

Sunday 11 February 2018

HALL OF FAMER BAGS ANOTHER GROUP ONE



Lizzie L'Amour wins the Gr.1 Herbie Dyke Stakes, capping of a magic 24 hours for co-trainer Murray Baker

It's been a memorable 24 hours in the decorated racing career of Cambridge horseman Murray Baker.

On Friday evening, he was inducted into the New Zealand Racing Hall of Fame and he celebrated his inclusion in style on Saturday afternoon when he produced **Lizzie L'Amour (NZ)** (Zabeel) for a dazzling victory in the Gr.1 Herbie Dyke Stakes (2000m) at Te Rapa.

"She's flying at the moment and she won that pretty

easily," said Baker, who trains with Andrew Forsman. "She's been right in form ever since she came back from Australia, things just didn't work out for her there."

Lizzie L'Amour failed to fire in four spring appearances in Melbourne, but she's turned it around at home with a first-up win in the Gr.2 Cal Isuzu Stakes (1600m) before runner-up finishes in the Gr.1 Zabeel Classic (2000m) and the Gr.2 Westbury Classic (1400m).

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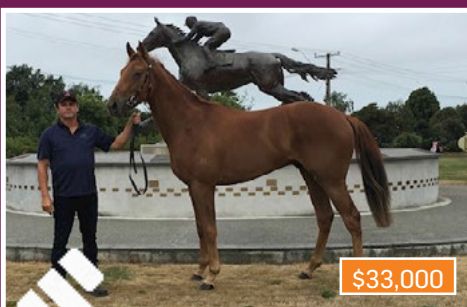


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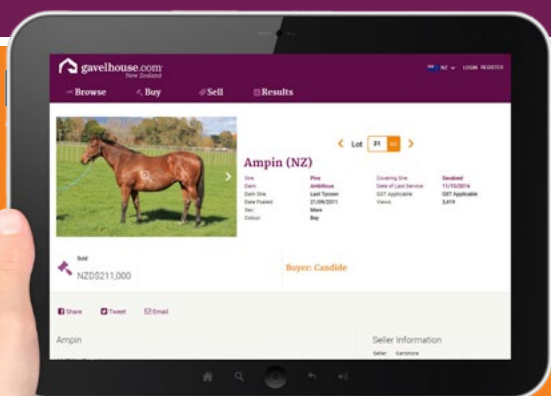
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HALL OF FAMER BAGS ANOTHER GROUP ONE

(Continued from page 1)

The Zabeel mare raced close to the pace at Te Rapa before rider Matt Cameron allowed her to amble closer three wide across the top. They took control 250m from home and drew clear effortlessly to beat Windflower (NZ) (Keeper) and the winner's stablemate Nicoletta (NZ) (Savabeel) took third.

"She has a nomination for the Auckland Cup, but I think she'll go to the Bonecrusher instead," Baker said.

"We'll put in a nomination for the Queen Elizabeth in Sydney and see how long she holds up – she's certainly in great touch at the moment."

Nicoletta made the running and she fought on gallantly in the run home.

"It was a terrific run from a stud point of view," Baker said. "She's a Group Three winner and Group One placed, she's probably done enough."

Lizzie L'Amour has now won seven of her 19 starts and she has been ridden in both of her Group One victories – her first was in the New Zealand Stakes (2000m) - by Cameron.

"She's a star and she's got better as she's got older," he said. "She's a pleasure to ride and when they win like that it's a bit special."

– NZ Racing Desk.

Race	Waikato RC Herbie Dyke S. Gr.1 2000m
Winner	Lizzie L'Amour (NZ) 2012
Owners	G J & Mrs L M Moore
Trainer	Murray Baker & Andrew Forsman (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Zabeel out of Sabia (FR) by Sadler's Wells (USA)
Breeder	L M Moore



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SPRINTER'S STAR QUALITIES SHINE THROUGH

Awet Te Rapa had the connections of **Start Wondering (NZ)** (Eighth Wonder) in a sombre pre-race mood, but New Zealand's reigning champion sprinter didn't let the rain dampen his parade.

The Wanganui seven-year-old overcame the Slow 9 going on

Race	Waikato RC Waikato Sprint Gr.1 1400m
Winner	Start Wondering (NZ) 2010
Owners	Mrs J M & S B Gudsell
Trainer	Evan & JJ Rayner (Wanganui)
Breeding	by Eighth Wonder out of Roseanbar by Al Akbar (AUS)
Breeder	I G Hadfield

Saturday to successfully defend his title in the Gr.1 BCD Group Sprint (1400m).

"Any Group One win is special, but we weren't expecting it today," said Evan Rayner, who trains the gelding with his daughter JJ at Wanganui.

"It rained all the way up here and he's struck some terrible tracks this time around, but he handled it better than I thought at Auckland so we decided to run."

Fourth in the Gr.1 Railway at Ellerslie when caught in the slowest part of the course, Start Wondering settled in behind the pace before striding to the front 200m from home for regular jockey Johnathan Parkes.

"It's amazing – when it rained we thought we didn't have a show," JJ Rayner said. "It was a great ride by Johnathan."

The gelding dug deep in the final stages to keep the challenge of Packing Eagle (NZ) (Pins) at bay with the longshot Brilliant Shine (NZ) (Guillotine) taking third money ahead of Ronchi (NZ) (Stravinsky).

Last season, Start Wondering finished runner-up in the Gr.1 Haunui Farm WFA Classic (1600m) after his Te Rapa success and he is again likely to head to the Otaki feature.

The disappointment of Saturday's race was the warm favourite Kawi (NZ) (Savabeel), who was gunning for the

eighth Group One victory of his career.

However, he was on the back foot early after he missed the start before he picked up ground 600m from home. The son of Savabeel was widest into the straight, but he was never a threat in the run home and finished sixth.

– NZ Racing Desk.



Start Wondering goes back-to-back in the Gr.1 BCD Sprint





ACTIVE FILLY **CLOSER TO CROWN**

Busy is best for New Zealand Bloodstock Filly of the Year front-runner **Dijon Bleu (NZ)** (Burgundy).

The Awapuni three-year-old won the first leg of the series, the Gr.3 Gold Trail Stakes (1200m) and subsequently placed in the Gr.1 New Zealand 1000 Guineas (1600m) and the Gr.3 Eulogy Stakes (1550m).

She then posted a dominant victory in the Gr.3 Desert Gold Stakes (1600m) and at Te Rapa on Saturday she produced a commanding display to waltz away with the Gr.2 Cambridge Stud Sir Tristram Fillies' Classic (2000m).

Dijon Bleu now has 30 points in the Filly of the Year series with her closest rival Contessa Vanessa (NZ) (Bullbars) on 13.5.

Trainer Lisa Latta has yet to fully commit Dijon Bleu to next month's Gr.1 Al Basti Equiworld Dubai New Zealand Oaks (2400m), but it's becoming hard to argue against.

"We'll head to the Lowland Stakes first and take it from there, she's been up a long time," she said.

Dijon Bleu was making her first start beyond a mile at Te Rapa and she took it all in her stride for rider Jonathan

Riddell, who replaced a suspended Leith Innes.

They settled back of midfield and when gaps opened in the straight the filly sprinted to the front 300m from home and forged clear for a hollow victory.

"I said to Jonathan to put her to sleep somewhere so she could relax," Latta said. "There's a lot of fillies in there bred to stay and she's not, but she has got a blistering turn of foot."

Dijon Bleu extends her lead in the New Zealand Bloodstock Filly of the Year Series after winning the Gr.2 Sir Tristram Fillies Classic

Dijon Bleu had three-quarters of a length on Mark Two (NZ) (Pins), who came from last, at the post with Milseain (NZ) (Tavistock) third ahead of Rondinella (NZ) (Ocean Park).

"I did all the two-year-old work on her and it's a credit to Lisa to have kept her up for a while," Riddell said. "She's just a class horse."

– NZ Racing Desk.

Race	Waikato RC Sir Tristram Fillies Classic Gr.2 2000m
Winner	Dijon Bleu (NZ) 2014
Owners	KT J Dixon, P Finlayson, Miss L M Latta, Ms D A Masters, M G Passey, A J Rennie & T D Tomlins
Trainer	Lisa Latta (Awapuni)
Breeding	by Burgundy out of Pristino (AUS) by More Than Ready (USA)
Breeder	Robinson Family Trust
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale – Select Session ; V: Landsdowne Park Ltd, P: Lisa Latta Racing Stables; \$26,000



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CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE SMASHES HIS RIVALS IN 2018 TASMANIAN DERBY



Civil Disobedience trounces his rivals in the Listed Tasmanian Derby

The New Zealand Derby could be on the radar for **Civil Disobedience (NZ)** (Raise The Flag) after the talented stayer justified his short quote with a dominant win in the Listed Tasmanian Derby.

The celebrations started at the 250m for the band of owners who made the trip to Hobart to watch the Darren Weir-trained colt, with Civil Disobedience quickly put the race to bed at the top of the straight.

Civil Disobedience opened at \$2.20 and the money continued for the favourite until the jump, starting at \$1.40.

Jockey John Allen tracked the leader until the turn for home before taking a split at the top of the straight

and sprinting away to score by 2.75 lengths from stablemate Wolfendale.

Pennstock (Hinchinbrook) was the first of the locals across the line in third.

Allen said he just needed a touch of luck at the top of the straight after enjoying a great run.

"I just needed a little bit of luck on the corner and once the gap presented he sprinted really well and he won with a bit of ease," Allen said.

"I'm not sure of the plans, maybe even the New Zealand Derby in three weeks, but I'll let Darren (Weir) and the team decide that."

"He's been very progressive, he had the form on the board."

Race	TRC Tasmanian Derby. L 2200m
Winner	Civil Disobedience (NZ) 2014
Owners	Seewhosalutes, Mr M J Walsh, Mr G D Walsh, Good Luck Good Luck, Mr M A Atchison, May Madness, Mrs C M Mcpherson, Wanderers Return, Mr N B Marks, Mr J R Shannon, 21St Century Trade Group (No 5) Pty Ltd, Mrs A Duncan
Trainer	Darren Weir (Warrnambool)
Breeding	by Raise the Flag (GB) out of Pernote by Personal Escort (USA)
Breeder	B J & Mrs L E Anderton
Sales	2016 South Island Yearling & Mixed Sale; V: White Robe Lodge, P: J Foote/D Weir; \$32,500





CUP PROSPECT LOVES TO HAVE HIS OWN WAY IN FRONT

Shaun and Emma Clotworthy are confident that **Diesel's (NZ)** (Electronic Zone) free-running style can be put to good use over more ground.

The Byerley Park trainers have a Group One dream for the stayer, who

Race	Waikato RC Bupa New Zealand H. 2400m.
Winner	Diesel (NZ) 2010
Owners	Markwood Lodge Ltd
Trainer	Shaun & Emma Clotworthy (Byerley Park)
Breeding	by Electronic Zone (USA) out of Blazing Vital by Yamanin Vital
Breeder	Markwood Lodge Ltd

took another winning step toward his autumn target with a commanding victory in the Bupa New Zealand Handicap (2400m) at Te Rapa on Saturday.

Diesel is now an \$18 chance in next month's Barfoot & Thompson Auckland Cup (3200m).

"We're planning toward that and he'll definitely run the distance," Emma Clotworthy said. "He'll most probably have one more run before the Cup."

Versatility is another quality boasted by Diesel, who is a multiple winner on top of the ground and he had no trouble coping with the Slow 7 going at Te Rapa, where he was never

headed.

"He likes to be out in front and dictating the race," Clotworthy said.

The Electronic Zone seven-year-old travelled comfortably under rider Alysha Collett and they had their rivals in trouble some distance from home.

"In his last couple of wins he's been in front and he's got a high cruising speed," she said.

"He doesn't sprint, but from the 1000m he holds a strong gallop."

They were clear on the turn and strolled home by four lengths from the favourite Blue Lagoon, who was in receipt of four kilos from the winner.

Diesel won the Dunstan Feeds Stayers' Championship Final (2400m) at Ellerslie on New Year's Day in similar fashion before he was unplaced in the Gr.3 City of Auckland Cup (2400m) when he was between runners.

"He doesn't like other horses around him and likes to be out in the open," Collett said.

– NZ Racing Desk.



Auckland Cup hopeful, Diesel races away to a confident win





FILLY'S EXPRESS PACE OPENS SIRE'S ACCOUNT

Explosive pace earned Shamexpress Group One sprinting honours and shades of that were on show at Riccarton on Saturday when the Windsor Park Stud resident sired his first winner.

The well-credentialled stallion's daughter **Xpressmymind (NZ)** (Shamexpress) flew the outside gate in the New Zealand Bloodstock Insurance Pearl Series Race (900m) to cross the field and lead under rider Courtney Barnes.

She travelled comfortably and sprinted clear in the run home to turn the tables on Miroslava (NZ) (Swiss Ace), who had beaten her on debut last month when Xpressmymind had sat wide without cover.

"She's a really nice filly who hasn't done anything wrong," part-owner and trainer Andrew Carston said.

"It's been a good team effort and they're only two once so as long as she comes through this race well we'll go again."

Windsor Park studmaster Rodney Schick was understandably delighted and far from surprised by the result.

"It's great for Andrew and he had told me that she was a really smart filly," he said.

"It's really exciting and great to get that first winner under his belt. He's had very good books of mares and his yearlings have sold well."

Shamexpress was the Group One winner of the Newmarket Handicap (1200m) before his retirement to the Cambridge nursery.



Xpressmymind shows shades of sire, Shamexpress' explosive speed

He is a New Zealand-bred son of O'Reilly, who on Friday evening was inducted into the New Zealand Racing Hall Of Fame, and the Volksraad mare Volksrose. – NZ Racing Desk.

Race	CJC NZB Insurance Pearl Series 2YO H. 900m
Winner	Xpressmymind (NZ) 2015
Owners	A Carston & J Banks
Trainer	Andrew Carston (Riccarton Park)
Breeding	by Shamexpress out of My Amnesia (AUS) by Elvstroem (AUS)
Breeder	P J & Mrs S J Westend
Sales	2017 National Yearling Sale – Select Session; V: Westend Partnership, P: A J Carston; \$14,000

