

Sunday 18 November 2018

SENSATIONAL WIN **IN GUINEAS**



Rider Michael Coleman salutes as Media Sensation scores at Riccarton (Race Images South)

Visiting northern filly **Media Sensation** (I Am Invincible) shrugged off a chequered trip to Christchurch to claim her maiden Group One victory in Saturday's Gavelhouse.com New Zealand 1000 Guineas (1600m).

Prevented from travelling south earlier in the week due to fog in Christchurch, the Peter and Dawn Williams trained three-year-old only arrived at Riccarton on Friday courtesy of a special charter flight.

That disruption may have unnerved some lesser individuals, however the I Am Invincible filly never turned a hair as she dominated her rivals from on the pace, courtesy of

a special ride from Michael Coleman.

The experienced horseman had his mount travelling sweetly beside pacemaker Wekaforce (NZ) (Showcasing) throughout before driving clear in the home straight to hold out the fast finishing Valalie (Snitzel) and race favourite Xpression (NZ) (Showcasing).

"She got the bounce right today and went forward to where there was no pressure outside the leader," Coleman said.

"She travelled beautifully although I may have gone a bit

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Congratulations!

**Media Sensation wins the Gr.1
gavelhouse.com NZ 1000 Guineas.**

Congratulations to owners Barneswood Farm Ltd for S C Green & G C Beemsterboer who purchased the Linda & Graham Huddy-bred Media Sensation from the Lime Country draft at Karaka 2017 for \$425,000, trainers Peter and Dawn Williams & jockey Michael Coleman.



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SENSATIONAL WIN **IN GUINEAS**

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soon as I didn't want to be caught napping if something really decided to sprint around us.

"She's a quality filly and it's great to be riding a Group One winner for Peter and Dawn."

Co-trainer Peter Williams admitted he had a fleeting moment of panic prior to the race when eventual runner-up, Valalie, got down in the stall next to Media Sensation and had to be extricated by the barrier attendants before being passed fit to race.

"I was a wee bit worried when they were going to scratch that horse," he said.

"I couldn't see as she was out the back and I just hoped she wasn't being naughty in the gates.

"She's raced good today and I'm very happy as he rode her perfectly."

Williams paid tribute to owners Sarah Green and Ger Beemsterboer of Barneswood Farm, who had outlaid \$425,000 for Media Sensation from the Lime Country Thoroughbreds draft at the 2017 New Zealand Bloodstock Premier Yearling Sales.

"They are great owners," he said.

"They spend the money so they deserve to get some money."

It was the second win in the race for the Williams, Green and Beemsterboer combination after outstanding filly Planet Rock (Fastnet Rock) carried the same colours to victory in the 2011 edition of the contest.

Race favourite Xpression lost no admirers after battling on gamely in the run home while inexperienced filly Valalie was the eye-catcher after overcoming the upsetting barrier incident prior to the race to run on bravely for second.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	gavelhouse.com New Zealand 1000 Guineas, Gr.1 1600m
Winner	Media Sensation 2015
Owners	Barneswood Farm Ltd For S C Green and G C Beemsterboer
Trainer	Peter and Dawn Williams (Byerley Park)
Breeding	by I Am Invincible (AUS) out of Different To by High Chaparral (IRE)
Breeder	Mrs L Huddy
Sales	2017 National Yearling Sales – Premier Sale; V: Lime Country Thoroughbreds, P: Mr GC Beemsterboer; \$425,000

NEWS IN BRIEF

Honest galloper scores Saturday win

Consistent galloper **Tamarack (NZ)** (Redwood) collected his fifth career win when successful at Rosehill on Saturday in the Summer Racing Handicap (2400m).

The Joseph Pride-trained five-year-old was returning to the Sydney track after placing over the same distance a fortnight ago.

"He is pretty straight forward," jockey Jay Ford said.

"He hasn't beaten much there but it's a good reward for him. He's been racing very well this prep and deserved a Saturday win."

Tamarack was sold out of Westbury Stud's 2015 New Zealand Bloodstock Select draft when purchased for \$90,000 by Proven Thoroughbreds.



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OCEAN EMPEROR GOES BACK-TO-BACK IN TAURANGA STAKES

To quote famous baseballer Yogi Berra, it was “déjà vu’ all over again” at Tauranga on Saturday when classy customer **Ocean Emperor (NZ)** (Zabeel) defended his Gr.2 Gartshore Tauranga Stakes (1600m) crown in fine style.

The seven-year-old Zabeel entire had sprung a minor upset in the 2017 edition of the contest when downing Miss Wilson (Stratum) and multiple Group One winner Kawi (NZ) (Savabeel), as a rating 82 assessed runner.

Twelve months on and with a second Group Two title under his belt, the Gary Hennessy-trained galloper showed just why he is now considered one of the top milers in the country as he produced a determined finishing burst to register his ninth career victory.

Handled superbly by stand-in rider Lynsey Satherley, who was substituting for an ill Dylan Turner, Ocean Emperor sat patiently in the trail throughout behind pacemaker Nicoletta (NZ) (Savabeel). Satherley produced her charge at the top of the straight and after battling hard with the pacemaker, he

mastered her close to the line to take the victory.

“He looks amazing and is doing things right,” Hennessy said.

“The horse has a huge turn of foot so we don’t want him leading. You can see when he does get in the trail, he has something to offer and he explodes in to it and doesn’t give in.

“He has a ton of guts and is just a lovely horse to deal with.”

Hennessy, who has shown he

isn’t afraid to travel his charge after taking him to the rich Kranji Mile in Singapore last May, has a Group One prize in mind as his next assignment.

“We set a plan in the spring and unfortunately we had a hiccup as we had planned to have him in Melbourne,” he said.

“I think he showed today he has a decent race in him, which hopefully is the Captain Cook Stakes.”

The Gr.1 Rydges Wellington Captain Cook Stakes (1600m) is the feature event at Trentham on December 8.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Gartshore Tauranga Stakes, Gr.2 1600m
Winner	Ocean Emperor (NZ) 2011
Owners	G T Hennessy, A K K Wong & S Y S Yan
Trainer	Gary Hennessy (Matamata)
Breeding	by Zabeel out of Tootsie by Pins (AUS)
Breeder	G J Chittick
Sales	2013 National Yearling Sales – Premier Sale; V: Waikato Stud Ltd, P: Mr G Hennessey; \$450,000



Ocean Emperor notches his second win in the Gr.2 Gartshore Tauranga Stakes (Race Images)





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FRONT-RUNNING SPECIAL SECURES SPRATT SECOND NEW ZEALAND CUP



Bizzwinkle (inner) digs in to repel the challenge of Duplicity as he claims victory at Riccarton (Race Images South)

Just twelve months ago rider Sam Spratt was the toast of Riccarton after securing her first New Zealand Cup (3200m) with a daring front-running ride on outsider Gobstopper (NZ) (Tavistock).

Fast forward to the 2018 edition of the Christchurch Casino sponsored, Group Three feature and you could have been forgiven for thinking you

were watching a replay of the previous year as Spratt once again dominated proceedings from the front.

This time it was aboard Matamata visitor **Bizzwinkle (NZ)** (Rip Van Winkle) who had been absent when most were discussing the main chances in the 155th running of the time-honoured event.

That didn't bother the Glenn Old-

trained five-year-old who fought like a tiger in the home straight to hold out a brave challenge from Duplicity (NZ) (Duporth) and race favourite Felaar (NZ) (Ekraar) to capture his biggest career win.

With the Rip Van Winkle gelding's large band of owners threatening to tear the grandstand down with the

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FRONT-RUNNING SPECIAL SECURES SPRATT SECOND NEW ZEALAND CUP

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noise they were making after the final result was declared, Old was taking the victory in his stride.

"We had faith in him being a real dour stayer," he said.

"We set him for this race last March and Sam just rode him a treat.

"He got a nice soft lead and she had him in his rhythm. It was a great result.

"After we turned for home and he was still there I thought we were a chance of a placing. The closer we got to the post I could see we were going to hold them off."

Spratt was sporting a huge grin as she returned to the winner's enclosure

and was her typically effervescent self when questioned about the ride.

"I seem to have had quite a bit of luck with this race," she said.

"It was a great effort as he was just cruising along comfortably in his own rhythm and when the other horse came up to us, he just dug again.

"Glenn had him fit and ready to go which I always had in the back of my mind."

The lightly raced Bizzwinkle has now won five of his 18 career starts and over \$234,000 in prizemoney. He was a \$36,000 purchase from the Henley Park draft at the 2015 Select Yearling Sale at Karaka.

Race	Christchurch Casino New Zealand Cup, Gr.3 3200m
Winner	Bizzwinkle (NZ) 2013
Owners	G J Craig, S W Hawkings, D & P Hughes, A E Kaminski, E Kaye, C N & Mrs P A Kemp, Kilgravin Lodge, D S Kinnear, T Lee, C T P Middleton & G E Petersen
Trainer	Glenn Old (Matamata)
Breeding	by Rip Van Winkle (IRE) out of Bizz by Volksraad (GB)
Breeder	A D, J D & Mrs L J E Scoular & Mrs S J Tothill
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sales - Select Sale; V: Henley Park, P: NZB as Agent; \$36,000

- NZ Racing Desk



WATCH: 2018 Kiwibred Episode One- Emily Bosson and the Kiwi Bred team pay a visit to Valachi Downs to see the developments at the Kevin and Jo Hickman-owned property as they venture into stallions for the first time. Also features Andrew Stewart from arion pedigrees touching on the stallions retiring to stud in NZ this season, as well as a visit to Windsor Park Stud to learn about the indications of when a mare is ready to foal.



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YOGI ROUNDS UP RIVALS IN THE SANDOWN CUP

The addition of blinkers in Saturday's Listed Sandown Cup enabled **Yogi (NZ)** (Raise The Flag) to overcome a slow start and produce a strong finish to claim the 3200m handicap.

Trainer Darren Weir was hoping to gain a Melbourne Cup start but a below-par performance in the Gr.3 Lexus Stakes (2500m) three days before kept the gelding out of the final field.

Ridden by Craig Williams, Yogi came from last on Saturday to defeat race favourite Azuro (Myboycharlie) by a long neck, with Vengeur Masque (Monsun) 1-1/4 lengths away in third.

"I was hoping he'd get into the Melbourne Cup as he loves a wet ground," Weir said.

"I'm not saying he would have won it but seeing how strong he was at the end there, with 50 kilos on his back, with the blinkers on and wet ground, I'm tipping he would have beaten a few home."

Weir said Yogi has started making life difficult by missing the start, a habit he'd developed in the later stages of his campaign.

"Early in the prep he was racing more tractable, not up on the speed but he'd have a few behind him," Weir said.

"Then three-quarters of the way through the prep he started the habit of popping out of the barriers and giving them too much start.

"The two miles today helped but the blinkers going on was a good addition as well."

Yogi, a graduate of the New Zealand Bloodstock South Island Sale, had five starts in New Zealand before crossing the Tasman and he now has seven career wins to his credit.

-AAP

Race	Sandown Cup, L. 3200m
Winner	Yogi (NZ) 2012
Owners	Australian Thoroughbred Bloodstock Pty Ltd (Mgr: D P Dance), Brittain Racing (Mgr: P L Brittain), Mangan Racing (Mgr: T G Mangan), D R Wagner, O F Kelly, S N Davidson, M E Basile, T J Little, M L Byrne, A G Cid, B R Fellows & S M Frost
Trainer	Darren Weir (Ballarat)
Breeding	by Raise The Flag (GB) out of Malozza (AUS) by Grand Lodge (USA)
Breeder	D G & H A Voice
Sales	2014 National Yearling Sale Series – South Island Sale; V: D G & H A Voice, P: Mr WG Coles; \$1,000



Blinkers work a treat on Sandown Cup winner Yogi (Bruno Cannatelli)





NEPTUNE'S SPEAR AIMS FOR KARAKA MILLION

Liam Birchley is eyeing another win in the Karaka Million after **Neptune's Spear (NZ)** (Super Easy) produced a stylish all-the-way win at Doomben.

Ridden by Brad Stewart, Neptune's Spear led throughout to win the Novotel Brisbane Airport Handicap (1050m) on Saturday by 1-1/4 lengths as a \$3.10 favourite.

Birchley plans to give the son of Super Easy one more start before aiming the colt at the Karaka Million (1200m) at Ellerslie in late January.

"He ran as good as he looks and hopefully he'll get a bit more professional going forward," Birchley said.

"He's a real athlete and a colt that doesn't look like he'll get too heavy and he's still very calm at this point.

"So far his temperament has been flawless."

Stewart said Neptune's Spear would continue to improve as he gains more experience with racing.

"When I asked him for an effort he didn't know what to do with his legs but having that run under his belt will improve him," Stewart said.

"He was good while I had hold of him but when I let him go he didn't know much about it."

Birchley will aim to win the Karaka Million for the third time after wins with Sister Havana (NZ) (General Nediym) in 2010 and Hardline (NZ) (Showcasing) in 2015.

Neptune's Spear was purchased for \$140,000 out of Hallmark Stud's 2018 New Zealand Bloodstock Book 1 draft.

-AAP

Race	Novotel Brisbane Airport H. 1050m
Winner	Neptune's Spear (NZ) 2016
Owners	M A McLean, A Stephenson, M D Baker, M K Lindsay, Joan Lindsay, PJ Daniel, S J Cresswell, J W Mcinally, S A Searles, G N Harrison, C J Wessel, P A Wessel, Mrs A M Hickey, W J Duthy, Ms N J Palmer, Miss J Brosnan, T Schultz, Mrs T M Wessel & G Sullivan
Trainer	Liam Birchley (Eagle Farm)
Breeding	by Super Easy out of Hestolemyroses (AUS) by Elusive Quality (USA)
Breeder	Hallmark Stud Ltd
Sales	2018 National Yearling Sales Series - Book 1; V: Hallmark Stud, P: Birchley Racing; \$140,000



Neptune's Spear looks a likely Karaka Million starter after his Doomben win (AAP)





SOLDADO'S CONNECTIONS' PATIENCE FINALLY REWARDED

The Shane Baertschiger-trained **Soldado (NZ)** (Pins) repaid his connections' patience with a rousing win in the S\$60,000 Class 4 Premier race over 1100m on Friday night.

The winning post has become a hazy distant memory for the Pins six-year-old even if he has often finished in the money. The last of his two wins in a Class 4 race over 1200m came on August 19, 2016 – 819 days ago.

But the long time between drinks was finally over after jockey John Powell dropped him in the gun run outside leader Super Six (Kaphero) before they quickly put a big space between him and the rest in the home straight.

The issue was soon put beyond doubt when Soldado (\$24) shot clear en route towards an emphatic 3 ½-length win from Super Six.

Owner and legal eagle Desmond Ong was a relieved man as he headed down with his partners for the traditional lead-in.

"It's been a long time – 819 days – and don't remind me

of the training bills we have to pay every month!" said the lawyer and chairman of football club Tampines Rovers.

"He's been a consistent horse, and Shane has done a very good job with him."

Powell said his input was minimum in Soldado's welcomed return to the winner's enclosure.

"He's a horse that has run a lot of placings. I think he has 12-15 minor placings and it was good to get the win tonight," he said.

"He jumped forward and he

just rolled. He was too good for them.

"Last time, Shane said it was not a good idea to ride him along to go forward. He didn't like it.

"He's a horse we should just let him stride. If he pings, then we can utilise his speed and go forward, but otherwise we should just let him settle where he is comfortable."

With that third success from 32 starts, Soldado has somehow managed to hit the S\$230,000 mark, largely owing to his seven seconds and eight thirds for the Soldado Stable.

-STC

Race	STC Class 4 Premier 1100m
Winner	Soldado (NZ) 2012
Owners	Soldado Stable
Trainer	Shane Baertschiger (Singapore)
Breeding	by Pins (AUS) out of Regal Ash (GB) by Green Desert (USA)
Breeder	Fairdale Stud Ltd (2007)
Sales	2014 Ready To Run Sale of 2yos; V: Venture Thoroughbreds Ltd; P: Mr LK Laxon; \$35,000



John Powell drives Soldado home in the Class 4 Premier race over 1100m. (STC)

