

Sunday 7 October 2018

SAVVY COUP DOMINANT IN LIVAMOL CLASSIC



Savvy Coup will now head to the Cox Plate at Moonee Valley after adding the Gr.1 Livamol Classic to her impressive career record (Trish Dunell)

Pre-post favourite **Savvy Coup (NZ)** (Savabeel) left no room for excuses when she dominated her rivals in the Gr.1 Livamol Classic (2040m) at Hastings.

The Savabeel mare had been backed into microscopic odds on the Fixed Odds markets after she put a flashing light on her Livamol chances with a slashing run for second in the Gr.1 Windsor Park Plate (1600m) on the middle day of the Hawkes Bay carnival.

Handled impeccably by experienced jockey Chris Johnson, last season's Gr.1 New Zealand Oaks (2400m) winner settled in a perfect position beyond midfield as pacemakers Big Mike (NZ) (Don Eduardo) and Saint Emilion (NZ) (Mastercraftsman) set a breakneck speed in front. Johnson never panicked as he eased his mount to the outer at the 700m mark before looping the field to challenge on the home turn.

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Sunday 7 October 2018

SAVVY COUP DOMINANT IN LIVAMOL CLASSIC

(Continued from page 1)

Savvy Coup bolted clear with Johnson keeping her up to the mark as she hit the winning post more than two lengths clear of a game Lizzie L'Amour (NZ) (Zabeel) with Danzdanzdance (Mastercraftsman) closing well to pip Scott Base (NZ) (Dalghar) for third.

An emotional Michael Pitman, who prepares the mare with son Matthew from their Riccarton base, was choking back tears as he fielded congratulations from a throng of well-wishers after the race.

"I didn't want to get ahead of myself but when she ran second the other day we were so confident," he said.

"She's not a 1400m or mile horse yet she ran second to the best sprinter-miler in the country and was taking ground off her.

"Chris was adamant she should have won that day but I was rapt to run second.

"It's a big thrill I tell you."

Pitman, who is battling bowel cancer after being diagnosed with the disease back in February, will now look to fulfil a promise he made weeks ago with Savvy Coup destined to take on wonder mare Winx in the Gr.1 Cox Plate (2040m) at Moonee Valley on October 27.

"I might not get there myself but the horse will," he said.

"I'm having an operation but I've said all the way along if we win the Livamol we're going to the Cox Plate."

A typically laid-back Chris Johnson summed up the mare's run after the race.

"I think the 2000m helped as she got her chance to get going," he said.

"I was hoping to be a little bit handier but I got back as usual and managed to get her to settle. When I pulled out at the 700m she came into it real fast.

"I went early on her, probably a bit too early, but she kept up a strong run to the line."

The win brought up career victory number six from just 16 starts for Savvy Coup who is raced by a group that includes South Island identity Ray Coupland along with New Zealand Bloodstock's Jim Bruford. The win was also a triumph for her breeder, Waikato Stud, who had earlier produced Gr. 2 Sacred Falls Hawke's Bay Guineas (1400m) winner, Madison County (NZ) (Pins).

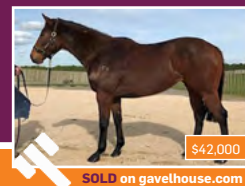
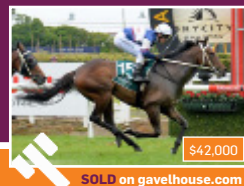
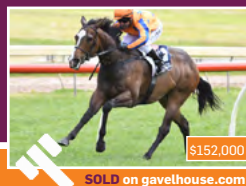
– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Livamol Classic WFA, Gr.1 2040m
Winner	Savvy Coup (NZ) 2014
Owners	Mrs A M, A R, F H & J F Bruford, Mrs J D, L R & R A Coupland
Trainer	Michael & Matthew Pitman (Riccarton Park)
Breeding	by Savabeel (AUS) out of Eudora by Pins (AUS)
Breeder	Waikato Stud Ltd
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sales – Premier Sale; V: Waikato Stud Ltd, P: NZB as agent; \$65,000



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MADISON COUNTY TOO TOUGH IN GUINEAS



Madison County scores handsomely at Hastings (Trish Dunell)

The well-known colours of the powerful China Horse Club were to the fore at Hastings on Saturday when **Madison County (NZ)** (Pins) produced a devastating sprint to capture the Gr.2 Sacred Falls Hawke's Bay Guineas (1400m).

The stylish Pins gelding made it two wins from two starts at the Hastings track after he broke his maiden status there over 1300m in mid-April to round out his two-year-old season. From the Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman stable, Madison County had opened his new campaign with a fast-finishing second to race rival Melt (NZ) (Iffraaj) in the Gr.3 Northland Breeders' Stakes (1200m) at Ruakaka last month.

This time the tables were turned as Madison County tracked Melt wherever she went in the early stages before dashing past the courageous filly in the final 100m of the

contest. Melt lost no admirers with a gritty effort while locally trained runner King Louis (NZ) (Equiano) fought bravely to finish up in third.

Regular rider Matt Cameron was delighted with the win after experiencing a home straight hiccup although his post-race thoughts proved rather prophetic as Madison County decided to end the interview rather abruptly.

"He had an awkward draw to contend with and I was three-wide but I had Melt in front of me so I knew I was following the second-best horse in the race," he said.

"I dropped my stick half-way down but caught it again so he didn't have too much pressure on him, but he still got the job done. At home he's got his quirks and he's not the flashiest to ride at the track but he can turn it on when he needs to."

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MADISON COUNTY TOO TOUGH IN GUINEAS

(Continued from page 4)

At that point Madison County decided enough was enough as he ducked sideways away from the interviewer before making a beeline for the winner's enclosure.

"He's a promising horse who ran terrific at Ruakaka where he got home very strongly on a leader's day," co-trainer Murray Baker said.

"We felt he was going to take a bit of time but he's by Pins and they are very genuine horses.

"We thought he was a big chance today."

Baker will now look at the options available to his charge as the stable plot a path to the Gr.1 Al Basti Equiworld Dubai New Zealand 2000 Guineas (1600m) at Riccarton on November 10.

"We'll have to think about that one," he said.

"There's the race at Te Rapa, if they run it at Te Rapa, but we will work something out."

That race is the Gr.2 James & Annie Sarten Memorial Stakes (1400m) scheduled for October 22 with the meeting venue yet to be decided as the Te Rapa track is currently undergoing extensive renovations.

Bred by Garry Chittick, Madison County was a \$36,000

purchase by the China Horse Club from Waikato Stud's Select Sale draft at the 2017 National Yearling Sale at Karaka.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Sacred Falls Hawkes Bay Guineas, Gr.2 1400m
Winner	Madison County (NZ) 2015
Owners	China Horse Club Racing Pty Ltd
Trainer	Murray Baker & Andrew Forsman (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Pins (AUS) out of Red Delicious by Rustington (AUS)
Breeder	G J Chittick
Sales	2017 National Yearling Sales – Select Sale; V: Waikato Stud, P: China Horse Club; \$36,000

TAB Trackside Review



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EXCITEMENT MACHINE DOMINATES IN HASTINGS SPRINT

Hastings racegoers got to witness something special on Saturday when exciting four-year-old **Te Akau Shark (NZ)** (Rip Van Winkle) scorched to victory in the Gr.3 Red Badge Spring Sprint (1400m) at Hastings.

Touted as a star of the future following an impressive first-up win on the first day of the Hawkes Bay carnival, the Rip Van Winkle gelding displayed electrifying acceleration as he blasted past his rivals in the home straight after making the final corner near the rear of

the twelve-horse field.

Rider Michael Coleman was no more than a passenger as the powerful chestnut put three lengths on highly regarded mare Love Affair (NZ) (Savabeel), who held second comfortably from former Singapore galloper Magnum (NZ) (Per Incanto) who battled on gamely for third.

"I never had to touch him behind the saddle," Coleman said after the race.

"I gave him every chance when I came to the outside with the light

Race	Red Badge Spring Sprint, Gr.3 1400m
Winner	Te Akau Shark (NZ) 2014
Owners	S Mace, D C Ellis, P Gallen, G Taylor, C Russell, M Allenby, W Knight, R Redwood, W Thrupp, J & P Hepburn, D & R Rudd
Trainer	Jamie Richards (Matamata)
Breeding	by Rip Van Winkle (IRE) out of Bak Da Chief by Chief Bearheart (CAN)
Breeder	D B Hollinshead
Sales	2016 Ready To Run Sale of 2yos; V: Lyndhurst Farm, P: Mr D C Ellis; \$230,000

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Te Akau Shark cruises home at Hastings (Trish Dunell)





EXCITEMENT MACHINE DOMINATES IN HASTINGS SPRINT

(Continued from page 6)

weight and once I got there he was always going to win.

“He’s pretty electric and a pretty special horse, the world could be his oyster.”

Trainer Jamie Richards was sporting a wide grin as he spoke about the performance.

“He’s going well and I couldn’t be more impressed,” he said.

“I was a bit worried when Mick was checking him off heels at the 700m but it didn’t matter as he’s a very progressive horse.

“His work has been very good and the five weeks between runs suited him.

“We’ll go home and have a think now but there are plenty of options for him both here and across the ditch.”

Raced by an enthusiastic group of

owners, many who were on-course wearing their special “shark” hats, Te Akau Shark has now won four of his five races and over \$100,000 in prizemoney after being secured by Te Akau boss David Ellis for \$230,000 from the Lyndhurst Farm draft at the 2016 Ready To Run Sale at Karaka.

– NZ Racing Desk

NEWS IN BRIEF

Riccarton called off

Saturday’s racemeeting at Riccarton was abandoned after horses were seen to slip during the running of race two.

Overnight rain saw the track rated a Dead4 however an incident reported by rider Terry Moseley after the first race saw a group of senior riders and raceday officials inspect the track, which was deemed safe to continue. The quite obvious slip of the Sharon Robertson trained Faux Pas (NZ) (Dalghar) in the second event resulted in a delegation conducting a further inspection where the decision was taken to call the meeting off.

“It’s just devastating for all,” Riccarton Park Chief Executive Tim Mills said.

“The stipes thought that (the slip in race one) might have just been an isolated incident for that particular runner however after the second race more riders expressed their concerns for the footing of their horses which meant there was no option.

“We are going to verti-drain the track later today and tomorrow, which is part of our regular maintenance, and will endeavour to race on Tuesday.

“We will put some horses around the track on Monday to give us the confidence that Tuesday will be a goer.”

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing has confirmed that the races that were abandoned on Saturday will be run on Tuesday 9 October.

The fields will remain the same with scratchings re-instated.

– NZ Racing Desk

First winner for Ferlax

Gr.1 Australian Guineas-winner Ferlax has sired his first winner, Rare Episode (NZ), who won on debut at Gosford on Thursday with a tilt at the Karaka Million 3YO Mile a possibility.

The highest priced yearling for his ill-fated sire at Karaka 2017, Rare Episode was a \$100,000 purchase by Mick Malone of Kitchwin Hills for Max Whitby and Neil Werrett.

Trained by Brad Widdup Rare Episode had two tidy trials under his belt as a late two-year-old whilst his two trials as a three-year-old showed the colt was primed for his first test.

Bouncing out of the gates to get in front, Rare Episode never relinquished the lead over the 1100m trip and ran away from the opposition for an easy four-and-a-half length win.

“It was a real blow to lose Ferlax the week before his first crop were set to go through the sale ring at Karaka,” said Haunui Farm’s Mark Chitty.

“It really did effect his results at the sales but we had two colts in our draft that we thought were six-figure colts and this guy was one of them.”



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JUGLALL IS DAWAN FOR KHOO IN LUCKY LAST

Nooresh Juglall felt a sense of déjà vu after he steered **Shoot Up High (NZ)** (Coats Choice) to a spirited win in the last race in Singapore, the S\$45,000 Class 4 Non Premier race over 1200m, on Friday night.

One week ago, the Mauritian jockey was staring down the barrel of a blank Friday meeting until his sixth and final ride Smooth Operator (Mint Lane) bailed him out in the last race – yes, also a Class 4 Non Premier race, but over 1400m.

The same thing happened one week later. Five previous rides – mainly roughies at four-figure odds - had all gone by the wayside, but Shoot Up High (\$30) made sure he would not be left out of the scoresheet in the Lucky Last.

Both winners are trained by Leslie Khoo and both carry the blue, red and yellow silks of He's Dawan Stable (ex-Trend Stable). He's Dawan was a former champion sprinter at Bukit Timah in the late 80's.

Well ridden by Juglall, the resuming Shoot Up High picked himself off the canvas to make a late comeback and score by half-a-length (same winning margin as Smooth Operator).

"It feels like déjà vu! Last Friday, I won on Smooth Operator in the same colours for Leslie and tonight it's Shoot Up High, again for Leslie," said Juglall.

"A big thank you to Leslie and the owner who have supported me from day one. This horse showed a lot of heart to win.

"With the good draw, the plan was to lead. I saved him as much as I can and in the straight, I gathered him up.

"I wasn't too worried when the other horses headed him as I still had plenty of horse under me. I waited for the last 100m to go for it and the horse gave it to me with both hands."

Khoo said Shoot Up High had been sidelined by a few knee



Shoot Up High (Nooresh Juglall) scores first-up in the last race in Singapore on Friday night. (STC)

issues, and was delighted he had returned a winner.

"This horse has a screw in his knee, but he showed his big heart throughout to win first-up," said the Singaporean handler.

"The plan was to go forward, and even though he was taken on late, he kept fighting back. He has won over 1200m only (previous win with Alan Munro up in April 2017), but he can get 1400m no problem."

Shoot Up High has now won two races and placed four times from 13 starts for prizemoney that has now tipped over the S\$100,000 mark for the He's Dawan Stable. -STC

Race	STC Class 4 Non Premier 1200m
Winner	Shoot Up High (NZ) 2013
Owners	He's Dawan Stable
Trainer	Leslie Khoo (Singapore)
Breeding	by Coats Choice (AUS) out of Endrita by End Sweep (USA)
Breeder	A W Jones & Mrs EW Morris
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sales – Select Sale; V: Berkley Stud, P: Mr B McDonald; \$42,500





CURATOLO RIDES OUT CHOPPY WATERS ON SACRED SEA

Sacred Sea's (NZ) (Sea The Stars) fighting win on Friday might have come in a modest Class 4 Non Premier race, but Ryan Curatolo's wide smile at the weigh-in spoke volumes about why it meant so much to the French jockey.

Curatolo was riding on a crest of a wave back in June-July, even figuring among one of the early live contenders for the title, but a series of careless riding suspensions clipped his wings.

When Curatolo comes back in between time on the sidelines, he does try to snap the run of outs, but to

no avail - until Sacred Sea finally popped up in a three-way go to scrape home by a nose in the S\$45,000 race over 1800m.

"It's great to be back in the winner's circle," said Curatolo.

"A big thank you to Mark Walker, the owner (Raffles Racing Stable) and the Singapore Turf

Club for the opportunity.

"He seemed to like the whip in the left hand, the more I dug, the more he found for me. He didn't shy away.

Walker said the return to the all-weather did the trick for Sacred Sea, a Sea The Stars five-year-old who was shedding his maiden status in Singapore at his 12th start.

"This horse has been unlucky here. I ran him on grass by default last time as the Polytrack race I had in mind for him did not have enough entries and was cancelled," said the Kiwi handler.

"The run on grass was not that bad, but the return to Polytrack suited him

better.

"Ryan was also hungry as he hasn't won for a while and he rode the horse very well. It's also great for races to have Dato Yap Kim San here, it's great to see his colours winning."

-STC

Race	STC Class 4 Non Premier 1800m
Winner	Sacred Sea (NZ) 2013
Owners	Raffles Racing Stable
Trainer	Mark Walker (Singapore)
Breeding	by Sea The Stars (IRE) out of Gipsy Countess (IRE) by Sadler's Wells (USA)
Breeder	Raffles Dancers (NZ) Pty Ltd



Sacred Sea (Ryan Curatolo, on the rails) digs deep to claim Race 3. (STC)

