

Sunday 8 May 2016

LEEBAZ AGAIN AIMED AT DOOMBEN CUP AFTER SECOND SUCCESSIVE HOLLINDALE



Leebaz powers away to his second Hollindale Stakes win at yesterday's Gold Coast meeting.

Leebaz (NZ) (Zabeel) will get a third chance to win the Doomben Cup after completing a huge week for the Hawkes training team by scoring back-to-back wins in the Group Two Hollindale Stakes at the Gold Coast yesterday, the one length win over favourite Hauraki (Reset) taking him past the \$A1 million prize money mark.

Kiwi galloper Volkstok'n'barrell (NZ) (Tavistock) finished strongly wide on the track to be third, 1½ lengths back.

John Hawkes and his sons Michael and Wayne started their week with a win in the Claret Stakes at Hawkesbury

with Swear (Redoute's Choice) and followed with the win by Chatauqua (Encosta de Lago) in the Group One Chairman's Sprint Prize in Hong Kong on Sunday. And they were in the winner's stall again on Friday when Messene (Lonhro) won the Wagga Wagga Gold Cup.

Wayne Hawkes said Leebaz had been a model of consistency, apart from a last-start thirteenth in the \$A4 million Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Randwick.

"But there were excuses. They really hammered him in

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IL CAVALLO 2010

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LEEBAZ AGAIN AIMED AT DOOMBEN CUP AFTER SECOND SUCCESSIVE HOLLINDALE

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the lead. He ended up second last and the other leader ran last," Hawkes said.

"At his previous start he won the Easter Cup at Caulfield and that was a better guide. He is a tough old gelding in form so he is here for the Doomben Cup in a fortnight."

Hawkes said it wasn't the greatest week for his family but was close to it.

Gold Coast-based jockey Michael Cahill continued his good recent form with a perfect ride on Leebaz, who was able to get a sit behind the pace.

The gelding ran second last in the 2015 Doomben Cup as second favourite after finishing runner-up to Streama (Stratum) in 2014.

James McDonald said Hauraki, who was also likely to press on to the Doomben Cup, had his chance but the winner was too strong.

Blake Shinn was impressed with Volkstok'n'barrell, who came from well back in the field.

"His run just peaked but it was a good trial for the Doomben Cup," Shinn said. "He will be fitter."

– AAP TURF

Race	GCTC AD Hollindale S. Gr.2 1800m
Winner	Leebaz (NZ) 2009
Owners	G P I Racing (Mgr: G P Ingham), D V Russo, P J Duggan, Brian Carroll Investments (Mgr: B D Carroll) and B & G McAlister (Mgr: Mrs G J McAlister)
Trainer	Michael, Wayne & John Hawkes (Rosehill)
Breeding	by Zabeel out of Polish Princess (GB) by Polish Precedent (USA)
Breeder	Windsor Park Stud Ltd
Sales	2011 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Windsor Park Stud, P: Hawkes Racing; \$460,000



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IMPOSING LASS PASSES STAMINA TEST IN BRACELET ON WAY TO QUEENSLAND OAKS

Imposing Lass (NZ)
(Makfi) passed her first serious stamina test when she outstayed her rivals in yesterday's Listed Gold Coast Bracelet over 1800 metres.

Sent out a \$3 favourite, Imposing Lass was having her first attempt beyond 1600 metres and led throughout for expat-Kiwi jockey Jason Collett to defeat Self Esteem (Stratum) by a half length.

"She's a bombproof filly who does everything right and once she found the front she was always going to take a lot of running down," Jack Bruce, foreman for trainer Bjorn Baker, said.

"Once Jason got her to settle she was able to kick strongly because she's a very push-button type of filly.

"Every time Bjorn has raised the bar with her she's handled it pretty easily."

Collett said the on-pace racing pattern of Imposing Lass made it difficult for her rivals.

"When she can run her final 600 metres in a tick over 34 seconds it makes it very hard for the others to run her down," he said.

The Group One Queensland Oaks, over the testing 2400 metres at Eagle Farm on June 4, is the ultimate goal for Imposing Lass, who will have her final lead-up in the 2000 metre Group Two The Roses at Doomben on May 21.

- AAP TURF



Imposing Lass shows her staying qualities as she holds off the challenge of Self Esteem in the Gold Coast Bracelet.

Race	GCTC Gold Coast Bracelet L 1800m
Winner	Imposing Lass (NZ) 2012
Owners	S A Aspinall, C P Goodall, D B Carey and Mrs C A Aspinall
Trainer	Bjorn Baker (Warwick Farm)
Breeding	by Makfi (GB) out of Imposingly (Aus) by Zabeel
Breeder	City Bloodstock Ltd
Sales	2014 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Westbury Stud, P: Paul Willetts Bloodstock; \$120,000





STAY-AT-HOME CAMPAIGN PLANNED FOR ECUADOR AFTER LORD MAYOR'S CUP WIN

While many trainers are looking to the winter riches of Queensland, Gai Waterhouse is happy to keep Lord Mayor's Cup winner **Ecuador (NZ)** (High Chaparral) close to home.

The six-year-old's Listed win at Rosehill yesterday was his first for almost a year.

And Waterhouse was quick to praise his jockey Adam Hyeronimus, who took Ecuador to the front and rated him to perfection in holding off the favourite Lady Le Fay (NZ) (Thorn Park) by 1½ lengths.

"I told Adam to get him going and it was a display of front-running at its best," Waterhouse said.

"Adam is a heavyweight jockey with a lot of talent but he is a bit injury-prone. And the horse has a lot of talent but he has done things wrong and stubbed himself in the toe.

"We have now barred the blinkers and he relaxed much better."

Waterhouse said Ecuador would stay in Sydney for the winter staying features like the McKell Cup and Winter Cup.

"He will stay here now he is in form," she said.

Although he hadn't won for so long, Ecuador did run second in the 2015 Group One Epsom Handicap. And while the winner Winx (Street Cry) went on to establish herself as the nation's top horse with wins in the Cox Plate, George Ryder Stakes and Doncaster Mile, Ecuador has struggled.

"After the Epsom we ran him in the Group One Mackinnon Stakes and the Emirates in the spring," Waterhouse said.

"But he has been a slow maturer and just didn't handle things."

Although his mount was beaten in a race she looked primed to win, Greg Ryan had plenty of praise for Lady Le Fay.

"She ran a super race," he said. "She had an awkward draw and she's got an awkward racing pattern; those sorts of horses need everything to go their way. She took a lot of ground off the winner but he just had too much start and nothing could have run the sectionals to beat him."

– AAP TURF

Race	ATC Lord Mayor's Cup L 2000m
Winner	Ecuador (NZ) 2009
Owners	S C Rose, Saddlers Knife Synd (Mgr: D Brook), G J Fisher, T Lillis, G G B Macdonald, J P Nugent, Oliver Racing Synd (Mgr: Dr P J Oliver), Mrs R Winney and Ms J Singleton
Trainer	Gai Waterhouse (Randwick)
Breeding	by High Chaparral (Ire) out of Bak da Princess by Danske
Breeder	D B & P G Hollinshead
Sales	2011 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Esker Lodge, P: Ms Amanda Skiffington; \$360,000



A return to his favourite track and facing opposition easier than he's recently encountered paved the way for a return to form by the quality galloper Ecuador.





LISA LEAVES LITTLE FOR RIVALRY WITH PEPPER MILL STAR OF FOUR-WIN DAY

Victory aboard **Pepper Mill (NZ)** (Patapan) at Riccarton yesterday completed a successful southern venture for jockeys' premiership leader Lisa Allpress.

The Wanganui-based rider had earlier taken winning tricks with Irish Call (NZ) (Civics), Cantina (NZ) (Cecconi) and Batman (NZ) (Falkirk) and was also runner-up on Montrachet (NZ) (High Chaparral) and Parisdotcon (NZ) (Elusive City), beaten both times in photo finishes.

Pepper Mill has fashioned a tidy record for Ashburton trainer Jan Hay, who has no plans for the genuine five-year-old in the wake of his success in the Listed Speights Mid Ale Great Easter Stakes.

"I hadn't thought much beyond today – I don't think there's too much to be worrying about, there isn't a lot coming up anyway," she said. "I might just back off him for a while now."

Pepper Mill was given a sweet run in fourth spot by Allpress and the gelding, who had the luxury of carrying the minimum 53kg, forged clear in the straight for his fifth win in eleven appearances.

"The weight was a great assist and it's always nice to have such a good rider," Hay said.

The Kevin Myers-prepared runner-up Overtheriver (NZ) (Mettre en Jeu) had to give the winner six kilos while Seize The Moment (NZ) (Pins) was conceding five kilos and his trainer

Stephen Marsh wasn't disappointed with the five-year-old's effort for third.

"He was right at the end of his campaign," he said. "He's been up a long time so he'll come home for a well-earned spell. He deserves it – he's done an enormous job."

Race	CJC Great Easter S. L 1400m
Winner	Pepper Mill (NZ) 2010
Owners	A W & S B Donald, Mrs W Gatward, A S & Mrs L R Goodall, P J Semmens and K Snell
Trainer	Jan Hay (Ashburton)
Breeding	by Patapan (USA) out of Danska Mill by Danske
Breeder	A W & S B Donald, Mrs W Gatward, A S & Mrs L R Goodall, P J Semmens and K Snell



Pepper Mill (#11) sweeps past his opponents in the Great Easter Stakes to give Lisa Allpress her fourth win on yesterday's Riccarton card.





ZIGWIG KICKS OFF **STUD'S BIG DAY OUT**

Inglewood Stud savoured a champagne afternoon after a memorable black type double for their resident sire yesterday.

The North Canterbury farm celebrated royal results for Zacinto with the Dansili stallion's daughter **Zigwig (NZ)** successful at Riccarton and a little over fifteen minutes later it was the turn of his son Ugo Foscolo (NZ) at Te Rapa.

Inglewood Stud is a family operation and managed by Gus Wigley, who was handed the reins in 2012 by his father Nick, who trains Zigwig.

"This is just huge for the stud and the stallion," Nick Wigley said.

Zigwig's victory in the Listed Berkley Stud Champagne Stakes, later matched by Ugo Foscolo's Te Rapa success, executed a long-term plan.

"This is the race we kept her for," Wigley said. "She would have been turned out before this if it wasn't a stakes race."

Zigwig was put aside after a debut placing in the summer and a fortnight ago she finished a creditable third on her return to the course after racing five wide in a seventeen-horse field.

"Jacob Lowry got off her and said she was still six months away from her best," Wigley said. "I think she's going to be a real Guineas horse in the spring."



With senior jockey Terry Moseley getting the call up yesterday, Zigwig raced kindly within touch of the pace and when she was asked for a serious effort in the straight the juvenile quickly put a margin on the field.

She coasted over the closing 200 metres to have three and a half lengths to spare at the post on Disturbance (NZ) (Thewayouare), who made ground strongly, with Shirley Maude (NZ) (Fully Fledged) third ahead of the first-starter Cobblertothe stars (NZ) (Jimmy Choux).

The favourite What Choux Want (NZ) (Jimmy Choux) was in front early in the run home before wilting to finish fifth.

Zigwig, in the hands of Terry Moseley, makes no race of it over the final stages of Riccarton's Champagne Stakes.

Race	CJC Champagne S. L 1200m
Winner	Zigwig (NZ) 2013
Owners	Inglewood Stud (NZ) Ltd
Trainer	Nick Wigley (Rangiora)
Breeding	by Zacinto (GB) out of Dolly's Wig (Aus) by Snippetson (Aus)
Breeder	Inglewood Stud (NZ) Ltd



S

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RNP

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nearly 5x service fee
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R

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UGO FOSCOLO KEEPS THE BALL ROLLING ON A DAY TO REMEMBER FOR ZACINTO

Commanding favourite **Ugo Foscolo (NZ)** (Zacinto) was given a serious test at Te Rapa yesterday and the highly regarded youngster responded with a record-breaking performance, setting a new course mark of 1:03.54 for 1100 metres in the Listed Hamilton Vets Equine Stakes as he also maintained his unbeaten record.

Race	Waikato RC Hamilton Vets Equine S. L 1100m
Winner	Ugo Foscolo (NZ) 2013
Owners	JML Bloodstock (Mgr: L Petagna), T Muollo, P W O'Rourke, Ms R Phillippo, T I Bawden and KJ Hickman
Trainer	Stephen Marsh (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Zacinto (GB) out of Bequests by Stravinsky (USA)
Breeder	Inglewood Stud (NZ) Ltd
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Inglewood Stud, P: Bruce Perry Bloodstock; \$50,000

Ugo Foscolo was on the slick early tempo before rider Michael Coleman eased him back and the son of Zacinto, whose daughter Zigwig had earlier landed the Listed Berkley Stud Champagne Stakes at Riccarton, finished determinedly to down Memories Only (NZ) (Patapan).

"They ran hard up front and that other horse is pretty smart – he kicked very hard and certainly wasn't stopping," said trainer Stephen Marsh, who also won the event twelve months ago with No More Tears (NZ) (Darci Brahma).

"The margin wasn't big, but we can take plenty out of the race and times tell everything."

A runaway winner on an unsuitably soft track at Rotorua last month, Ugo Foscolo will now go to the paddock and return in the spring with Group One business to attend to.

"He'll go to the paddock now and later on I'll have a meeting with the owners, but we'll be looking solely at the Two Thousand Guineas," Marsh said.

"I rate him extremely highly – he's a serious horse and what he's done so far proves that. He's capable of much bigger and better things."

The runner-up Memories Only is also headed for the spelling paddock with owner-trainer Linda Laing considering a future Melbourne campaign for the youngster.

Ugo Foscolo (#3) edges away from Memories Only (red cap) to keep his unbeaten record and reputation intact.





SNOWDROP TO RETURN IN THE SPRING

Snowdrop (NZ) (Pins) will head for a deserved break after yesterday completing her four-year-old season on a perfect note at Te Rapa.

The well-related mare continued her impressive progress with victory in the SVS Veterinary Supplies 1200, her sixth career win bringing the curtain down on a lucrative campaign.

“She needs good ground and she doesn’t go on off tracks at all so that’s it for her,” trainer Tony Pike said.

“We’ve run out of time to have a crack at something decent so she’ll be having a nice break now.”

Raced by Waikato Stud’s Garry and Mark Chittick, Snowdrop is a valuable daughter of their multiple Group One winner Daffodil (NZ) (No Excuse Needed).

“She’s strengthened each preparation she’s had and it was a bit unfortunate that she wasn’t quite strong enough as a three-year-old to chase some black type,” Pike said.

“We’ll be looking at some of the better sprints for her in the late spring and early summer. The set weights and penalties races won’t suit her, but down in the handicaps in some of the other good races she’ll be competitive.”

A winner at Trentham in January, Snowdrop returned from a break to score in style last month at Ellerslie where she was ridden by apprentice Ryan Elliot and the seventeen-year-old gave another polished display on the four-year-old at Te Rapa.

“He’s ridden her very well both times,” Pike said. “He was patient and didn’t panic and waited for the gap in the straight.”



Snowdrop asserts her authority over the Rating 85 sprinters at Te Rapa to end her four-year-old season with a treble and an overall record of six wins from eleven starts.

Snowdrop came out of the trail 200 metres from home and was too good for Airlie House (NZ) (Tavistock) and the three-year-old Amarula (NZ) (Thorn Park).

Race	Waikato RC SVS Veterinary Supplies H. 1200m
Winner	Snowdrop (NZ) 2011
Owners	G J & M J Chittick
Trainer	Tony Pike (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Pins (Aus) out of Daffodil by No Excuse Needed (GB)
Breeder	G J & M J Chittick





AARON ON WEATHER WATCH – RECKONS A BIT OF RAIN WILL IMPROVE SAN PEDRO



In a thrilling home-straight battle, San Pedro (red colours) and Thenamesbond take the last together with Nancho Lass almost on terms.

Cambridge jockey Aaron Kuru will be keeping close tabs on the weather ahead of the first jumping feature of the year. The 24-year-old will partner the rising star **San Pedro (NZ)** (Colombia) in the Waikato Hurdles on May 21 and their prospects will be further boosted by a softening of the ground.

“He’s pretty good and any rain between now and then will be perfect for him,” Kuru said.

San Pedro furthered his record over the small fences to three wins and two placings from five appearances, all in Kuru’s hands, when the Paul Nelson-trained gelding won yesterday’s Porritt Sand Open Hurdle at Te Rapa.

“He won well today, but he didn’t enjoy the firmer ground,” Kuru said. “He still does a few things wrong, but he’s learning. He’s got it all there and he’s in the right stable.”

San Pedro settled in the body of the field before Kuru urged the nine-year-old forward across the top to challenge

three flights from home. The son of Colombia was inclined to lay in down the straight but still proved too strong.

“He made the last well and he got away nicely,” Kuru said. “He’s improved with all his jumping starts and he’s going to improve again with this run.”

Front-runner Thenamesbond (NZ) (China Cat), who gave the winner six kilos, rallied strongly for his second placing and will get his chance to turn the tables in the Waikato Hurdles while Nancho Lass (NZ) (Mr Nancho) was a game third with Maharishi (NZ) (Ishiguru) the best of the rest.

Race	Waikato RC Porritt Sand Hurdle 2800m
Winner	San Pedro (NZ) 2006
Owners	Mrs C & P S Nelson
Trainer	Paul Nelson (Hastings)
Breeding	by Colombia out of La Esmeralda by Lord Ballina (Aus)
Breeder	A E Dever





AFTER A STICKY START, SHANE PROVED RIGHT ABOUT STAR FILLY'S TRUE ABILITY

Am A Star (NZ) (I Am Invincible) has delivered the win her trainer Shane Nichols had expected to come two weeks ago.

Things didn't pan out when the two-year-old made her debut at Caulfield but yesterday she lived up to Nichols' confidence at Flemington to win the Phar Lap Club Plate over 1100 metres, racing in the pack until Steven King took her to

the front at the 300 metre mark.

She then held her rivals comfortably in the run to the line to defeat Sebring Dream (Sebring) by 1½ lengths with a neck to Harlow Gold (NZ) (Tavistock).

Odds-on favourite Merriest (Denman) weakened to finish sixth.

"She had trialled up well before we went to Caulfield and we thought she could win there," Nichols said.

"It just didn't unfold from a sticky gate in a slowly run race and we got into an awkward spot."

I Am A Star finished sixth as a \$6 chance at Caulfield and was at \$16 yesterday.

"I've always thought she was pretty handy," Nichols said. "She's very much bombproof. Her sister Band On The Run won only one race and ran a couple of stakes placings in Tasmania in the Gold Sovereign and Elwick Stakes.

"But this is a better filly than her. She could really make the grade as a three-year-old."

Nichols says he may now give I Am A Star a let-up before

looking to the future and King believes there's an upside to the filly.

"She's a really mature sort of filly and knew what it was all about, even though it was only her second start," the jockey said.

– AAP TURF

Race	VRC Phar Lap Club 2YO P. 1100m
Winner	I Am A Star (NZ) 2013
Owners	M B Sandblom
Trainer	Shane Nichols (Mornington)
Breeding	by I Am Invincible (Aus) out of Star Band (USA) by Dixieland Band (USA)
Breeder	Eales Racing Pty Ltd
Sales	2014 National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Sale; V: Rich Hill Stud, P: Llanhennock Trust; \$12,000 2015 Classic Yearling Sale, Summer Session; V: Broadwater Thoroughbreds, P: James Harron Bloodstock; \$40,000



I Am A Star rebounds from a below-par Caulfield debut to score impressively at yesterday's Flemington meeting.

