

Monday 20 August 2018

SEA KING NATIONAL HERO AT FOURTH ATTEMPT



Sea King flies a fence on his way to victory at Ballarat

Twelve-year-old New Zealand jumper **Sea King (NZ)** (Shinko King) chased down Spying On You (NZ) (Yamanin Vital) in the final stride of a drama-filled running of the A\$350,00 E-Cycle Solutions Grand National Steeplechase (4500m) at Sportsbet-Ballarat on Sunday.

The bid for a fairytale fourth Grand National for the Kathryn Durden-trained Wells (Galileo) was thwarted at just the third of the 16 obstacles when he unseated his hoop Richie Cully.

Crisp Steeplechase winner Excellent Rhythm (Elvstroem)

strung the field out once more as he did at Sandown, but he wasn't able to last out the marathon trip this time around, with the home straight leaving it a race in three - Spying On You, Monarch Chimes (NZ) (Shinko King) and Sea King.

The Grant Young-trained Spying On You, partnered by New Zealand hoop Aaron Kuru, had seen off the Kiwi galloper Monarch Chimes, but the Patrick Payne-trained Sea King - who fell late in last year's race when challenging Wells - had his day on Sunday.

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(Continued from page 1)

Sunday was Sea King's fourth shot at the National having finished third in 2014, fourth in 2016 before falling last year.

Winning trainer Patrick Payne deflected the credit for Sea King's victory to New Zealand trainer Kevin Myers.

"I can't stick my chest out," Payne said.

"They sent him over fit and well and all I had to do was keep him breathing."

Payne said Sea King had become a stable favourite in the five years he had been coming to Australia.

He added he was a quirky individual.

"He lays in and lays out and he's almost got barred in New Zealand a couple of times," Payne said.

"For a degree of difficulty, he's an unbelievable ride but he (Steve Pateman) makes it look relatively easy."

Sea King has likely run his last race in Australia, where retirement is mandatory for horses beyond 12 years of age. The son of Shinko King has now won more than NZ\$1 million in prizemoney with 20 wins and 24 placings from 77 starts.

Pateman said he felt for connections of Wells in their chase for history.

"It was a really thrilling win and I'm sorry what happened with Wells," Pateman said.

"But that could have happened to any of us. That's the game."

Pateman missed a chunk of the 2017 jumps season through injury and said Payne had a plan leading into this year's race.

"I'm so privileged to ride for him," Pateman said.

"People kept thinking I was going to retire but there was no plan to retire, which I think was a flow-on effect from breaking my leg last year.

"Oakbank and Warrnambool were good but June and July were terrible. That's why I'm a bit emotional," he said.

Jockey Will Gordon who fell from John Monash (Kay Tara) was taken to Ballarat Hospital for x-rays on a suspected fractured collarbone.

Race	Ballarat TC Grand National S/chase 4500m.
Winner	Sea King (NZ) 2006
Owners	Miss R A Frost, Mr C D W O'Reilly, Mrs S M Harty
Trainer	Patrick Payne (Plumpton)
Breeding	by Shinko King (IRE) out of Ocean Princess by Prince of Praise
Breeder	Mrs S M Harty; NZ

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CLASSY KIWI MARE SENDS STRONG SIGNAL ON SPRING PROSPECTS

Former top three-year-old filly **La Bella Diosa (NZ)** (So You Think) ended an eighteen-month absence from the winner's enclosure when she produced a devastating burst of speed to claim victory over 1100m at Caulfield on Saturday.

Having just her second start from the Lindsay Park operation of trainers David and Ben Hayes along with Tom Dabernig, the now five-year-old put a welcome smile back on the faces of her patient connections who held firm in the belief she could return to her best in this campaign.

Raced in New Zealand as La Diosa, the daughter of So You Think was a star of spring racing during her three-year-old

campaign where she took out the Gr.1 New Zealand 1000 Guineas (1600m).

She later added the Gr.2 Surround Stakes (1400m) in Sydney during the autumn on a heavy track, with that performance an anomaly for the mare who has a preference for firmer footing.

Things began to unravel for La Bella Diosa after that, with a succession of unsuitable wet tracks frustrating her remaining efforts as a three-year-old before she failed to fire in three starts as a four-year-old back in New Zealand.

Acting on the advice of former trainer Mandy Brown, her connections sent her to Lindsay Park where the mare has thrived in preparation for her new campaign.

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Former top three-year-old La Bella Diosa returned to winning form at Caulfield on the weekend (Quentin Lang)





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CLASSY KIWI MARE SENDS STRONG SIGNAL ON SPRING PROSPECTS

(Continued from page 4)

“Mandy recommended we send her to the Hayes operation as she believed she still had the potential to get back to her best,” part-owner Gordon Calder said.

“We can’t thank her enough as Mandy had her in top condition when she went over there and the reports we had been getting from the stable were that she had settled in well and was thriving.

“They were confident of a good run on Saturday, although the common thinking was the distance might be a bit sharp for her. To see her produce that closing speed we know she has was just wonderful and there were plenty of smiles on our faces after the race.”

Many would have sent the valuable breeding prospect into an early retirement following her loss of form, but Calder said her syndicate of owners were convinced she was not a spent force on the track.

“Her breeding suggests she could race well as an older mare and we believed that she still had what it took to compete at the top level,” he said.

“The wet tracks she struck at the end of her three-year-old season didn’t help her and I think we saw that when she didn’t shape up that well in her next few starts.

“Now she has struck form again I think she can go on and have a really good spring, as do the team at Lindsay Park, who have been very encouraging with their opinions about her.”

While he wasn’t on track to witness Saturday’s triumph firsthand, Calder has plans to be in Melbourne next month for her next run.

“We got a call to say she had bounced through the run well so the plans are to target the mares features during the Melbourne spring carnival,” he said.

“Her next run is likely to be in the Let’s Elope Stakes (Gr.2, 1400m) on September 15 and I’m hoping to get over there for that one.

“The ultimate goal is the Myer Classic (Gr.1, 1600m) in November, but we will be trying not to get ahead of ourselves although it would be a real thrill to get to a race like that.”

– NZ Racing Desk



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ROSEHILL TRIAL

THE NEXT STEP FOR LANCIATO

One of the leading Epsom Handicap fancies, **Lanciato (NZ)** (Per Incanto), will continue preparations towards his main spring target in a star-studded Rosehill barrier trial.

The Mark Newnham-trained Lanciato produced an eye-catching return to racing when he charged home for fourth in the Group Two Missile Stakes (1200m) on August 4, won by Pierata (Pierro).

He is set to make his next public appearance in a 1000m-trial on the course proper at Rosehill on Monday which is scheduled to feature four Group One winners – Redzel (Snitzel), Trapeze Artist (Snitzel), English (Encosta de Lago) and Global Glamour (Star Witness).

Redzel, Trapeze Artist and English are among the sprinters already confirmed for slots in October's \$13 million Everest (1200m) at Randwick.

Lanciato has the \$1 million Gr.1 Epsom Handicap (1600m) at Randwick on September 29 as his target and will run in the Gr. 2 Tramway Stakes (1400m) on September 1 on his way.

"He's come through that first-up run really well," Newnham said.

"His trials had been very good and his work has been great. He's never won at 1200 metres and he had never raced at weight-for-age so to see him do that against that calibre of horse



Lanciato is on the trail of Group One glory (Bradley Photographers)

and run his last 600 metres in 32.6 seconds, that's the makings of a Group One horse.

"Hopefully we get to Epsom day in the best shape possible and he gets a chance to do it."

Newnham believes the best preparation for Lanciato is the four week-break from the Missile to the Tramway with another four weeks into The Epsom.

"He's a real routine horse," he said.

"You space his runs and give him a trial in between and that's when he's at his best.

"He went six weeks between runs

between winning the Carrington Stakes and winning the Newcastle Newmarket last preparation so he's not a horse you need to be racing every couple of weeks.

"He's in really good shape and he's unbeaten second-up so the Tramway looks a really good race for him and it's provided the past two winners of the Epsom.

"Hauraki and Happy Clapper both won it on the way to winning the Epsom, so it's obviously the right lead-up."

AAP





FUTURE STAYING PROSPECT UNEARTHED AT TE RAPA

Racing pundits looking for potential prospects for feature events later in the season would do well to write the name of Cambridge mare **So Wicked (NZ)** (Street Cry) in their little black books.

The Street Cry four-year-old broke her maiden status with a dominant display over 1600m at Te Rapa on Saturday, with trainer Stephen Marsh enthusiastic about her potential to reach greater heights.

Sent out a warm favourite in the maiden contest, So Wicked never looked in any danger of defeat once rider Danielle Johnson secured a perfect trail close to the pace in the early rush for position.

Angled to the middle of the track in the run home, So Wicked glided clear of her rivals as she maintained a strong gallop to the winning post to comfortably hold out second favourite Van Diamond (NZ) (Rip Van Winkle), who also closed off well.

"I was giggling coming to the corner as she (Johnson) just had her in the best position," Marsh said.

"Her form-line has been

getting better and better, as have her racing manners, so it was nice to see her put that field away."

Marsh will take a patient approach with the mare who he believes will be at her best later in the season.

"We'll see how she comes through this one, but I think she will be better in the autumn," he said.

"We're not going to do too much as she's one of those horses who will just keep on improving.

"She will go a mile again next time. She's a slow maturer so we will take our time with her as next prep there will be a nice 2000m or similar race, maybe a Cup, for her."

So Wicked was bred by David Paykel, who races the mare with wife Angela. She is the first foal of their useful staying mare So Pristine (Zabeel) who numbers the 2011 Dunstan Stayers Championship Final (2200m) at Ellerslie amongst her six career victories. – NZ Racing Desk

Race	Waikato RC Kiltannon Stables Maiden S. 1600m.
Winner	So Wicked (NZ) 2014
Owners	Mrs A C & D Paykel
Trainer	Stephen Marsh (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Street Cry (IRE) out of So Pristine (AUS) by Zabeel
Breeder	D Paykel; Waikato; NZ



So Wicked glides clear at Te Rapa (Trish Dunell)



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UGLY DUCKLING STREETS HIS RIVALS AT TE RAPA

With a combined winning margin of 23 lengths in his last two runs you could be forgiven for believing trainers Lance O'Sullivan and Andrew Scott have a potential superstar on their hands in the form of staying talent **Divine Duke (NZ)** (Bachelor Duke).

A conversation with O'Sullivan quickly establishes that is not quite the case and that at times the Matamata conditioner is left embarrassed by the Bachelor Duke six-year-old who set tongues wagging when he ran away and hid from his rating 65 rivals over 2100m at Te Rapa on Saturday.

"Without a word of a lie, he would be the worst looking horse in our stable and I get a little embarrassed when he's out there parading," O'Sullivan said.

"He's like a woolly yak even in the summer and certainly won't win any beauty contests. Mind you when they can win like the way he has in his last two races then you tend to be a little more forgiving."

Although the comments are made with tongue firmly in cheek O'Sullivan is still shaking his head at the improvement the horse has shown in this campaign after a mediocre start to his career.

Successful in two of his first 25 starts Divine Duke finally hit his straps when he bolted in by eight lengths at Tauranga to kick-off the new season. He eclipsed that effort on Saturday when he came from last at the 600m to storm clear in the hands of Taiki Yanagida with daylight his closest rival when he hit the finish line 15 lengths clear of the field.

"When we first got him we thought he could make a decent handicapper once he matured," he said.

"He has been very weak and slow to mature so we didn't really know if he would ever come right.

"Even as a six-year-old now he still has plenty of strengthening to come so he might not reach his peak for a wee while yet.

"We got to the stage where we put him over the hurdles to see if that might sharpen him up, but he still ran last in his trial. Since then he has had a second and two wins so maybe it did



Divine Duke has come of age in recent starts and continued his improvement at Te Rapa on the weekend (Trish Dunell)

the trick.

"That is really the only thing we have done differently with him, so it could be the key, but honestly I just don't know.

"While he is in form we will try and keep him going, so we have a rating 72 2100m earmarked for him back at Te Rapa next month."

O'Sullivan also reported that star galloper Charles Road (Myboycharlie) had pulled up well from his first-up effort in the Gr.2 Lisa Chittick Foxbridge Plate (1200m) where he was seen making up good ground in the concluding stages of the first start in his new spring campaign.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Waikato RC BCD Group H. 2100m
Winner	Divine Duke (NZ) 2012
Owners	B, P & R Bradley, J Cowley, L Davidson, Forest Partnership, C J Mills, D J O'Sullivan OBE, C, C M, Miss H & Mrs S M Reid, Mrs E Wehipeihana, M J Williamson & Est late L M A O'Sullivan
Trainer	Lance O'Sullivan & Andrew Scott (Matamata)
Breeding	by Bachelor Duke (USA) out of Ave Maree by Cape Cross (IRE)
Breeder	The Oaks Stud; Waikato; NZ
Sales	2014 National Yearling Sale - Select Sale V: The Oaks Stud \$40000 P: Wexford Stables





CLEMENTS HAS ANOTHER SMART ECHOES OF HEAVEN 3YO

Siam Blue Vanda (NZ) (Echoes of Heaven) flung his way into the black books with a pulsating debut win in the \$85,000 Restricted Maiden race over 1100m on Sunday at Kranji in Singapore.

Michael Clements' assistant-trainer Michael White said the three-year-old did show some positive signs on the training tracks, but still thought he might need the run first-up, especially with a stablemate and fellow newcomer who was a lot more favoured to get off the mark on the back of his brilliant trial form - Golden Years (NZ) (Jimmy Choux).

Racing in the blue, red and white colours of the Pupetch Racing Stable, Siam Blue Vanda (Glen Boss) easily dispatched his stablemate, racing away to a 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ -length win from Golden Years.

"He's still quite green and physically still a bit light, but he's a lovely horse around the stables," White said.

"I thought Golden Years would be hard to beat but Siam

Blue Vanda would still run a good race, but I was proven wrong. I'd like to be proven wrong more often.

"The quick tempo upfront played into his hands. He ran on very well and looks like a nice horse for the future, but we won't rush him.

"But he is most definitely the sort who will get better over more ground."

Clements is of course known for having prepared another son of New Zealand-based stallion Echoes Of Heaven. He prepared Countofmontecristo (NZ) who was Singapore's Champion Three-Year-Old last year and the winner of in excess of \$51 million in prizemoney.

Siam Blue Vanda was purchased for \$40,000 by Waterford Bloodstock from the draft of Mark and Lorraine Forbes' Kiltannon Stables from the 2017 New Zealand Bloodstock Ready To Run Sale.

Kiltannon Stables also sold Countofmontecristo at the

2015 NZB Ready to Run Sale for \$57,500 and the Cambridge-based vendors will again be well represented at 2018 sale.

The New Zealand Ready To Run Sale is the Southern Hemisphere's leading horses in training sale, with graduates winning 17 Group One races and 117 stakes races in the past five years alone.

The 2018 Ready to Run Sale will take place at Karaka on November 21 and 22, while the breeze-ups will be conducted at Te Rapa on October 15 and 16.



Siam Blue Vanda (NZ) (Echoes Of Heaven) blows his Restricted Maiden rivals away to win on debut.





SAAS FEE ON RADAR AFTER AUTUMN ASSAULT BLITZES RIVALS

A nice freshen-up saw promising galloper **Autumn Assault (NZ)** (Rock 'N' Pop) street his rivals to a most impressive second win on Sunday.

The son of Rock 'N' Pop stamped himself as one of the better two-year-olds this year. He did come a cropper at his last start in the Aushorse Golden Horseshoe (1200m), but that blip was soon forgiven following such an easy stroll in the park at his return in Sunday's \$45,000 Class 4 Non Premier race over 1100m.

Parked in a stalking spot from the jump, albeit three wide, Autumn Assault was still jogging as the field packed up by the home turn.

The New Zealand-bred three-year-old was still under a stranglehold, with regular partner Benny Woodworth swinging off his back and looking in no real hurry to unleash the beast as he allowed his mount to ease into the front without getting out of second gear.

But once the Malaysian rider lowered the chequered flag, the rest soon hoisted the white flag. In the twinkling of an eye, Autumn Assault roared towards the winning post, leaving his rivals gasping in his wake.

Woodworth could sit up and pose for the camera, with the chasing pack nowhere near eating into the margin, which was officially measured at 8 ¼ lengths while the class record of 1min 5.67secs was bettered by 0.15 second.

Kok said he was expecting a forward run, albeit not such a landslide victory, but a few shoeing issues had been niggling at him before the race.



Autumn Assault cleared out to an impressive win at Kranji on Sunday

"I knew he would run well today, but I was a bit worried he did not have a shoe on in front. He lost it a few times and I had to cement it instead," said the Singaporean handler.

"But he seems to have handled that well. The horse came back in good shape after the two-year-old races.

"You can forget his last race in the Aushorse as he had a bad gate (14). I knew he was a lot better than that.

"He will be my three-year-old horse next year, but before that, I will be aiming him at the Saas Fee Stakes at the end of the year."

The Saas Fee Stakes (1200m) is a race open exclusively to three-year-olds for the first time this year and will be staged on November 9.

Race	Singapore TC Class 4 H. 1100m.
Winner	Autumn Assault (NZ) 2015
Owners	Sin-HK Friendship No. 2 Stable
Trainer	David Kok (Kranji)
Breeding	by Rock 'n' Pop (AUS) out of Summer Daze (AUS) by Encosta de Lago (AUS)
Breeder	N L & Mrs R E Child; Auckland; NZ
Sales	2017 National Yearling Sale - Select V: Phoenix Park \$14000 P: Cypress Point Farms 2017 Ready to Run Sale V: Cypress Point Stables \$45000 P: Eternity Racing



NZ BRED WINNERS IN SINGAPORE AUGUST 17

HORSE & BREEDING	BREEDER	RACE	SALES DETAILS
ROCKET FIGHTER (NZ) 2013 by Zacinto (GB) out of Muffin Coup by Elusive City (USA)	Inglewood Stud (N.Z.) Ltd; Canterbury; NZ	Singapore TC Class 5 H. 1100m.	2015 South Island Yearling & Mixed Sale; V: Inglewood Stud, P: HN Auret; \$15,000
REIGN (NZ) 2014 by Power (GB) out of Beejay Belle by Perfectly Ready (AUS)	G V Price; Waikato; NZ	Singapore TC Maiden S. 1000m.	2016 National Yearling Sale - Select Session; V: Landsdowne Park Ltd, P: Paul Moroney B/stock; \$75,000

NZ BRED WINNERS IN SINGAPORE AUGUST 19

HORSE & BREEDING	BREEDER	RACE	SALES DETAILS
SIAM BLUE VANDA (NZ) 2015 by Echoes of Heaven (AUS) out of I'm a Wag (IRE) by Lahib (USA)	Linwood Park Stud Ltd; Auckland; NZ	Singapore TC Restricted Maiden S. 1100m.	2017 Ready to Run Sale; V: Kiltannon Stables Ltd, P: Waterford B/stock; \$40,000
SHAQRAA (NZ) 2012 by Fully Fledged out of Be a Princess by Al Akbar (AUS)	J H & S E Preston; Central; NZ	Singapore TC Class 4 H. 1100m.	
AUTUMN ASSAULT (NZ) 2015 by Rock 'n' Pop (AUS) out of Summer Daze (AUS) by Encosta de Lago (AUS)	N L & Mrs R E Child; Auckland; NZ	Singapore TC Class 4 H. 1100m.	2017 National Yearling Sale - Select; V: Phoenix Park, P: Cypress Point Farms; \$14,000 2017 Ready to Run Sale; V: Cypress Point Stables, P: Eternity Racing; \$45,000
SUPER POWER (NZ) 2014 by Power (GB) out of Kilfenora by Zabeel	Sir Patrick & Lady Hogan; Waikato; NZ	Singapore TC Class 3 H. 1200m.	2016 National Yearling Sale - Premier Session; V: Cambridge Stud, P: Rider Horse NZ; \$210,000 2016 Ready to Run Sale; V: Diamond Lodge, P: A Lim/Dan Meagher Racing; \$310,000



Foxbridge Plate Day review: Brendan Popplewell and Aidan Rodley review Lisa Chittick Foxbridge Plate Day at Te Rapa
(Click image to play)

