

Sunday 1 May 2016

RASA LILA ENDS CAMPAIGN IN SOME STYLE WITH DOMINANT WIN IN TRAVIS STAKES

The Steven Ramsay and Julia Ritchie-trained **Rasa Lila (NZ)** (Darci Brahma) ended her ten-start 2015/16 campaign on a high note in the Group Two Travis Stakes at Te Rapa yesterday, but rider Leith Innes is adamant it should have been a double.

"She had the good draw today and if she had drawn a gate she would have won last week as well," said Innes, referring to Rasa Lila's closing third behind Sound Proposition (NZ) (Savabeel) in the Group One Easter Stakes at Ellerslie.

"Today I was able to get her into the race and she was travelling well all the way. She won it easily.

"She's a good mare and I'm glad they decided to run her. They were talking of turning her out after last week but I said please give her one more."

Rasa Lila settled midfield on the rails for Innes and was travelling like the winner a long way from home.

Once Innes worked her into the clear and asked for a supreme effort, Rasa Lila raced away to win by three lengths from Abidewithme (NZ) (Redoute's Choice), who wound up late when attempting to defend her Travis Stakes crown.

News of Rasa Lila's win was relayed to her co-breeder and owner Sir Peter Vela in England.

"Sir Peter will be thrilled," said co-trainer Steven Ramsay.

"We won this race with Dolmabache in 2012 and it's great to win it again. It was a peach of a ride from Leith."

Rasa Lila took her record to seven wins from 26 starts with her break-through Group Two success adding to her residual value as a broodmare.

"She'll go out for a spell and come back for the Hawke's Bay spring carnival," said Garry Cossey, racing manager for Sir Peter Vela. "She will be set for the Group Ones over 1600 and 2000 metres.

"She may visit a stallion in the spring then race on a bit



Leith Innes guides Rasa Lila home an easy winner of the Travis Stakes.

longer."

While Rasa Lila was well clear of her rivals, there was only a nose separating runner-up Abidewithme and Gesemi (NZ)

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RICH HILL STALLIONS 2016



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RASA LILA ENDS CAMPAIGN IN SOME STYLE WITH DOMINANT WIN IN TRAVIS STAKES

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(Ekraar), while Thee Auld Floozie (NZ) (Mastercraftsman) was just a further nose away in fourth.

The performance of Gesemi was a pleasant surprise for co-trainer Andrew Forsman.

"I thought the track might be too good for her," he said. "It was a nice run and we will now look at the Rotorua Cup."

Race	Cambridge JC Travis S. Gr.2 2000m
Winner	Rasa Lila (NZ) 2010
Owners	Sir Peter Vela
Trainer	Steven Ramsay & Julia Ritchie (Maungatautari)
Breeding	by Darci Brahma out of Dance My Dance (Ire) by Sadler's Wells (USA)
Breeder	P J & P M Vela Ltd



Co-trainer Julia Ritchie with stable star Rasa Lila.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chris calls 'correct weight' on Rory

A daily check of his weight in front of his boss may have saved the Australian career of apprentice Rory Hutchings.

The expat-Kiwi celebrated his first stakes success for his master Chris Waller at Hawkesbury yesterday, getting Amovatio (Al Maher) home in the Group Three Hawkesbury Gold Cup only for the leading trainer to reveal how he has had to keep the 21-year-old focused on his job of riding for the high-profile stable.

"We make him weigh in every morning at the office," Waller said. "And by that we get a chance to have a quick chat to him as well to make sure he is eating properly and doing everything right."

A multiple champion apprentice in New Zealand, Hutchings has battled weight and suspension since linking with Waller, who says Sydney racing can be an unforgiving environment for an out-of-sorts apprentice. And Hutchings admitted he has been close to quitting.

"I thought about going back to New Zealand a few times when suspensions and my weight were getting me a bit down," he said.

Amovatio's win was Hutchings' 21st city winner for the season and he has extended his Sydney apprentices' title lead over Winona Costin.

- AAP TURF

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MATT TAKES TRAIL WITH XTRAVAGANT – THE RESULT IS EXACTLY AS EXPECTED

Jockey Matt Cameron adopted new tactics on boom three-year-old colt **Xtravagant (NZ)** (Pentire) at Te Rapa yesterday but the result was just as everyone expected, with the favourite strolling to victory.

The dual Group One winner usually plays the role of pacemaker, however when race rivals De Niro (NZ) (O'Reilly) and Conjuring (NZ) (Per Incanto)

pressured Xtravagant for the lead early in the contest, Cameron was happy to take a trail in third.

"That wasn't the plan but if he was going to do it this was a good race to try it out," said Cameron.

"He came back to me well and when I peeled him off the fence coming to the turn I knew he'd win.

"He took over easily and though he

came to the end of it the last bit he was never going to lose. He had a good puff.

"It was similar to his Boxing Day win at Ellerslie."

Xtravagant was having his first start since finishing eighth in the Australian Guineas at Flemington on March 5 and though he was getting weary over the final stages he still had two and three-quarter lengths to spare over the

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Quality colt Xtravagant coasts home an easy winner of the Cambridge Breeders' Stakes.





MATT TAKES TRAIL WITH XTRAVAGANT – THE RESULT IS EXACTLY AS EXPECTED

(Continued from page 4)



A super-satisfied Matt Cameron brings Xtravagant back to scale.

runner-up, the South Island visitor First Serve (NZ) (Swiss Ace).

Co-trainer Stephen Autridge looked both happy and relieved as he was swamped by Xtravagant's syndicate of

owners as the winner returned to scale.

"He's done the job and we'll discuss during the week what we do with him now," said Autridge. "I'd say he will have a little break."

Xtravagant has now won six of his ten starts and becomes the third Cambridge Breeders' Stakes winner for Te Akau Racing Stables, following on from Te Akau Dancer (NZ) (Lowell) in 1998 and Burgundy (NZ)

(Redoute's Choice) in 2012.

The previously unbeaten First Serve impressed in her North Island debut when charging home for second after settling back and being held up in the

run home and her connections will now consider an Australian campaign.

"I'm very pleased," said her rider, Sam Wynne. "That is a good horse she was chasing down. She gave me a nice feel."

Volks Lightning (NZ) (Volksraad) also ran on well, getting into third, a short neck from First Serve, with the winner's stablemate Windborne (NZ) (Darci Brahma) doing her best work late for fourth.

Race	Cambridge JC Cambridge Breeders S. Gr.3 1200m
Winner	Xtravagant (NZ) 2012
Owners	Te Akau 2014 Breeding Syndicate (Mgr: D C Ellis)
Trainer	Stephen Autridge & Jamie Richards (Matamata)
Breeding	by Pentire (GB) out of Axiom by Zabeel
Breeder	Rich Hill Ltd
Sales	2014 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Rich Hill Stud, P: D C Ellis; \$375,000

CONGRATULATIONS XTRAVAGANT

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wins the Gr.1 Bonecrusher NZ Stakes 12-3-16



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LANCIATO COMES UP TRUMPS FOR STEPHEN AS RAGHU GIVES TONY A HEAD-SCRATCHER

New Zealand Derby third placegetter Raghu (NZ) (Showcasing) was all the rage to win the 1600 metre Clubhouse Cafe & Sports Bar Cambridge Premier at Te Rapa yesterday, but had to settle for fifth placing as **Lanciato (NZ)** (Per Incanto) raced to an impressive length and three-quarters victory for trainer Stephen Marsh.

Lanciato began his career with Matamata trainer Lance Noble and was transferred to Marsh's quarters with a record of a win and two placings from five starts when Noble took up his position as private trainer for Brendon and Jo Lindsay.

The gelding had his first run for his new stable when third at Te Aroha on a soft track and was much more suited by the good footing at Te Rapa.

Jockey Leith Innes climbed aboard Lanciato for the first time and was impressed with his performance.

"He got there too soon. He did it easily," said Innes. "He's a nice horse with a good future."

Lanciato easily accounted for runner-up Our Abbadean (NZ) (Lookin at Lucky), who just shaded the game Evoke (NZ) (Perfectly Ready).

Meanwhile rival trainer Tony Pike was left to ponder what to make of Raghu's performance.

A leading Queensland Derby prospect,

Raghu is booked to be flown to Brisbane with some of his stablemates and the initial reaction from trainer Tony Pike is to press ahead with the plans.

"I'll go home and think it over tonight but I'd say he'll probably still go," said Pike. "They walked and sprinted home and that didn't suit him. He's a stayer and he really needs to be out and rolling."

Race	Cambridge JC Clubhouse Cafe & Bar H. 1600m
Winner	Lanciato (NZ) 2012
Owners	Homebush Partnership No.5 Syndicate (Mgr: B Perry)
Trainer	Stephen Marsh (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Per Incanto (USA) out of Surreptitious by O'Reilly
Breeder	JML Bloodstock Ltd & Little Avondale Trust



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WHEN ROGIE LABELS ICHIBAN, BUSINESS COMES TO A HALT AT THE CAR SALES YARD

Graeme Rogerson's confidence in the prospects of **Ichiban (NZ)** (Swiss Ace) at Te Rapa yesterday saw a few of the owners take extreme measures to be on course for the occasion.

Rogerson shares in the ownership of two-year-old Ichiban with breeder Gerry Harvey and a group of stable clients.

"Paul (Manning) and the other boys have got Te Rapa Wholesale Cars and they closed the yard to be here for the race," said Rogerson.

"I told them he would win. He's a good horse and if he'd

gone straight in his first race he would have gone close."

Ichiban finished third on debut behind the highly regarded Ugo Foscolo (NZ) (Zacinto) on a slow track at Rotorua in mid-April and in a bid to improve his racing manners side winkers were put on for the Cambridge Equine Hospital Premier.



Ichiban (red colours) does enough to nose out Barcelo.

Mark Du Plessis, who had also been aboard Ichiban in his debut, noticed the improvement as the youngster tracked the leaders then knuckled down to a hard-fought narrow victory over the pacemaker Barcelo (NZ) (Alamosa), who refused to give in.

"He raced much better today," said Du Plessis, who leaves for a Japanese stint on Tuesday. "He's going to be a nice three-year-old."

Ichiban is a brother to four-year-old Staccato, who has won seven races from the Rogerson stable. "We've also got a yearling full sister," said Rogerson.

Ichiban will now be aimed at the Listed Great Northern Foal Stakes, over 1400 metres at Ellerslie on May 28.

Though beaten, there was plenty of merit in the performance of Barcelo, while Sweet Leader (NZ) (O'Reilly) ran on for third, four and a half lengths away.

Race	Cambridge JC Cambridge Equine Hospital 2YO H. 1200m
Winner	Ichiban (NZ) 2013
Owners	G A Rogerson, Robin Ratcliffe, Paul Manning, Grant Wilson, Kyle Selinger and NZ Thoroughbred Holdings Ltd
Trainer	Graeme & Debbie Rogerson (Tuhikaramea)
Breeding	by Swiss Ace (Aus) out of Eclaircissement (Aus) by Hussonet (USA)
Breeder	G Harvey
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Westbury Stud, P: Rogerson Bloodstock; \$55,000





DESPITE INSTRUCTIONS, BRENTON LETS MACKINTOSH RUN AND HOME HE ROLLS

The Chris Waller-trained **Mackintosh (NZ)** (Pins) made a winning start to life as an Australian resident when leading most of the way to score in the 1500 metre Fishboy Seafoods Handicap at Hawkesbury yesterday.

Jockey Brenton Avdulla went against pre-race instructions by leading aboard Mackintosh and the three-year-old kicked strongly in the straight to give the jockey and trainer a winning treble for the meeting.

“I was mindful of what Chris said but the speed was slow so I took control well within myself,” Avdulla told acting chief steward Marc Van Gestel, who praised the rider’s initiative.

“I was told to be midfield but with the way the race was unfolding I thought I’d be better off rolling forward and he was too strong.”

Mackintosh arrived at Waller’s stables earlier this year with a decent reputation, having won two of his first three career starts – a dominant maiden win at Te Aroha being followed by an unlucky fourth on a Premier day at Awapuni and success against his own age at Ellerslie, where he beat subsequent Derby placegetter Raghu.

The gelding tackled the Randwick Guineas for his former trainer James Bridge but weakened out of the race to finish more than eight lengths from the winner.

“He came over here to run in the Australian Derby but he just wasn’t ready,” Waller said. “He’ll go to Queensland now for the Rough Habit Plate in two weeks.”

Waller is hoping Mackintosh can then progress to the Group One Queensland Derby at Eagle Farm on June 11.

– racenet.com.au



Mackintosh wins with his ears pricked after an all-the-way effort at Hawkesbury.

Race	Hawkesbury RC Fishboy Seafoods H. 1500m
Winner	Mackintosh (NZ) 2012
Owners	T Muollo, A Muollo and L Petagna
Trainer	Chris Waller (Rosehill)
Breeding	by Pins (Aus) out of Lolly Scramble by Generous (Ire)
Breeder	Waikato Stud Ltd
Sales	2013 National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Sale; V: Waikato Stud Ltd, P: Bridge Racing; \$11,000

