

Monday 24 December 2018

BAKER ON WEATHER WATCH AHEAD OF BOXING DAY



Lizzie L'Amour is one of the four-strong attack on the Gr.1 Cambridge Stud Zabeel Classic from the powerful Murray Baker & Andrew Forsman stable (Trish Dunell)

Cambridge trainer Murray Baker is keeping a close eye on the predicted weather for the Auckland region over the next few days as he puts the finishing touches on the team that he and training partner Andrew Forsman will present at Ellerslie on Boxing Day.

The Baker-Forsman partnership dominate the field for the Gr.1 Cambridge Stud Zabeel Classic (2000m) with four acceptors in the 11-horse line-up.

Former Australian Derby winner **Jon Snow (NZ)** (Iffraaj) will carry the number one saddlecloth in the weight-for-age contest and will be joined by **Saint Emilion (NZ)** (Mastercraftsman), **Nicoletta (NZ)** (Savabeel) and 2017 Zabeel Classic runner-up **Lizzie L'Amour (NZ)** (Zabeel).

With more than 40mls of rain predicted in Auckland for the 48-hour period from Sunday, Baker is confident he has his

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BAKER ON WEATHER WATCH AHEAD OF BOXING DAY

(Continued from page 1)

bases covered should a rain-affected track present on raceday.

“The forecast doesn’t sound too good for the next couple of days, but I think we have horses that can still perform if they do get the rain that is predicted,” he said.

“We have a couple who will definitely appreciate some cut in the ground and the other two can cope, although it is not their preferred surface.

“We still have a couple of days to go before the meeting so we won’t worry too much about it until race morning.”

While not prepared to rank his runners in any particular order, Baker believes each of them possess the credentials to win the race if luck plays in their favour.

“I think we have a good chance, which is what you want when you are competing at Group One level,” he said.

“Jon Snow will certainly appreciate the rain and I think you can just turn the page on his last start at Trentham where he had no luck at all. He missed the start and got caught wide which gave him little chance to feature.

“Lizzie L’Amour has run well in this race before and she was only just beaten over 1600m at Te Rapa last time. She will definitely improve going over 2000m and has won two of her three starts on a slow track.

“Saint Emilion is as honest as they come and he has a great record over 2000m at weight-for-age on the track.

“Nicoletta is also in good form and has been placed twice at Group One level, so she deserves a win.”

Baker also rates the chances of his two runners in the Gr.2 Cambridge Stud Eight Carat Classic (1600m).

“We have a pair of nice fillies in the Eight Carat, however they do lack a little bit of experience,” he said.

“Queen Of Diamonds was an easy winner at Awapuni last time and she looks very exciting, while Espresso Martini hasn’t put a foot wrong in winning her last two starts, including one at Ellerslie.

“It’s a nice field but I expect them both to run well.”

Lizzie L’Amour is rated the best of the Baker-Forsman runners in the Zabeel Classic by the TAB bookmakers where she sits as the \$3.80 second favourite behind Danzdanzdance (Mastercraftsman) (\$2.10). Jon Snow (\$9.20) is the only other runner under a \$10 quote with Saint Emilion (\$12) and Nicoletta (\$14) respectively.

Queen Of Diamonds (NZ) (Savabeel) is the \$2.90 second favourite behind New Zealand 1000 Guineas winner Media Sensation (I Am Invincible) (\$2.60) in the Eight Carat Classic market with Espresso Martini (NZ) (High Chaparral) on the third line of betting at \$5.20.

– NZ Racing Desk

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HOUSE OF CARTIER TO SHINE IN EIGHT CARAT

While he is the first to admit that promising filly **House Of Cartier** (Alamosa) faces a massive task at Ellerslie on Wednesday, trainer Nigel Tiley is not backing away from the fight.

Successful in maiden company at her last start, House Of Cartier will tackle the big league when she takes her place in the Gr.2 Cambridge Stud Eight Carat Classic (1600m).

The daughter of multiple Group One winner Shez Sinsational (NZ)

(Ekraar) created a huge impression when she sat three-wide before powering to victory over 1400m at Pukekohe, in a race where the form has stacked up well in the following weeks.

"She was pretty impressive on her home course and I see that both horses that finished in the placings have gone on and won since," Tiley said.

"I've always thought she had a touch of class about her, although I firmly believe she will be a much

better prospect in the autumn.

"It's a massive step-up on Boxing Day, but I think she deserves her place in the field."

Although drawn awkwardly in barrier ten in the 12-horse field, Tiley believes forecast rain could play into his hands.

"She will definitely be a starter despite the wide draw," he said.

"She was always going to go back at the start, as she isn't the type you

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Promising filly House Of Cartier will tackle the Gr.2 Cambridge Stud Eight Carat Classic at Ellerslie on Boxing Day (Race Images – Kenton Wright)





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HOUSE OF CARTIER TO SHINE IN EIGHT CARAT

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can hustle along early, so if we get the rain they are predicting, being drawn a little wider might turn out to be in our favour.

"There looks to be good speed in the race, so I will be looking for her to be finishing off nicely in the final stages."

Safely through the race Tiley will ease up on the Alamosa filly as he looks towards her major autumn goal, the Gr.1 Al Basti Equiworld Dubai New Zealand Oaks (2400m) at Trentham in March.

"She is going to need a break at some stage, so we might pop her out

for a few days after Wednesday," he said.

"Of course, if she came out and won it comfortably, we might consider the Royal Stakes (2000m) on New Year's day, but that is really a longshot at this stage.

"I just think she will have so much to offer in the autumn that if we can remain patient with her now, we will reap the benefits then."

Tiley will also play a patient game with impressive juvenile Qiji Spirit (NZ) (Charm Spirit) who made a good fist of his raceday debut when running second at Awapuni on Saturday.

"He's not really a natural two-year-

old, but he had done so well since his trial win at Avondale that I thought he was ready to go to the races," he said.

"It was a super effort as he drew wide and got into an awkward position during the race before finishing it off really well at the business end.

"He got beaten by a pretty good horse and should have taken plenty of benefit from the race and trip away.

"He is eligible for the Karaka Million, so we will get him home and see how he recovers before deciding if we try to get him into the race."

The Karaka Million 2YO (1200m) will be run at Ellerslie on January 26.

- NZ Racing Desk

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vassilator undergoes a course in dressage

Caulfield Guineas runner-up **Vassilator (NZ)** (Zacinto) has undergone dressage training in a bid to teach the colt to be more disciplined ahead of an autumn campaign.

After running second to The Autumn Sun (Redoute's Choice) at Caulfield, Vassilator ran seventh in the Gr.3 Carbine Club Stakes (1600m) at Flemington on November 3.

After giving him a couple of weeks in the paddock, trainer Colin Little sent the colt for some dressage work before bringing him back to his stable.

"His weakness is when he gets on horses' heels and has to be restrained he gets his head in the air," Little said.

"He ran last in the Guineas Prelude because of that and his last run in the Carbine Club he got his head in the air and over-raced and when they're doing that they're not breathing.

"We've tried blinkers and different bits and all sorts of things and are now using the Market Harborough (breastplate) which keeps his head down.

"You can't use it in a race but in training it seems to be helping."

The trainer will judge Vassilator's early autumn races before setting a goal and said the Group One Australian Guineas at Flemington in March seemed the logical choice.



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FURSDON EXPECTS YEARN TO BOUNCE BACK

Matamata trainer Karen Fursdon believes her stable star **Yearn (NZ)** (Savabeel) can turn around a disappointing last-start performance when she tackles the Listed Hallmark Stud Handicap (1200m) at Ellerslie on Boxing Day.

The consistent Savabeel mare turned in her worst career run when she tailed home the field in the Gr.2 Auckland Thoroughbred Breeders' Stakes (1400m) at Pukekohe last month.

Fursdon puts the performance down to her mare's complete dislike for the Slow7 track surface that prevailed on the day.

"She just hated it at Pukekohe and was dipping and diving all the way around that day," she said.

"That's just not her and she hasn't turned a hair since.

"She looks a ball of muscle at the moment and has been working very well so, if we can get a track to suit, I expect her to be right amongst it on Wednesday."

Fursdon did admit she has been scanning the forecasts for the week with the promise of heavy rain likely to see her scratch on race-morning if the track is rated worse than a Dead6.

"I don't mind if it rains all day Monday and most of Tuesday but I want to see it fine up on Tuesday afternoon and be nice and hot and sunny on raceday," she said.

"The work that Ellerslie have done on their track has been marvellous and it seems to cope well with the rain now.

"As long as they can get some drying in and the track looks like a Dead6 or better then we will take our place.

"We do have a wide barrier but I think with the speed on Shaun (McKay) can find a sit for her and then it is all up to her.

"She is not entered for the Railway, as her main target is the Telegraph at Trentham, so if she does win on Wednesday, she won't be lining up on New Year's day.

"I think she is best over 1400m and although the Telegraph is 1200m, it races more like a 1400m contest which will suit her down to the ground."

While Yearn may not be seen on New Year's day, Fursdon will still be well represented with promising mare Le Sablier (NZ) (Tavistock) set to tackle the rating 72 mile on the day.

– NZ Racing Desk



Talented mare Yearn in winning action at Ellerslie (Trish Dunell)





ELUSIVE TREASURE BACK IN THE WINNING GROOVE AT TE RAPA

Singapore born apprentice Darren Danis continued his recent run of good form when he produced a patient ride to guide Cambridge galloper **Elusive Treasure** (Northern Meteor) back to the winner's circle at Te Rapa on Saturday.

The Martin Cruz-trained six-year-old had hinted he was set to regain winning form with a bold run for fourth in the Gr.3 Eagle Technology Stakes (1600m) at Ellerslie at the start of the month.

Facing just five rivals in the open 1600m contest, Danis bided his time with the Northern Meteor gelding as race favourite The Mitigator (Master Of Design) set a muddling pace in front.

Despite being last on the home corner Danis didn't panic as he worked Elusive Treasure into the clear before unleashing a powerful burst to post a comfortable two and a quarter length victory.

It was Elusive Treasure's fourth career win, with three of those coming at Te Rapa, while Danis notched his 18th victory for the season with a winning double on the day that sees him sitting comfortably within the top twenty on the national jockeys' premiership.

Danis admitted he had been confident of a bold showing, especially with his three-kilogram claim reducing his mount's weight down to a competitive 54kgs for the contest.

"I knew there was a bit of pace in the field and he always tries his best in



Elusive Treasure and Darren Danis cruise home at Te Rapa (Trish Dunell)

the last bit," Danis said.

"I wasn't too far back in the field, so I thought I would probably run over the top of them carrying 54kgs.

"I have to thank the Cruz family for giving me the ride as he showed a lot of class in that field."

Danis had some special support for the meeting with his family currently in New Zealand to watch him ride. His father Luke is a former rider who now trains in Malaysia and he was on hand with the camera to capture his son's delight at the win.

"I just hope he gets a good one (picture)," Danis said.

Danis has made every post a winner this season after returning from a serious back injury following a nasty fall

at Timaru in August last year. He spent eight months on the sidelines with two fractured vertebrae in his back.

He returned to riding in March and has hit his straps in recent months where he now sits just six wins behind Corey Campbell in the race for the leading apprentice title this season.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Waikato RC Lodge City Rentals H. 1600m.
Winner	Elusive Treasure (AUS) 2012
Owners	Angel Cruz
Trainer	Martin da Cruz (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Northern Meteor (AUS) out of Ana's Mail (AUS) by Anabaa (USA)
Breeder	Attunga Stud, Est late G Coull





MORE WONDER ON TOP AT AWAPUNI

Talented three-year-old **More Wonder (NZ)** (Mossman) backed up some good form of late when he accounted for his age group rivals over 1400m at Awapuni on Saturday.

The Team Rogerson-trained galloper had enjoyed a profitable campaign during New Zealand Cup and Show week, where he won impressively on the middle day after finishing a meritorious fifth in the Gr.1 New Zealand 2000 Guineas (1600m) just five days earlier.

Having his first run since that Riccarton victory, More Wonder proved too good in the concluding stages under rider Johnathan Parkes after taking control of the race with 800m to run.

The victory was the first of a winning treble on the day for Parkes who also picked up the Gr.2 Kamada Park Manawatu Challenge Stakes (1400m) on local galloper Shadows Cast (NZ) (Per Incanto).

“He didn’t begin that well, so I was just going to work into the race from where he was,” Parkes said of More Wonder.

“He wanted to get going a little bit hard so I thought better let him slide forward. Once he got there (the lead) he travelled up nicely and was simply too good.

“He’s had a freshen up since Riccarton so that’s maybe why he wanted to over-race a little bit early on.

“I think he’s a very serious three-year-old, so it’s onwards and upwards for him.”

Stable representative Michelle Northcott was pleased with the effort although somewhat philosophical about her charge’s wayward tendencies.

“He was pretty impressive, although he did a little bit wrong,” she said.

“He over-raced a bit and still got the job done.”



More Wonder completes a powerful gallop to score at Awapuni (Race Images – Peter Rubery)

The disappointment in the race was hot favourite Xpression (NZ) (Showcasing) who was at cramped odds for her first run since finishing third in the Gr.1 New Zealand 1000 Guineas at Riccarton last month.

The Showcasing filly loomed as a threat early in the home straight but just battled in the final stages with rider Sam Collett reporting she had not been suited by the sit and sprint nature of the race.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Manawatu RC Hyslop Plumbing H. 1400m.
Winner	More Wonder (NZ) 2015
Owners	NZ Thoroughbred Holdings Ltd, G A Rogerson MNZM & G R Wilson
Trainer	Team Rogerson (Tuhikaramea)
Breeding	by Mossman (AUS) out of Wonderworld (AUS) by More Than Ready (USA)
Breeder	G Harvey; Auckland; NZ
Sales	2017 National Yearling Sale - Select V: Westbury Stud \$45000 P: Team Rogerson





SWEYNESSE

Don't miss his first yearlings at NZB Karaka

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 99SW).
- 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.

2019 Karaka 2019 - Book 1 — 27 Jan 2019

129	Sweynesse (AUS) - Keep Thinking (AUS), Bay/Black Windsor Park Stud
188	Sweynesse (AUS) - Madonna Mia, Black Filly Novara Park
497	Sweynesse (AUS) - Unearthed, Brown/Black Colt Wentwood Grange
530	Sweynesse (AUS) - Xpress, Chestnut Colt Nala Park
650	Sweynesse (AUS) - Cool Storm, Brown Colt Novara Park

2019 Karaka 2019 - Book 2 — 31 Jan 2019

699	Sweynesse (AUS) - Eastern Eclipse, Brown Colt Leanach Lodge Ltd
700	Sweynesse (AUS) - Electrostatic, Bay Colt Kilgravin Lodge
702	Sweynesse (AUS) - Ella's Cat (AUS), Bay Colt Windsor Park Stud
722	Sweynesse (AUS) - Fastnfree, Bay Colt Novara Park
798	Sweynesse (AUS) - Madam Butterfly, Brown Colt Novara Park
864	Sweynesse (AUS) - Polyatomic, Bay Colt Ralph Thoroughbreds
885	Sweynesse (AUS) - Rock Rose, Brown Colt Mapperley Stud Ltd
946	Sweynesse (AUS) - Tafaool (IRE), Chestnut Colt Brighthill Farm
1055	Sweynesse (AUS) - Cutluse, Bay Filly Wentwood Grange
1062	Sweynesse (AUS) - Darcybee, Bay Colt Bradbury Park

2019 Karaka 2019 - Book 3 — 3 Feb 2019

1090	Sweynesse (AUS) - Happy Endings, Brown Filly Brighthill Farm
1117	Sweynesse (AUS) - Likely Story, Bay Colt Highfield Grange Thoroughbreds
1148	Sweynesse (AUS) - Platinum Elle, Bay Colt Westend Partnership

Monday 24 December 2018

NZ STALLION AWARDS

THE CENTAINE AWARD

STALLIONS	EARNINGS
SAVABEEL	\$6,390,675
ROAD TO ROCK	\$4,137,819
DARCI BRAHMA	\$3,635,988
O'REILLY	\$3,278,873
PINS	\$2,190,061
TAVISTOCK	\$2,072,523
PER INCANTO	\$1,985,713
SWISS ACE	\$1,892,663
THORN PARK	\$1,754,221
RIP VAN WINKLE	\$1,702,216

Criteria: Sire whose NZ-conceived progeny have accumulated the highest stakes earnings worldwide

THE DEWAR STALLION TROPHY

STALLIONS	EARNINGS
SAVABEEL	\$3,626,254
O'REILLY	\$1,880,234
PINS	\$1,490,187
RIP VAN WINKLE	\$1,158,740
TAVISTOCK	\$1,153,115
DARCI BRAHMA	\$1,134,497
REDWOOD	\$980,000
PER INCANTO	\$906,946
IFFRAAJ	\$882,506
RELIABLE MAN	\$862,610

Criteria: Sire whose progeny have accumulated the highest combined stakes earnings in Australia & New Zealand

THE GROSVENOR AWARD

STALLIONS	EARNINGS
SAVABEEL	\$1,368,428
PINS	\$736,612
PER INCANTO	\$714,746
DARCI BRAHMA	\$704,675
RIP VAN WINKLE	\$686,795
IFFRAAJ	\$600,561
ZED	\$527,123
SHOWCASING	\$524,060
TAVISTOCK	\$511,140
MASTERCRAFTSMAN	\$499,662

BEST PERFORMERS	EARNINGS
SAVVY COUP	\$201,250
MADISON COUNTY	\$380,250
SHADOWS CAST	\$61,125
REMINGTON	\$52,185
TE AKAU SHARK	\$196,875
MELT	\$83,376
PERRY MASON	\$66,875
XPRESSION	\$94,500
DONNA ANNE BILLY	\$57,250
DANZDANZDANCE	\$162,500

Criteria: Leading Sires by Earnings in New Zealand



Data Provided By
ARION PEDIGREES



Monday 24 December 2018

NZ BRED WINNERS IN HONG KONG DECEMBER 19

HORSE & BREEDING	BREEDER	RACE	SALES DETAILS
MI BLANCO (NZ) 2013 by Cape Blanco (IRE) out of Mi Centie by Centaine (AUS)	M C Fong; Auckland; NZ	HKJC Sha Tin Park H. 1650m.	
GOOD FIT (NZ) 2010 by Encosta de Lago (AUS) out of Mrs. Squillionaire (AUS) by Last Tycoon (IRE)	Whakanui Stud Ltd	HKJC Morse Park H. 1650m.	2012 Ready to Run Sale V: Lyndhurst Farm \$280000 P: Mr Michael Chang
ZILONG (HK) Shocking Luck (NZ) 2013 by Shocking (AUS) out of Shamardal Luck (AUS) by Shamardal (USA)	G L Currie & T W Archer Trust; Auckland; NZ	HKJC Kowloon Park H. 1800m.	

NZ BRED WINNERS IN HONG KONG DECEMBER 23

HORSE & BREEDING	BREEDER	RACE	SALES DETAILS
KING OPIE (NZ) 2014 by Ocean Park out of Hope So by Fast 'n' Famous (AUS)	Waikato Stud Ltd; Waikato; NZ	HKJC Pak Tam Au H. 1400m.	2016 National Yearling Sale - Select Session V: Waikato Stud Ltd \$120000 P: Miss JKS Mahoney

NZ BRED WINNERS IN MALAYSIA DECEMBER 23

HORSE & BREEDING	BREEDER	RACE	SALES DETAILS
NATURAL WATER (NZ) 2012 by Sakhees Secret (GB) out of Pure Strike by Volksraad (GB)	Bradbury Bloodstock Ltd, C R & Mrs M A S Cartwright	Penang TC Class 5 H. 1700	2014 South Island Sale V: Highden Park \$5000 P: Mr L R Beckett

