

Sunday 10 March 2019

MELODY BELLE ADDS FURTHER GLORY TO STUNNING SEASON



Melody Belle (inner) and Danzdanzdance fight out the finish of the Gr.1 Bonecrusher New Zealand Stakes (Trish Dunell)

Outstanding race-mare **Melody Belle (NZ)** (Commands) capped a wonderful season when she beat a quality field in Saturday's Gr.1 Bonecrusher New Zealand Stakes (2000m) at Ellerslie.

The victory made it Group One victory number five in a season that has seen the Commands four-year-old

win six of her eight starts and over \$700,000 in prizemoney.

The victory also allowed regular rider Opie Bosson to establish a new record of 63 Group One wins by a kiwi rider, after he equalled former record-holder Lance O'Sullivan with victory on Yourdeel (NZ) (Dundeel) in the Sistema Stakes (1200m) one race earlier.

Arguably this victory is the best of an action-packed season for the Jamie Richards-trained mare as she defeated a field that included seven other Group One winners.

The Fortuna Melody Belle Syndicate-owned runner had to do it the hard way as she looped the field

Continued on page 3





HAUNUI FARM

Thoroughbred

IMELDA MARY

G2 winner
Sold Karaka 2017 - \$3,500

JON SNOW

ATC Derby winner
Sold Karaka 2015 - \$65,000

BE BEE

Multiple Stakes winner
Sold Karaka 2016 \$220,000

MELODY BELLE

Multiple G1 winner
Sold Karaka 2016 - \$57,500

CELEBRITY DREAM

Multiple Stakes winner
Sold Karaka 2014 - \$260,000



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(Continued from page 1)

with second favourite Danzandance (Mastercraftsman) before they set down to a two-horse war for the length of the Ellerslie home-straight.

Finding something extra in the last 50m, Melody Belle stuck her neck in front to defeat a game Danzandance with Rondinella (NZ) (Ocean Park) finishing a promising third at her first attempt in elite company.

Richards bore a smile a mile-wide as he accepted congratulations in the Ellerslie birdcage, before hinting at some big plans for his charge next year.

"I said to the boys during the week that it was going to be good to see two top mares go toe-to-toe and thankfully we have come out on top.

"She goes to the paddock now, hopefully as the horse of the year.

"She will have a nice break and will be back in on the 1st of May. We will try to take the same route as we did last spring but hopefully, we might go to Melbourne for a bit of a look around as well.

"It (the Cox Plate) has got to be the target as hopefully the mare of the world (Winx) might be retired by then which would make things easier."

Melody Belle was purchased for \$57,500 out of the 2016 National Yearling Sale by Te Akau Racing boss David Ellis on behalf of syndicator, John Galvin under his Fortuna

Bloodstock banner.

Runner-up Danzandance pleased co-trainer Chris Gibbs who confirmed the Australian plans for his charge were still on.

"We're very proud of her as it was a huge run." He said.

"Congratulations to Jamie Richards and Melody Belle as we had her headed at the 150m and she kicked back.

"We were humming and haahing whether we would even come here, and I'm pleased that we did.

"We will see how she comes

through this week but the plans to go to Australia are at the top of our list."

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Bonecrusher New Zealand Stakes, Gr.1 2000m
Winner	Melody Belle (NZ) 2014
Owners	Fortuna Melody Belle Syndicate
Trainer	Jamie Richards (Matamata)
Breeding	by Commands (AUS) out of Meleka Belle by Iffraaj (GB)
Breeder	Mrs N M Leicester
Sales	2016 New Zealand Bloodstock National Yearling Sales – Premier Sale; V: Haunui Farm, P: Mr D C Ellis; \$57,500

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hiyaam back in front

A brave front-running performance got **Hiyaam (NZ)** (High Chaparral) the win in Saturday's Listed Randwick City Stakes (2000m) in Sydney.

The run was reminiscent of the display that saw her win the Gr.1 Vinery Stud Stakes (2000m) last year.

The Mick Price-trained four-year-old mare was second-up this campaign coming off the back of an unplaced run in the Gr.2 Peter Young Stakes (1800m) in February.

Ridden by Tim Clark, Hiyaam went straight to the front as she left the barriers and had a healthy lead on her rivals heading into the straight.

Despite some strong challenges from runner up Shraaoh (Sea The Stars) and the third placegetter Emperor's Way (Roman Emperor) Hiyaam dug deep to grab victory on the line winning by 0.2L.

Raced by breeder Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Maktoum, Hiyaam was raised at Brighthill Farm and is out of the Zabeel mare Mazarine (NZ), who is from the legendary Eight Carat family.

–NZ Racing Desk

Race favourite Hiyaam scores in the Listed Randwick City Stakes. (Bradley Photographers)





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DAY OF GLORY FOR THURLOW AT ELLERSLIE

The residents of small rural township Waverley look set to rock and roll for the next few days as resident trainer Bill Thurlow and his gallant mare **Glory Days (NZ)** (Red Giant) did them proud when bolting home in the Gr.1 Barfoot & Thompson Auckland Cup (3200m) at Ellerslie on Saturday.

The Red Giant six-year-old had provided Thurlow and her owners with their biggest win when successful in the Gr.2 Avondale Cup (2400m) at her last start but surpassed that thrill with another commanding performance in the iconic Ellerslie two-miler.

Expertly handled by last season's leading jockey Sam Collett, Glory Days was true to her normal racing pattern as she settled last in the early stages before looping the field at the 600m mark.

Glory Days quickly bolted clear and never looked like

being caught as she relished the heavy underfoot conditions to win by two lengths from last year's runner-up, Five To Midnight (NZ) Domesday) with Blue Breeze (NZ) (Bullbars) just a nose back in third.

Collett was trying hard to hold back the tears as she celebrated the first Group One victory of her career.

"I've been trying to keep up with mum and dad so to get this is great as I know they quinellaed the race in 1991," she said.

"I was here as a kid then so that was pretty cool, not that I remember much.

"I'm just so rapt and especially for Bill as he deserved this. I'm rapt that he entrusted me with the ride as she is as tough as they come.

Continued on page 5



Glory Days and Sam Collett salute in the Gr.1 Barfoot & Thompson Auckland Cup (Trish Dunell)





Sunday 10 March 2019

DAY OF GLORY FOR THURLOW AT ELLERSLIE

(Continued from page 4)

“Full credit to her (Glory Days) as the whole race I was back, and I was mindful of putting myself there on the corner and she just put me there.”

Collet is the daughter of Jim Collett and Trudy Thornton who fought out the 1991 Cup on Star Harvest (NZ) (Harrisand) and Shugar (NZ) (Tom’s Shu) respectively.

Thurlow was struggling to come to terms with the win as he tried to explain what it meant to him to win the race.

“It’s just unbelievable as I don’t know what to say, but I think the horse has said it all really,” he said.

“I was so confident, even going down the back, as I could see she was travelling sweet.

“Everything went to plan as we’d planned to get her back and let her relax. When she circled them and got there, I knew it was going to take a very good horse to beat her as she doesn’t know when to stop.

“We nursed her along and planned to get here and we’ve done it.”

Thurlow will now give Glory Days a few days in the

paddock before deciding on where to next with a lightning trip to Australia to contest the Gr.1 Sydney Cup (3200m) a distinct possibility.

“We’ll just take her home and see but there’s a good chance (of a trip to Sydney),” he said.

Third-placed runner Blue Breeze could also be a surprise Sydney Cup candidate with co-owner Tony Gavigan indicating they were also considering the trans-Tasman trip with their charge.

With the victory Glory Days took her career record to ten wins from 24 starts and over \$635,000 in stakes-earnings.

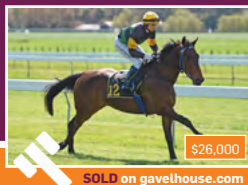
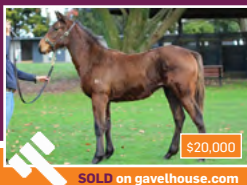
– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Barfoot & Thompson Auckland Cup, Gr.1 3200m
Winner	Glory Days (NZ) 2012
Owners	G D & Mrs P A Thurlow & B J & Mrs S A McAree
Trainer	Bill Thurlow (Waverley)
Breeding	by Red Giant (USA) out of Bilancia by Montjeu (IRE)
Breeder	J D Georgetti & Ms G E Kenny



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Sunday 10 March 2019

BOSSON EQUALS O'SULLIVAN WITH ELLERSLIE FEATURE VICTORY



Yourdeel (inner) beats Aalaalune and the partially obscured Aretha (middle) to win the Gr.1 Sistema Stakes (Trish Dunell)

Rider Opie Bosson made it Group One-win number sixty-two when he guided hot favourite **Yourdeel (NZ)** (Dundeel) to victory in the Gr.1 Sistema Stakes (1200m) at Ellerslie on Saturday.

Bosson sat one behind Hall Of Fame jockey Lance O'Sullivan prior to racing on Saturday and levelled up to his former great rival at the first opportunity of the day.

Yourdeel was backing up from a comprehensive victory in the Gr.3 Waikato Stud Slipper (1200m) on a Slow7 surface at Matamata last month. With that proven ability on a wet track,

punters were keen to unload on the Dundeel two-year-old and sent him out at cramped odds (\$1.70) in the juvenile feature that was run on a Heavy10 surface following persistent mid-morning rain in Auckland.

Allowed to stride forward early in the piece off his wide barrier, Yourdeel travelled boldly on the outer for Bosson before joining issue as the field swung wide into the home straight. Cuddled up by Bosson, Yourdeel hit the front with 200m to run before holding out the late challenges of Aalaalune (NZ) (Reliable Man) and Aretha (NZ) (Charm Spirit) to score by a head at the line.

Bosson admitted he had his concerns as his mount wanted to fire-up during the early running.

"He over-raced a bit early and I thought surely he can't keep going," he said.

"When I got stuck in, he fought so hard, he's a top-quality horse.

"With the rain we got I started to favour that draw and although we were wide the whole way, we were in the better part of the track.

"It's great (to equal O'Sullivan) as Lance was a champion jockey and a champion bloke as well. So, it's quite

Continued on page 8





Sunday 10 March 2019

BOSSON EQUALS O'SULLIVAN WITH ELLERSLIE FEATURE VICTORY

(Continued from page 7)

humbling to be up with someone like him."

Trained by Jamie Richards at Matamata, Yourdeel was originally bought as a pin-hooking opportunity by Little Avondale Stud out of Dan Myers' draft at the 2017 National Weanling Sale. Presented at the 2018 National Yearling Sale at Karaka by Little Avondale, he was knocked down to the \$100,000 bid of Chris Rutten who shares in his ownership with John Norwood and Rod Preston.

Richards, who also trained 2018 race winner Sword Of Osman (NZ) (Savabeel) in partnership with Stephen

Autridge, was quick to point out that the gelding of the horse prior to the Waikato Stud Slipper had played a significant role in his latest success.

"A very sharp knife is the key to this horse," he said.

"In the pre-parade ring he was on the toe a little bit so you can imagine what he was like as a colt.

"A big thank you to the owners and the team at home as they have done a great job.

"He's a very good horse and he will now go to the Sires' in a couple of weeks as long as everything is honky dory at home.

"He will go down there and be a big chance as if he can ride him with a bit of cover, I think you will really see him explode."

The Gr.1 Courtesy Ford Manawatu Sires Produce Stakes (1400m) is the feature event at Awapuni on March 30.

Just thirty minutes after success in the Sistema Stakes, Bosson claimed the Group One victory record as his own with a win on Melody Belle (NZ) (Commands) in the Gr.1 Bonecrusher New Zealand Stakes (2000m).

- NZ Racing Desk

NEWS IN BRIEF

Spanish Whisper wins G2 Kewney Stakes

Champion trainer David Hayes is confident the best is still ahead of former New Zealand filly **Spanish Whisper (NZ)** (Lope de Vega) after the three-year-old raced to her first Australian stakes win in the Gr.2 Kewney Stakes (1400m) at Flemington.

Spanish Whisper won two of her first four starts in New Zealand for Peter and Dawn Williams, including a Group Two race victory as a two-year-old, before joining Hayes' Lindsay Park stable in Victoria after a stable client acquired a controlling interest in the filly.

After clinching the Australian Group Two win, co-trainer David Hayes said Spanish Whisper is likely to head to Sydney autumn carnival targets including the Gr.1 Coolmore Legacy Stakes (1600m) for fillies and mares at Randwick next month.

"I think she's got it all ahead of her because she's just learning how to do things right," Hayes said.

"She's been a bit aggressive and it's taken a while for her to settle in.

"It was a good effort today. She dug in deep and beat what I think is a very good filly." -AAP

Race	Sistema Stakes, Gr.1 1200m
Winner	Yourdeel (NZ) 2016
Owners	C A Rutten, C J B Norwood & R N Preston
Trainer	Jamie Richards (Matamata)
Breeding	by Dundee out of Miss Zapper (AUS) by Red Ransom (USA)
Breeder	D J Myers
Sales	2017 National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Bloodstock Sale; V: D J Myers, P: Little Avondale Stud; \$30,000 - 2018 National Yearling Sales Book 1; V: Little Avondale, P: Chris Rutten Bloodstock; \$100,000



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