

Sunday 17 April 2016

DECISIVE PACKER PLATE WIN COULD AIM HE'S OUR ROKKII AT BRISBANE TARGETS



He's Our Rokkii decisively wins the Frank Packer Plate from the Godolphin colt Old North.

The win by **He's Our Rokkii (NZ)** (Roc de Cambes) in the Frank Packer Plate at Randwick yesterday could mean he has to wait a while longer before heading to a spelling paddock.

The solid victory in the 2000 metre event made it back-to-back Group Three wins for the three-year-old and trainer Tom Dabernig is scratching his head about where the horse's next assignment will be.

"It's always hard to stop a horse who's won his last two so we're a little undecided where we'll go with him from here," Dabernig said.

"Before today we were thinking of backing off for the spring but it is probably tempting to maybe head to Brisbane or look at Adelaide.

"He's a horse who just keeps improving."

After his last-start win in the 1600 metre Carbine Club

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DECISIVE PACKER PLATE WIN COULD AIM HE'S OUR ROKKII AT BRISBANE TARGETS

(Continued from page 1)

Stakes, Dabernig's training partner David Hayes said He's Our Rokkii was a Doncaster Mile prospect.

But now 2400 metres doesn't look out of the question.

"He ran out a really solid 2000 metres so that opens up some more doors for him," Dabernig said.

He's Our Rokkii travelled in midfield, stalking the favourite Old North (Lonhro) throughout before cruising past the \$2.05 chance in the straight to score a dominant 1¼ length victory over the Godolphin galloper with the same margin back to Chris Waller's Torgersen (NZ) (Pins) in third.

"He had a great run," winning jockey Dwayne Dunn said. "Everything worked out perfect."

Dunn added that the win was still in the "B-grade" but the horse was beginning to show he could match it with the best.

"He's doing everything right in that lesser grade but I think he can get to the top grade once he develops," Dunn said.

"He's growing with confidence off the back of every run."

– AAP TURF

Race	ATC Frank Packer P. Gr.3 2000m
Winner	He's Our Rokkii (NZ) 2012
Owners	M A Pilkington, J R Collinson, C Feneridis, Seymour Bloodstock Syndicate (Mgr: D S Thomas), D L Elliott, G R Lechte, R W & Mrs A M Hill-Smith, J Lechte, R Chapman and Hall Thoroughbred Syndicate (Mgr: K M Hall)
Trainer	David Hayes & Tom Dabernig (Flemington)
Breeding	by Roc de Cambes out of Clerihew (GB) by Lomitas (GB)
Breeder	J R Collinson and C Feneridis

NEWS IN BRIEF

No room, no whip . . . no trouble for Alibi

Trainer Michael Clements is currently visiting Nepal on a spiritual trip and it seemed that a bit of divine intervention came into play inside the last couple of furlongs when debutant **Alibi (NZ)** (Darci Brahma) scored a smashing first-up win in the \$575,000 Restricted Maiden over 1200 metres at Kranji on Friday night.

The first shaky moment surfaced with Alibi getting held up for a run at the top of the straight. Rider Vlad Duric bided his time until he was clear to switch across heels to the middle of the track but at the 300 metre mark dropped his whip.

The hard-riding Australian resorted to the next best weapon, his bare hand, and Alibi dashed clear to score by a length from Waipakihi (NZ) (Pins) with Gabbar (NZ) (Coats Choice) third another neck away to complete a Kiwi-bred trifecta.

Clements' assistant-trainer Michael White said Alibi had franked his trackwork form.

"He's a lovely horse who came to us well schooled and showed talent from day one," he said about the three-year-old, who had gained his early education in the Cambridge stable of Jeff McVean and Emma-Lee Browne.

"There are no great plans with him but the Singapore Guineas next month may still be a race he could go for as he is up to that level."

– Singapore Turf Club

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MUSIC MAGNATE'S FIRST-UP WIN HAS BJORN AND CONNECTIONS KEEN ON STRADBROKE

Jockey Brenton Avdulla thought **Music Magnate (NZ)** (Written Tycoon) had been beaten in the Hall Mark Stakes.

How happy he was to be wrong.

Music Magnate's head bobbed to fend off the fast-finishing Knoydart (More Than Ready) and win the Group Three race at Randwick yesterday. The judge took his time separating the pair and connections roared when Music Magnate's number appeared in the frame.

After the win, Music Magnate was rated a \$12 chance for the Group One Stradbroke Handicap in Brisbane on June 11.

Avdulla believes he is starting to show he can win at the

top level.

"First-up over 1200 metres it was a big effort," Avdulla said. "He's run against Good Project and things that have had Group One form but not seasoned horses like that first-up."

Cobbitty Lodge's Brenton Le Grand, whose organisation syndicated part of the horse's ownership, said he had done a great job to return to the track in winning form.

"He had an operation after the last prep and he seems to be moving a lot more freely now," Le Grand said. "He's done a great job already. Hopefully Brisbane will be even better."

Trainer Bjorn Baker said he wasn't confident coming into the race but was delighted with the first-up effort.

"It was very tight but we'll take it," the expat Kiwi said. "You always need a little bit of luck."

The official margin was a nose, with a long neck back to the third-placed Fast 'N' Rocking (Fastnet Rock) and the fourth and fifth placegetters finishing within a half-length of the winner.

Baker had reservations about his horse's chances first-up over the testing Randwick 1200 metre course.

"First-up at Randwick over 1200 metres is not something you feel comfortable about," he said.

"His last trial was only 740 metres. There's a big difference between that and 1200 metres at Randwick so he was always

going to be hugely vulnerable.

"Last time he really didn't peak until third or fourth-up so I think he's got a heap of improvement."

– AAP TURF & racenet.com.au

Race	ATC Hall Mark S. Gr.3 1200m
Winner	Music Magnate (NZ) 2011
Owners	S W Britton, D R Frampton, D R McEvoy, C J Milton, W J Williams, G A Quinn, T M Sullivan, S J Billingsley, Cobbitty Lodge Stud & Stables (Mgr: Dr J G Morris), Written Tycoon Racing (Mgr: B F Bernhart) and Bjorn Baker Racing (Mgr: B Baker)
Trainer	Bjorn Baker (Warwick Farm)
Breeding	by Written Tycoon (Aus) out of Concert Girl (Aus) by Danehill Dancer (Ire)
Breeder	NZ Thoroughbred Holdings Ltd
Sales	2013 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Westbury Stud, P: Bjorn Baker Racing; \$45,000



In the closest finish on yesterday's Randwick card, Music Magnate (blue and gold colours) gets the nod from Knoydart (all blue) and Fast 'N' Rocking (pink cap).





FAST PACE, LIGHT WEIGHT SUITS CHENILLE

Tony Pike pulled the right rein with a quick back-up for his rising staying star **Chenille (NZ)** (Pentire), who will now head for the spelling paddock on a perfect note.

The Cambridge trainer had no hesitation in sending the four-year-old mare south for yesterday's Listed Fasttrackinsurance Hawke's Bay Gold Cup, which she duly added to her record after a third placing in the Te Aroha Cup a week ago.

"I was really happy with that run on a track that wasn't playing easily," Pike said. "We had to ride her conservatively as it was four weeks between runs for her and she got a long way back.

"With the bias on the day we weren't a winning chance but she finished off well and was a lot fitter for the run."

Chenille enjoyed a good run in midfield at Hastings before rider Danielle Johnson found herself in a spot of bother.

"Obviously she had a pull in the weights, but it was still a good effort," Pike said. "They got held up at the six

hundred and were going backward when they should have been going forward."

Rounding the home bend the widest of any runner, Chenille hit top gear in the straight to post a record-breaking win, setting a new course mark for the 2200 metres when she clocked 2:12.89 to beat the previous best of 2:12.99 run by Mr Brooker (NZ) (Our Best Friend) in his 1990 Hawke's Bay Cup win.

"We're heading into the winter now and she's done a good job this preparation," Pike said. "She deserves a break and she'll come back for the cup races next season."

Saint Emilion (NZ)

(Mastercraftsman), who gave the winner five and a half kilos, stayed on strongly for second after setting the record-breaking pace and Savaria (NZ) (Savabeel) made ground well to take third money ahead of Jacksstar (NZ) (Zed).

Race	Hawke's Bay Gold Cup L 2200m
Winner	Chenille (NZ) 2011
Owners	V T W Breeding Company Ltd and G & Mrs J Capes
Trainer	Tony Pike (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Pentire (GB) out of Charmed by O'Reilly
Breeder	A W, Mrs V A & W K Pike
Sales	2013 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Longlands Stud, P: Chris Waller Racing; \$55,000



Chenille completes her record-breaking win in the Hawke's Bay Gold Cup as the pace-setting Saint Emilion battles on gamely for second.





BARGAIN-BUY FILLY IS NO PUSHOVER IN NZ BLOODSTOCK INSURANCE STAKES

Australian-bound filly **No Pushover (NZ)** (Pins) lived up to her name at Riccarton yesterday when she boosted her future value with black-type success, the bargain buy making the jump from a maiden victory last month to a clear-cut win in the Listed New Zealand Bloodstock Insurance Stakes.

"It's a really nice story as she was bought under a year ago at an NZB Sale for just \$3000," trainer Shaune Ritchie said.

He was asked by syndication company principal Kirk Devers, who operates under the KRD Racing & Thoroughbreds banner, to have a look at the filly and Ritchie gave her a tick of approval.

"She had a parrot mouth but apart from that she was very correct and now she's a stakes winner," he said.

Ritchie also has the Group-placed Megawatt (NZ) (Shocking) for KRD Racing, although both fillies are on limited time in New Zealand.

"I'll be advising Kirk to send them over to my brother Craig in Sydney for next season," he said. "There's limited prize-money here for four-year-olds.

"Megawatt is out spelling and this filly may back up in next Saturday's Warstep Stakes although I'm not certain she'll get 2000 metres.

"There isn't a lot left so we may as well roll the dice as long as she comes through this race well. She was beautifully ridden by Masa Tanaka."

Tanaka was originally to have ridden the Awapuni filly Zbeauty (NZ) (Castledale), but she went sore in the lead-up and he made the most of his opportunity aboard No Pushover.

He gave her a dream run in the trail and they were into the clear at the right time to dash clear for a two length defeat of Goodsav (NZ) (Savabeel) with Deedee Panache (NZ) (Darci Brahma) completing a North Island trifecta.



No Pushover is on her own at the finish of the New Zealand Bloodstock Insurance Stakes.

Race	CJC New Zealand Bloodstock Insurance S. L 1600m
Winner	No Pushover (NZ) 2012
Owners	KRD Racing Pty Ltd
Trainer	Shaune Ritchie (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Pins (Aus) out of Catch the Day by Keeper (Aus)
Breeder	O Wong
Sales	2015 Winter Mixed Bloodstock Sale; V: Wentwood Grange, P: KRD Racing; \$3000



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(Tavistock) wins the Gr.1
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TOMMY TUCKER CAPS BRIAN'S GREAT WEEK



Tommy Tucker (#2) puts in a last-stride lunge to snatch the Easter Cup from Seize The Moment (rails). In a nose and nose finish, third-placed El Sagrado is almost completely obscured behind the winner.

Brian Anderton and his family crowned a memorable few days when **Tommy Tucker (NZ)** (Gallant Guru) triumphed in yesterday's Listed Easter Cup at Riccarton.

The highly respected breeder, trainer, owner and administrator prepares the seven-year-old with his son Shane and the gelding was ridden by his grandson Jacob Lowry in the Christchurch Casino-sponsored event.

Honoured as an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his services to the racing industry earlier in the year, Anderton's White Robe Lodge also sold the top lot at Friday's NZB South Island Sale. Wanganui trainer Kevin Myers went to \$52,500 for the colt by resident stallion Raise The Flag, who stands alongside Tommy Tucker's sire Gallant Guru at the Mosgiel stud.

Tommy Tucker enjoyed a sweet run close to the pace and the prolific winner finished determinedly for his eleventh victory in 37 appearances for Anderton, who shares in the ownership with his wife Lorraine and long-time stable client Ian Nichol.

"I'm elated for Ian. I trained for his grandfather and for his parents so it's been a long association," Anderton said.

"There are always disappointments in racing, though, and we broke in his full sister and she's gone in the wind."

Tommy Tucker has been regularly ridden by Lowry, who is apprenticed to Anderton, and the eighteen-year-old was confident of another bold showing from the sprinter/miler, despite a most recent failure at Riverton.

"He'd worked well since his last start when the track was off, it was over 1200 metres and he was doing his best work late," he said.

Tommy Tucker's sustained finish at Riccarton got him the thick end of the stake by the barest of margins from favourite Seize The Moment (NZ) (Pins) with El Sagrado (Azamour) a nose further back in third.

Race	CJC Easter Cup L 1600m
Winner	Tommy Tucker (NZ) 2008
Owners	B J Anderton ONZM, Mrs L E Anderton and I J Nichol
Trainer	Brian & Shane Anderton (Wingatui)
Breeding	by Gallant Guru (Aus) out of Lady Vital by Yamanin Vital
Breeder	B J & Mrs L E Anderton and Mrs G I & Est late T A Nichol





PASSING SHOT'S SPRINT WIN A FAREWELL GIFT FOR HONG KONG BOUND BOSSON

Passing Shot (NZ) (Swiss Ace) ensured Opie Bosson bowed out a winner on his final day of riding in New Zealand ahead of an overseas stint, the speed merchant carrying the 35-year-old, who will shortly take up a contract in Hong Kong, to victory in yesterday's Listed NZB Finance Sprint at Hastings.

Passing Shot, who won last season's Group Three Mr Tiz Trophy in Bosson's hands, was into stride quickly to set the pace and he kicked on gallantly in the run home for the ninth win of his 24-start career.

"It was a beautiful ride by Opie once again," said Eddie Chippendale, who prepares the four-year-old with Stephen McKee. "I was worried at the hundred but the horse really dug in."

Passing Shot clung on grimly to get home by a short head from Miss Denni (NZ) (Pins), who was in receipt of four and a half kilos, with Bonniegirl (NZ) (Darci Brahma) third.

"He's a real warrior and one of the favourites of the Go Racing team," the syndication company's racing manager Matt Allnutt said.

Miss Denni, making her first



Passing Shot (white cap) refuses to give in as Miss Denni lays down a tenacious challenge.

appearance for Tony Pike after winning three of her thirteen starts for champion Sydney trainer Chris Waller, narrowly failed to give the Cambridge horseman a stakes double after he'd celebrated a Listed success in the Hawke's Bay Gold Cup with Chenille.

"I'm still learning about her and she did arrive in great condition," Pike said.

It was her first black type credit, as it was for Bonniegirl, who backed up well after a Rating 85 win at Te Aroha a week ago.

"We've always thought she was up to this level and we knew she would

get a good track here as well," co-trainer Andrew Forsman said.

Race	Hawke's Bay Finance Sprint H. L 1200m
Winner	Passing Shot (NZ) 2011
Owners	Go Racing The Ace Syndicate (Mgr: Albert Bosma)
Trainer	Stephen McKee & Eddie Chippendale (Ardmore)
Breeding	by Swiss Ace (Aus) out of Derrydane by Danehill (USA)
Breeder	G Harvey
Sales	2013 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Westbury Stud, P: Go Racing; \$50,000





ANDREW KEEN ON SOUTHERN BLACK TYPE AS BONNEVAL OPENS CAREER WITH A WIN

Well-related juvenile **Bonneval (NZ)** (Makfi) may have earned an early opportunity to add another black-type credit to her family's already impressive roll of honour, the filly making the perfect start to her career with victory at Hastings yesterday in the Bec, Brad & Richard Turn 40 1300.

"She was a bit green and she's not a natural two-year-old so she will keep getting better," said Andrew Forsman, who trains Bonneval with Murray Baker.

"She's a filly, and a well-bred one at that, and there's a Listed two-year-old race at Riccarton for her. We could look at going down there and then turning her out and come back for the three-year-old features."

The Berkley Stud Champagne Stakes will be run on the Christchurch course on May 7.

A \$150,000 Karaka purchase, Bonneval is a half-sister to the Group Three winners Full Of Spirit (Flying Spur) and Lady Cumquat (Duke of Marmalade) with their dam, the Zabeel mare Imposingly, a three-quarter sister to the Group One winners Champagne and St Reims.

After a straight-long battle, Bonneval gets the better of fellow-debutante Kariokka in yesterday's Hastings juvenile.

"She's a really nice type of filly and we've thought all the way through that she's pretty smart," Forsman said.

The winner of two of her three trials, Bonneval jumped well to sit in second spot to the turn and she rallied strongly late in the piece to gain the upper hand.

"She's still got a bit to learn and she only really knuckled down to it the last bit," rider Matt Cameron said. "She's going to improve a lot."

Fellow debutante Kariokka (NZ) (O'Reilly) kicked on bravely for second after making the running while Jackson Road (NZ) (Jimmy Choux) held on to third from the favourite Karavali

(NZ) (Nadeem), who was tardily out of the barrier and made good ground from the tail of the field.

Race	Hawke's Bay Bec Brad & Richard Turn 40 2YO S. 1300m
Winner	Bonneval (NZ) 2013
Owners	T W Jarvis, A R Lawrence and J A Rattray
Trainer	Murray Baker & Andrew Forsman (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Makfi (GB) out of Imposingly (Aus) by Zabeel
Breeder	City Bloodstock Ltd
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Westbury Stud, P: Baker Racing; \$150,000





SLY ROMANCE'S MARATHON FLAT WIN PUTS JUMPS ON HOLD – RAMSDEN A POSSIBILITY

A race over the Melbourne Cup course and distance could be next on the agenda for **Sly Romance (NZ)** (Pentire) after a 4000 metre win at Caulfield yesterday, the four-year-old gelding taking out Australia's longest flat race with a grinding win in the Marathon Series Final.

Ridden by Nick Hall, Sly Romance, the \$3.50 favourite, scored by 2¼ lengths from Dane Hussler (Husson) with Cuban Fighter (Teofilo) 4¼ lengths away third.

Sly Romance is qualified to race over jumps this season but trainer Richard Laming is likely to resist the temptation until next year.

Instead, next month's Andrew Ramsden Stakes over the course and distance of the Melbourne Cup is a possible target.

"We might look at that but he's been up a while and we'll let him tell us what he wants to do," Laming said.

Sly Romance is bred to stay, being from the Sir Tristram mare Sky Trist, who won the Queen's Cup at Flemington over 3200 metres in March 2000.

– AAP TURF

Race	MRC Tixstar Marathon Final H. 4000m
Winner	Sly Romance (NZ) 2011
Owners	S C Homann, L Jervis, Mrs J Laming, A T Warren, Miss L M Kernot, J C Kernot, Ms J A Doran, R Forsyth, N Senkic, Mrs B Banjavcic-Mills & W Lappin, Blue Moon (Mgr: S Cunningham), Zoomy (Mgr: M A Campbell), The Ana Crew (Mgr: B D Jones), Pure Horn (Mgr: B W Wilson) and Team Daisy (Mgr: S Cunningham)
Trainer	Richard Laming (Clyde)
Breeding	by Pentire (GB) out of Sky Trist by Sir Tristram (Ire)
Breeder	Ramsey Pastoral Co Pty Ltd



A staying pedigree comes to the fore as Sly Romance wins Caulfield's Marathon Final by a clear margin.

