

Sunday 18 March 2018

SAVVY FILLY ON TARGET FOR TRANS-TASMAN GROUP ONE DOUBLE



Savvy Coup cruises to victory in the New Zealand Oaks in the hands of Chris Johnson

Outstanding filly **Savvy Coup (NZ)** (Savabeel) has the right credentials to continue New Zealand's run of success in next month's A\$1 million Australian Oaks (2400m).

The daughter of Savabeel bagged the first leg of a prized double on Saturday with a sublime performance to claim victory in the Gr.1 Al Basti Equiworld Dubai New Zealand Oaks

(2400m) at Trentham and will step out next in the Randwick feature on April 14.

"The way she won today we have to go, she's a very fit horse and the last two winners have done the same thing so we'll take that path as well," said Matthew Pitman, who trains Savvy Coup with his father Michael.

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Haunui Farm Stallions in Demand at Karaka 2018



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SAVVY FILLY ON TARGET FOR TRANS-TASMAN GROUP ONE DOUBLE

(Continued from page 1)

Stephen Marsh's Sofia Rosa (NZ) (Makfi) was relegated to second behind Fanatic (NZ) (Shocking) in the 2016 New Zealand Oaks before winning the Sydney classic and the Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman-prepared Bonneval (NZ) (Makfi) won both Group Ones last season.

Savvy Coup's win completed a red letter day at Trentham for the stable, who had earlier enjoyed success in the Gr.3 Wentwood Grange Cuddle Stakes (1600m) with Montoya Star (High Chaparral).

"This is massive for us and all our team work incredibly hard," Pitman said. "We've had an incredible year."

Savvy Coup provided rider Chris Johnson, who opted to ride the three-year-old over runner-up Contessa Vanessa (NZ) (Bullbars), with his fifth Oaks winner.

"I've been lucky enough to ride the two best fillies and I got on the right one," the 53-year-old said. "She's tough and very talented. Group Ones are hard to win, especially at my age."

Savvy Coup settled midfield on the outer before Johnson made his move 800m from home.

"I couldn't really hang on to her much longer, I would have preferred to wait but the pace steadied and I didn't want to get too far off them when they quickened," Johnson said.

Savvy Coup drew alongside Contessa Vanessa 400m out before easing clear to win by a length and a-quarter with Milseain (NZ) (Tavistock) a similar distance back in third.

Caricature (NZ) (Power) was on the pace all the way and stuck on grimly for fourth ahead of the maiden Mark Two (NZ) (Pins), who made solid ground from midfield.

Savvy Coup was bred by the Chittick family's Waikato Stud and provided resident stallion Savabeel with his 17th individual Group One winner. New Zealand Bloodstock's Insurance Advisor Jim Bruford purchased the filly for \$65,000 from the 2016 NZB Premier Yearling Sale.

– NZ Racing Desk.

Race	Al Basti Equiworld Dubai New Zealand Oaks Gr.1 2400m.
Winner	Savvy Coup (NZ) 2014
Owners	Mrs A M, A R, C J, F H & J F Bruford, Mrs J D, L R & R A Coupland
Trainer	Michael & Matthew Pitman
Breeding	by Savabeel (AUS) out of Eudora by Pins (AUS)
Breeder	Waikato Stud Ltd; Waikato;
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale - Premier Session V: Waikato Stud Ltd \$65000 P: NZB as agent



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HUMIDOR TAKES OUT GROUP TWO BLAMEY STAKES



Humidor resumes with a strong win in the Blamey Stakes

Leading trainer Darren Weir had mixed feelings after **Humidor (NZ)** (Teofilo) won the Blamey Stakes at Flemington.

While delighted with victory at Group Two level, he was perplexed with the flop of \$2.40 favourite Tosen Stardom (Deep Impact) in the 1600m race.

"It's great for the connections of the winner but not so good for the connections of the other horse because he ran well below par," Weir said.

Ridden by Mark Zahra, Humidor (\$3) defeated Cool Chap (High Chaparral) by a half-length with Hellova Street (Helike), backed from \$6.50 to \$4.40, three-quarters-of-a-length away third.

Tosen Stardom ran last of the five runners, 5-1/2 lengths behind the second last horse Odeon.

Humidor's defeat of the Lindsay Park-trained Cool Chap was welcome relief for Weir after finishing runner-up to that stable in the Australian Cup, Newmarket Handicap and Adelaide Cup last weekend.

Weir said Humidor would now head to the Gr.1 The Doncaster (1600m) at Randwick on April 7 and back up in the Gr.1 Queen Elizabeth Stakes (2000m) a week later.

"Humidor's had a great prep towards that and ideally I didn't want to see him lay in late as he can be tricky like that," Weir said.

"It looks like he's on track but I'm not sure about Tosen Stardom."

Zahra said the slow early pace wasn't ideal for Humidor, but he was happy to be following the stablemate.

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HUMIDOR TAKES OUT GROUP TWO BLAMEY STAKES

(Continued from page 4)

He expected Tosen Stardom to take him further into the race and then peel out late.

"I could see Brad (Rawiller) feeling for him before the bend," Zahra said.

"So I had to get going earlier than I wanted.

"He was out on his feet late and wanted to crash into them.

"I didn't ride him out as I was pulling him off the other horses and he was too good in the end."

Humidor was bred in New Zealand by John and Mark Carter and their sister Rachael under their Jomara Bloodstock banner.

The trio originally raced Humidor in New Zealand with Johno Benner and Hollie Wynyard, where he was a Group Three winner and Group One placed, before selling a fifty percent interest in the horse and transferring him to Darren Weir.

A multiple Group One winner in Australia, Humidor is widely regarded as the second-best horse across the Tasman behind Winx (Street Cry).

Race	VRC Blamey S. Gr.2 1600m.
Winner	Humidor (NZ) 2012
Owners	Forest Lodge Racing Pty Ltd, Jomara Bloodstock Ltd, Dr P C Goel, Mrs P Adams, Mr B L Shannon, Royjohn Racing, Mr T A Ginnane, Walker Racing & Bloodstock, Mr D J O'connor, Mr B Sokolski, Steeple Chasers Flat, Mr M Krauser, Mr H M Bastone
Trainer	Darren Weir
Breeding	by Teofilo (IRE) out of Zalika by Zabeel
Breeder	Jomara Bloodstock Ltd; Auckland;

NEWS IN BRIEF

Multifacets back in winners' circle

Honest galloper **Multifacets (NZ)** (O'Reilly) has snapped a 14-race losing streak with a dogged win in the Catanach's Handicap (1900m) at Rosehill.

The Chris Waller-trained five-year-old timed his run to perfection as the leaders faded over the latter stages of the 1900m trip.

Waller admitted Multifacets had been well-placed to claim the fifth win of his career by carrying 55.5kg compared to stablemate and topweight Quick Defence, who finished sixth.

"He was near the speed and didn't lie down in the last hundred," Waller said.

High Sierra flying

High Sierra (NZ) (Redwood) has been in a rich vein of form this preparation, with two wins and a placing from four starts, and she kept the momentum rolling when comfortably winning the Ladbrokes Friday Night Lights Handicap (2040m) at Moonee Valley.

"She's been an absolute revelation this preparation," trainer Luke Oliver said.

"We gave her one run last time in and she ran last and we sent her the paddock hoping she would improve given she was bred to get over ground and needed time.

"She shocked us with her first-up run and her next two were brilliant. Then today she's gone to another level."

Raced by Grand Syndicates, High Sierra is a \$25,000 graduate of the NZB Festival Sale.

Dijon Bleu wins NZB Filly of the Year

The Lisa Latta-trained **Dijon Bleu (NZ)** (Burgundy) missed the Gr.1 Al Basti Equiworld New Zealand Oaks due to injury, but she had already well and truly made her mark on the New Zealand Bloodstock Filly of the Year Series.

She earned a formidable total of 30 points with wins in the Gr.3 Gold Trail Stakes (1200m), Gr.3 Desert Gold Stakes (1600m) and Gr.2 Sir Tristram Fillies' Classic (2000m), along with placings in the Gr.1 New Zealand 1000 Guineas (1600m) and Gr.3 Eulogy Stakes (1550m).

The winner of the "New Zealand Bloodstock Filly of the Year" title earns her connections \$50,000 in bonus cheques including \$10,000 for her breeder, \$10,000 for her trainer and \$30,000 for her owner.





SCOTT BASE OVERCOMES ADVERSITY FOR GUINEAS TRIUMPH

Outstanding three-year-old **Scott Base (NZ)** (Dalghar) overcame a chequered home straight run to snatch victory by a camera pixel in the Gr.2 Phill Cataldo Bloodstock Wellington Guineas (1400m).

The Dalghar gelding made his racetrack return following a slight setback that derailed his Gr.1 New Zealand Derby (2400m) aspirations earlier in the month.

Punters responded by installing him as a dominant favourite and were on good terms with themselves in the early stages of the contest as he received an economical trip in mid-field throughout.

In tight conditions over the concluding stages, rider Vinnie Colgan gathered his mount and under a vigorous hands and heels ride, Scott

Base drove hard to get in the winning bob to deny Paulownia (Fastnet Rock) on the line.

So close was the finish, veteran commentator Tony Lee originally plumped for the regally-bred Paulownia as the winner, before the photo-finish camera revealed the full sister to Group One winner Foxwedge had finished second to the ultra-game Scott Base.

"I was standing on the running rail and I broke 10 seconds for the 100m dash to get in and see the result as I was keen on an inquiry if he was beaten," co-trainer Johno Benner said.

"Somehow he has got his beak down and he's won it."

Despite expressing relief at gaining the judges verdict, Benner had been confident the gelding's true qualities would show through after he

made the decision to target the race following his Derby defection.

"It's been an uncanny little plan to come here. It just felt right so I slept on it for a few days and thought about Australia and this and that.

"We thought just freshen him up as he is lethal at the 1400m and he has proved that today.

"He took that little 50m to wind up, but for him to bullock his way through and get that run, he's a bit special."

Benner wouldn't be drawn on any immediate plans for the horse, who has now won four of his 12 starts including the rich Karaka Million 3YO Classic (1600m), however he did indicate the longer-term aim could include a tilt at the Gr.1 WS Cox Plate (2040m) next season.

– NZ Racing Desk.



Race	Phill Cataldo Wellington Guineas Gr.2 1400m.
Winner	Scott Base (NZ) 2014
Owners	C A Rutten, C J B Norwood, Joanna & John Frew
Trainer	Johno Benner & Hollie Wynyard
Breeding	by Dalghar (FR) out of Extra Celestial (AUS) by Danehill Dancer (IRE)
Breeder	Botsky Pty Ltd; Waikato; NZ
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale - Select Session V: Brighthill Farm \$70000 P: Chris Rutten B/stock

Scott Base overcame a rough passage in the home straight to win the Wellington Guineas





UNFORGOTTEN BOUNCES BACK FROM HEART ISSUE

Unforgotten (Fastnet Rock) has risen to prominence again after shrugging off cardiac arrhythmia to snatch a narrow victory in the Gr.2 Phar Lap Stakes (1500m) at Rosehill.

The Chris Waller-trained three-year-old filly is back on track for a tilt at the Gr.1 ATC Australian Oaks (2400m) after she was only confirmed to run in the Phar Lap Stakes on race day.

Unforgotten had to pass a barrier test on Thursday after cardiac arrhythmia was detected once she finished last in the Group One Surround Stakes (1400m) at Randwick on March 3.

She had a soft trial, trailing the winner by four lengths, but had plenty on reserve when it mattered most over 1500m.

Unforgotten (\$9.50) stormed home late under Jason Collett to pip Holy Snow (Fastnet Rock) by a short head.

Hiyaam (NZ) (High Chaparral) was 2-3/4 lengths back in third.

Waller applauded Racing NSW stewards for allowing Unforgotten to trial after acceptances.

“Making her trial is good from the punters perspective. Obviously there’s a lot of questions that don’t get answered in racing,” he said.

“There will be a bit of criticism, I’m sure, but we’re doing the right thing by the horse and as a result she’s won a good race.

“We rode her quiet and let her finish off, that’s how she won her races in the summer, where she was starting to build that reputation.”



Unforgotten came with a well-timed run under Jason Collett

Waller felt cardiac arrhythmia was a stress-related issue. A daughter of Fastnet Rock and the Galileo mare Memories of You, Unforgotten was bought by Chris Waller Racing through bloodstock agent Guy Mulcaster at the 2016 New Zealand Bloodstock Premier Yearling Sale where she was sold through the draft of Curraghmore.

Race	Phar Lap Stakes Gr.2 1500m.
Winner	Unforgotten 2014
Owners	Mr C J Waller, Magic Bloodstock Racing, Mr F W Cook, Mrs C M Cook, Mr N A Greenhalgh, Mrs M T Greenhalgh, Mr R Shrimpton, Mrs C Shrimpton, Mr I Bruce, Mr R Smith, Mr P Y W Ng, Mr K H Warriner, Mr J T C Lake, Mr B L Mathieson
Trainer	Chris Waller
Breeding	by Fastnet Rock (AUS) out of Memories of You (IRE) by Galileo (IRE)
Breeder	Roncon
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale – Premier Session V: Curraghmore \$360,000 P: Chris Waller Racing





Sunday 18 March 2018

MARE EARNS GROUP ONE OPPORTUNITY

Montoya Star's (High Chaparral) latest success will prolong her northern campaign.

Trainers Michael and Matthew Pitman have changed tack with the daughter of High Chaparral, who added Saturday's Gr.3 Wentwood Grange Cuddle Stakes (1600m) to her burgeoning record.

"We were going to run her at Riccarton next week, but I guess we'll be going to Te Aroha now," Michael Pitman said, referring to the Gr.1 Fiber Fresh New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders' Stakes (1600m).

Race	Wentwood Grange Cuddle Stakes Gr.3 1600m.
Winner	Montoya Star 2012
Owners	G E Pilkington, C M Smith, I Kelly, K R Bimler, J S Mee, L V Vibert, T & E McGillivray, T Lawlor, G Allison & K Bickley
Trainer	Michael & Matthew Pitman
Breeding	by High Chaparral (IRE) out of Stars In Flight (NZ) by Cape Cross (IRE)
Breeder	Orpendale, China Horse Club (Hk) Investment Holdings Ltd

An open handicap winner at Hawke's Bay prior to Trentham, Montoya Star settled off the pace but once jockey Michael McNab got the five-year-old into the clear they powered home.

"Every time she's been ridden right – and I'm not criticising anyone – she's won. She has to be smothered up," Pitman said.

Out of the Group One performer Stars In Flight, Montoya Star was an A\$20,000 yearling purchase and the nine-time winner's earnings now stand at \$182,972.

"I'm just so rapt with her, she'd been working really well," Pitman said. "We didn't have to pay very much for her and she's a little treasure.

Montoya Star won by a long head from Symphonic (NZ) (O'Reilly) with Flamingo (NZ) (Pins) finishing strongly from the tail of the field for third.

The front-runner La Fille En Jeu (NZ) (Mettre En Jeu) kicked on gamely to take fourth money ahead of Sleek Secret (NZ) (Sakhee's Secret).



The race was marred 300m from home when Holly Andrew parted company with Bronsteel (NZ) (Handsome Ransom), the apprentice suffering a dislocated shoulder in the incident.

– NZ Racing Desk.

Montoya's Star was ridden to perfection by Michael McNab





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LUVALUVA LANDS **GROUP THREE**

Luvaluva (NZ) (Mastercraftsman) moved to outright favouritism for the Gr.1 Australian Oaks (2400m) after closing strongly to win the Gr.3 Kembla Grange Classic (1600m) on Friday.

The John Sargent-trained filly won the Gr.2 Wakeful Stakes (2000m) at Flemington during the spring before running fourth in the Gr.1 VRC Oaks (2500m).

She confirmed she was on track for her Group One autumn targets with her win on Friday.

Having the second start of her campaign after finishing sixth in the Gr.2 Hobartville Stakes (1400m), Luvaluva (\$5) warmed to the task over the final 200m under Kerrin McEvoy to edge past Torvill (Not A Single Doubt) in the closing stages to win by a long head.

Wedgie (Foxwedge) held on for third another half-length away in the 1600m race for three-year-old fillies.

Luvulava firmed to \$6 for next month's Group One Australian Oaks (2400m) at Randwick having been equal favourite at \$8 with New Zealand filly Danzdanzdance (NZ) (Mastercraftsman) before the Kembla win.

Savvy Coup (NZ) (Savabeel) is now an \$8 chance following her New Zealand Oaks win.

"That was above expectations, probably, over a mile," Sargent told Sky Thoroughbred Central.

"But when they're good, they're



Luvaluva pricks her ears when winning the Gr.3 Kembla Grange Classic (1600m)

good and she hit the line great."

McEvoy admitted to some concerns early in the straight until the filly's staying capabilities came to the fore.

"Torvill just got away from me in the early part of the straight and had me worried but she obviously stays past a mile, which is what she has shown previously, and that come into good effect today," McEvoy said.

"She's a nice filly in good order going towards the Vinery and then the Oaks."

The Gr.1 Vinery Stud Stakes (2000m) for fillies is at Rosehill on March 31, two weeks before the Oaks.

Bred by Christopher Grace, Luvaluva was bought by Sargent for \$55,000 from the 2016 NZB Ready to Run Sale.

Race	Illawarra TC Kembla Grange Classic Gr.3 1600m.
Winner	Luvaluva (NZ) 2014
Owners	Seymour Bloodstock, Mr M L Connaghan, Mr B J Creith, Mr M B Trevaskis, Mr S C O'Brien, Mr A Gennusa, Mr S W Kennelly
Trainer	John Sargent
Breeding	by Mastercraftsman (IRE) out of Wansesingyee (AUS) by Galileo (IRE)
Breeder	C R Grace; Central





FUTURE LOOKING GOOD FOR DAYTONA RED

Daytona Red (NZ) (Sebring) produced a career-best performance at Trentham on Saturday and trainer Shaune Ritchie believes there's plenty more to come from the four-year-old.

The Sebring gelding was a dominant winner of the Listed Yealands Family Wines New Zealand St Leger (2500m) and

Race	Yealands Family Wines New Zealand St Leger L 2500m.
Winner	Daytona Red (NZ) 2013
Owners	Mrs L A Cowley, R J de Lautour, G W Halse, J F & Mrs P Hirst, J McKittrick, C J, P J & Mrs S R Mitchell
Trainer	Shaune Ritchie
Breeding	by Sebring (AUS) out of Move on Up (AUS) by Iglesia (AUS)
Breeder	G Harvey; Auckland
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale - Premier Sale V: Westbury Stud \$75000 P: SF Ritchie

expectations are that he will be featuring in some of the country's premier distance events next season.

"He was certainly impressive today and there is a lot of improvement to come from him," Ritchie said.

"He's a tall horse who hasn't filled out his frame yet. He's still terrible out of the gates and then comes off the bit in his races.

"He can improve in all those areas with a bit more time."

Ritchie has yet to decide on Daytona Red's immediate future and will consult with co-owner Peter Mitchell, whose famous colours were carried by the mighty Bonecrusher.

"He's away in China so I'll be having a chat with him," he said.

"The initial plan though was to give him a break and then get him back during the winter to build up for some of the spring and summer cups. We'll wait and see how he is when

he gets home."

Ridden by Matt Cameron, Daytona Red settled at the tail of the field before they began to pick up ground 600m from home.

They swung wide into the straight and held a strong gallop to the post to score by two and three-quarter lengths.

The commanding favourite Felaar (NZ) (Ekraar) finished second after tracking Daytona Red into the race and Bizzwinkle (NZ) (Rip Van Winkle) boxed on gallantly for third after racing in the trail.

– NZ Racing Desk.

Sporting the colours of Bonecrusher, Daytona Red wins the New Zealand St Leger





FERRANDO CONFIRMED FOR ADELAIDE

Short course specialist **Ferrando (NZ)** (Fast 'n' Famous) has added to his travelling fund ahead of a South Australian venture.

The slick son of Fast 'n' Famous won for the seventh time in his 17-start career with a front-running victory at Trentham on Saturday in the Listed Te Akau Racing Lightning Handicap (1200m).

"He'll go to Adelaide now and run in a weight-for-age race over 1100m and then into the A\$1 million Goodwood," said Graeme Rogerson, who trains the four-year-old with his wife Debbie and grand-daughter Bailey.

"I'd also love to take him to the Everest, that's worth \$A13 million this year."

Ferrando was quickly into stride under Matt Cameron and after easing

clear into the straight he clung on to his advantage tenaciously.

"The track was just a little bit shifty and Matt said he would try to come off the fence a bit," Rogerson said. "He's certainly up there with the very best sprinters on dry tracks."

Ferrando has been ridden in recent starts by Cameron, who was aboard on their last trip to Wellington when third in the Gr.1 Telegraph (1200m).

"He's a talented horse who goes forward and takes bad luck out of the way," he said.

"I knew there would be a lot of speed in the race today, but I didn't expect them to be three and four wide outside of me.

"He took a while to get on his outside leg, but when he got balanced he dug deep."

Heroic Valour (Fastnet Rock)

dropped back to last from his outside gate and he finished on strongly for second ahead of Son Of Maher (Al Maher), Akoya (NZ) (Bullbars) and the winner's stablemate Volks Lightning (NZ) (Volksraad). – NZ Racing Desk.

Race	Te Akau Racing Lightning H. L 1200m.
Winner	Ferrando (NZ) 2013
Owners	Fatesal Holdings Ltd, D E & Mrs E M Olsen, R R Ratcliffe, Redbank Pty Ltd (Mgr: P Favretto), G A Rogerson MNZM, G N Wealleans & G R Wilson
Trainer	Team Rogerson
Breeding	by Fast 'n' Famous (AUS) out of Rio Nugget by Captain Rio (GB)
Breeder	Mrs E A Cowell & Killarney Bay Bloodstock Ltd; Auckland
Sales	2015 Ready to Run Sale V: Ohukia Lodge Ltd \$40000 P: NZB as agent



Ferrando's liking for Trentham continued when winning the Lightning Handicap



2YO DRAWS ATTENTION TO SIRES' PRODUCE PROSPECTS

Sir Nate will head to the sternest test of his career at the top of his game.

The youngster returned an excellent trial for the Gr.1 Courtesy Ford Manawatu Sires' Produce Stakes (1400m) on March 31 when he won at Trentham on Saturday.

The son of Nadeem was making his first appearance in the gavelhouse.com Auction Online 2YO Premier (1200m) since he finished strongly for seventh in the Karaka Million (1200m).

"He's just a really laid back colt and he only gives what you ask," trainer Lisa Latta said.

Under top jockey Opie Bosson, Sir Nate settled behind the leader on the fence and once into the clear he rounded off strongly to beat the pacemaker What A Smasher and King Louis.

"I thought Opie would suit him, he needs a strong rider," Latta said. "The 1400m of the Sires is really going to help him."

Bosson was suitably impressed by Sir Nate and gave a glowing report on the two-year-old.

"Lisa said to me that he was lazy and she was right, he only does what he has to," he said. "Once he was balanced he got home well."

"The 1400m at Awapuni is going to be ideal for him. If he gets a soft run behind them he'll be hard to beat."

Sir Nate will need a new rider for the Sires' Produce as Bosson will be continuing his association with the star juvenile and last-start Gr.1 Sistema Stakes (1200m) winner Sword Of Osman.



Opie Bosson urges Sir Nate to the line

Race	Gavelhouse.com Auction Online Now 2YO Premier
Winner	Sir Nate (NZ) 2015
Owners	Kamada Bloodstock, J C McNeill, S Dais, M Schirnack, L Purvis, P Shearer, S Platt, D Wyborn, K Donoghue, M Dudley & T Ryan
Trainer	Lisa Latta
Breeding	by Nadeem (AUS) out of Just Diamonds by No Excuse Needed (GB)
Breeder	Brown Thoroughbreds Ltd & Fusion Thoroughbreds Ltd; Central
Sales	2017 National Yearling Sale - Select V: Little Avondale Stud \$65000 P: Lisa Latta Racing

- NZ Racing Desk.



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