A Elstob; K W Fenton-Ellis MNZM; J M Langley; G M Southworth; Mrs J & M W Walker
Sales	2018 National Yearling Sale – Book 1; V: Phoenix Park, P: DC Ellis; \$200,000

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Aotea Lad, impressive winner of the Gr.2 Anuka Smoker Wakefield Challenge Stakes (1100m) at Trentham. (Race Images PN - Peter Rubery)





A MILLION REASONS **TO LIKE THE LAD**

(Continued from page 4)

“Obviously he is going to improve a lot from today.

“He will probably go into the Eclipse Stakes (Gr.3, 1200m) and then into the Karaka Million.”

Te Akau Racing have won the past two editions of the Karaka Million with Avantage and Melody Belle and Aotea Lad adds to the stable’s arsenal of talented two-year-olds that could tackle the race this season.

By Savabeel out of the Group One-placed juvenile Corsage (NZ)

(Volksraad), Aotea Lad was bought for \$200,000 by Te Akau principal David Ellis at the Karaka Book 1 Yearling Sale earlier this year.

Winning rider Opie Bosson was full of praise for the gelding and said he rates right up there with the stable’s leading two-year-olds, which includes last Saturday’s impressive Ellerslie winner Probabeel (NZ) (Savabeel).

“He got there in the last 50m and started looking at the big screen and the winning post and there was plenty

more left in the tank,” Bosson said.

“He showed a good turn of foot. When I really asked him and put the pressure on him, he went for me until he got there by himself and that is when greenness kicked in and he has just had a bit of a look around.

“He’s only had two trials and still doesn’t know what he’s doing, so he is a pretty special little horse.”

– NZ Racing Desk

NEWS IN BRIEF

Theanswermyfriend has all the answers

Theanswermyfriend impressed winning fresh-up in the Sportsbet Racing Form Handicap (1200m) at Pakenham on Saturday.

The Darren Weir-trained son of High Chaparral recorded his eighth career win and impressed jockey John Allen with kick and ability to hold off the opposition in the closing stages.

“I was a little bit worried, I was in front a long way up the straight, said Allen.

“He had a big weight so you’re always expecting something to be coming at you a little bit late, but to his credit he coped with it well and was good and strong to the line.”

Theanswermyfriend was sold by Curraghmore Stud at the 2015 New Zealand Bloodstock Yearling sale where he was knocked down to Aquinta Racing for \$70,000. His career earnings have now surpassed the \$500,000 mark.

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TOP-SHELF RESULT **FOR SPIRITS AUBEER**



Spirits Aubeer winning the Gr.3 Bonecrusher Stakes (1400m) at Ellerslie in the hands of jockey Rowena Smyth. (Trish Dunell)

Punters could be forgiven for believing **Spirits Aubeer** (Spirit of Boom) was under the influence when winning the Gr.3 Bonecrusher Stakes (1400m) at Ellerslie on Saturday, but there is no denying the talent of the wayward three-year-old.

The Nigel Tiley-trained son of Spirit Of Boom proved too good for his rivals despite laying-out markedly in the home straight and proving a difficult ride for winning jockey Rowena Smyth.

"He's quite green," Tiley said. "He is still a pretty raw sort of horse, but he has just got so much ability.

"I said to Rowena I really want you to lead if you can because I think he is a better horse when they're chasing him, than he is when he is chasing the others.

"Today is the first day that he has been able to get to the front and dictate. It was a great ride by Row. She rides him in work every day, so for her to win a Group race is great.

"I don't think he knows how good he is."

Spirits Aubeer has now won three of his six starts and will likely return to Ellerslie for the Gr.2 Jamieson Park Auckland Guineas (1600m) on New Year's Day.

"I'd like to see him have a crack at the Guineas," Tiley said.

"I don't see why we can't stretch him out to a mile."

The Group Three success rewarded the efforts of Smyth who rides trackwork full-time for Tiley.

"That was great," Smyth said.

"He is a really nice horse and the team at Nigel's do such a good job with him.

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TOP-SHELF RESULT **FOR SPIRITS AUBEER**

(Continued from page 6)

“He is not easy, but when he comes out and does that it’s worth the effort.

“He is such a big free-striding horse that we thought if he got his own way in front, he would be really hard to catch.”

Smyth said she felt Spirits Aubeer would have no issue with a step-up to a mile.

Surely Sacred (NZ) (Rock ‘n’ Pop) and Hypnos (NZ) (Reliable Man) closed well from the rear of the field to finish second and third respectively but were never a threat to the winner.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	ARC Bonecrusher S. Gr.3 1400m
Winner	Spirits Aubeer (NZ) 2015
Owners	R Cole, A Opie, Ms M Rutherford, Mrs LC & NEW Tiley
Trainer	Nigel Tiley (Pukekohe)
Breeding	by Spirit of Boom (AUS) out of Friendly Glow (AUS) by Iglesia (AUS)
Breeder	Eureka Cambooya Thoroughbreds Pty Ltd
Sales	2017 National Yearling Sale – Select Session; V: Bradbury Park, P: Mr N Tiley; \$55,000

NEWS IN BRIEF

Angelic Spirit romps to victory

Angelic Spirit (NZ) (Echoes of Heaven) cruised to victory in the Fulmen Park Handicap (1400m) at Pakenham under a positive ride from Linda Meech who, despite the tricky draw, managed to gain a soft lead and run away with the win.

The ex-pat Kiwi has an obvious affinity with the mare.

“She’s a finicky thing, we get along well, and we’re both a bit finicky I suppose,” Meech said.

“The trick with her is to keep her calm on the way down to the gates.”

It was the sixth win from just sixteen starts for the daughter of Echoes of Heaven for trainers Trent Busuttin and Natalie Young and part owners OTI Racing.

Bred by Awapuni trainer Mark Oulaghan, the four-year-old was sold after winning her only trial as a two-year-old in New Zealand.



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(OUR) BIG MIKE LANDS RECORD-BREAKING CUP WIN

A planned three-run campaign in Australia has paid dividends for New Zealand trainer Craig Phelan and his family with **(Our) Big Mike (NZ)** (Don Eduardo) scoring a record-breaking win in the Pakenham Cup.

Having his first try at Saturday's 2500m journey, (Our) Big Mike was sent straight to the front by replacement jockey Jye McNeil, giving the rider the perfect 24th birthday present.

(Our) Big Mike defied the opposition up the long Pakenham straight to run out a two-length winner from Berisha (Al Samer) with equal favourite Dal Harraild (Champs Elysees) a neck away third.

The winning time of 2 min 34.68 secs took more than two seconds off the track record.

Race	Pakenham RC Pakenham Cup L 2500m
Winner	(Our) Big Mike (NZ) 2012
Owners	G S & S A Fausett, C K, K B & B L Phelan
Trainer	Craig Phelan (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Don Eduardo out of Landvetter by Felix the Cat (USA)
Breeder	G S & Mrs S A Fausett

Phelan has been commuting between New Zealand and Melbourne in recent weeks leaving his son Shaun and his partner Emily Farr, both jumps jockeys, to oversee the stayer's preparation.

"We knew back in NZ there was a cups win somewhere, but we weren't expecting it in Aussie," Phelan said.

"We thought we'd come over and target some country cups, and to win, this is special.

"My son Shaun and his partner Emily gave me a kick in the backside and said I had to get over here to chase the money.

"I have and we've got our biggest win."

(Our) Big Mike is booked to fly home to New Zealand on Tuesday but Phelan said those plans might be shelved.

But for what races, Phelan is unsure. He said his head was "up in the clouds" and he wanted to enjoy the win.

McNeil picked up the ride on Thursday after Noel Callow was hospitalised following a fall at Sandown on Wednesday.

"Obviously my thoughts are with Noel Callow who was meant to ride this horse," McNeil said.

"Shaun showed me a few of his replays from New Zealand and he does like to bowl along in front and he can sustain a strong gallop.

"We got a beautiful break along the back straight and when I quickened him up from the half-mile he sustained it.

"The key to today's win was that he began well. There was good speed on paper and once he got to the front I knew he'd be hard to run down."

—AAP



(Our) Big Mike led all the way to win the Listed Pakenham Cup (2500m) (Quentin Lang)





ZALATTE SETS AUTUMN MARKER

Zalatte's (NZ) (Medaglia d'Oro) triumphant initiation to Saturday racing at Rosehill induced comparisons to a high-profile stablemate.

The Chris Waller-trained Zalatte sprouted wings over the final 100m to overtake the highly rated Baller (High Chaparral) in the 2019 Membership Benchmark 76 Handicap (1400m) and score by a length.

It was a performance that evoked memories of when Ford steered Unforgotten (Fastnet Rock) to a similar swooping win at the same venue around this time last year.

In the 12 months since then, Unforgotten has established herself as one of the top females in the Australia, courtesy of wins in the Group I Australian Oaks (2400m) and Group II Chelmsford Stakes (1600m).

"It's uncanny, they're very similar," Ford said.

"She's got a devastating turn of foot. From the furlong I knew I was going to get there."

Adding more merit to Zalatte's win was the fact that she wasn't even supposed to be running in Saturday's race.

"It wasn't the plan to go straight to a Saturday race off a maiden win," stable racing manager Charlie Duckworth.

"She was going to run on Wednesday in the mile race but it got cancelled due to a lack of nominations which we thought was a bit rough



Zalatte showed a impressive turn of foot at Rosehill on Saturday (Bradley Photography)

considering they got eight initial noms and didn't even take extended noms.

"We didn't want to be taking on such proven horses at only her second start, but she's done what she's promised at home.

"I'd imagine she will follow in the footsteps of Unforgotten now and be freshened-up for the autumn."

Duckworth reported that Unforgotten is currently in pre-training as she builds towards next year's autumn carnival.

-racenet

Race	ATC 2019 Membership H. 1400m
Winner	Zalatte (NZ) 2015
Owners	Mr CJ Waller, Mr NA Greenhaigh, Mrs MT Greenhaigh, Magic Bloodstock Racing, Grand Parkview Stud, Mr I Bruce, Mr JM Simmons, Ms SM Fitzgerald, Mrs RJ Christie, Mr RGH Christie
Trainer	Chris Waller (Rosehill)
Breeding	by Medaglia d'Oro (USA) out of Za Star by Zabeel
Breeder	Mrs H G & W G Bax
Sales	2017 National Yearling Sale – Premier Session; V: Blandford Lodge, P: Kaha Syndicate/Mulcaster Bloodstock; \$300,000



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CLASSIC ASSIGNMENT FOR LINCOLN FALLS

Talented three-year-old **Lincoln Falls** (Dundeel) notched his second victory from three starts when successful at Trentham on Saturday in the Lone Star Petone Premier (1400m).

Ridden by Johnathan Parkes, Lincoln Falls sat just off the leaders before reeling in front-runner Kahu Rock (NZ) (Alamosa) to win by just over a length.

Race	WRC Lone Star Petone H. 1400m
Winner	Lincoln Falls (AUS) 2015
Owners	CJ Grace, Kamada Bloodstock & Lincoln Farms Bloodstock Ltd
Trainer	Lisa Latta (Awapuni)
Breeding	by Duneel out of Causeway Queen (AUS) by Giant's Causeway (USA)
Breeder	Nearco Stud
Sales	2017 Ready to Run Sale; V: JK Farm, P: Lincoln Farms Bloodstock; \$200,000

"He had to work a bit today and it's always hard to know what to expect on an off track, but he's done what we wanted him to," winning trainer Lisa Latta said.

A son of six-time Group One winner Dundeel, Lincoln Falls will be set for the Gr.1 Vodafone New Zealand Derby (2400m) at Ellerslie on March 2.

The athletic colt is likely to get his first look at Ellerslie in the Listed Shaw's Wire Ropes Uncle Remus Stakes (1400m) on Boxing Day.

"He was just a class ahead of them today and I did like the way he settled off a very slow pace and he's travelled up really well," Parkes said.

"I still think he is learning and every time he gets out there the penny is going to drop a little more, but he is a first-class animal and he will go on to bigger and better things."

Lincoln Falls was an impressive winner at Woodville on debut before being beaten by a head by Langkawi (NZ)



(Helmet) over 1400m at Hastings in early October.

"He was just feeling his shins a little bit leading in to Hastings and quite a bit afterwards, so we made the decision to put him aside for three weeks," Latta said.

"He came back and he trialed up really well ten days ago."

A graduate of the New Zealand Bloodstock Ready To Run Sale, Lincoln Falls was sold by JK Farm on behalf of Nearco Stud for \$200,000 to Lincoln Farms Bloodstock.

The colt is raced by prominent owners Christopher Grace, Kevin Pratt of Kamada Bloodstock and John Street of Lincoln Farms Bloodstock.

– NZ Racing Desk

Trentham winner Lincoln Falls is on a path to the Gr.1 Vodafone New Zealand Derby (2400m). (Race Images PN -Peter Rubery)

