

Sunday 28 August 2016

KAWI OVERCOMES INTERRUPTED PREP TO LAND A SECOND MAKFI CHALLENGE



Sporting the Cancer Society's daffodil day colours, Kawi and Leith Innes are decisive winners of yesterday's Makfi Challenge Stakes.

Under the masterly direction of Allan Sharrock, **Kawi (NZ)** (Savabeel) yesterday gave another flawless performance on the big stage to edge a step closer to a trip to Australia.

Overcoming an interrupted preparation, the high-class galloper successfully defended his title in the Group One Makfi Challenge Stakes at Hastings and bagged the fourth top-flight victory of his career.

"It's very satisfying," Sharrock said. "It was a challenge but I knew I had the horse to do it with."

Kawi will return to Hawke's Bay on September 17 for the Group One Windsor Park Plate before a decision is made on

an overseas campaign.

"We'll be looking at Melbourne but he will definitely be here for the second leg," Sharrock said.

Kawi's lead-up to the Makfi was a chequered one, with a bruised cannon bone denying him a lead-up run in the Group Two Foxbridge Plate and last week it was revealed that the six-year-old had undergone surgery since he last raced to correct a wind issue.

"I wouldn't have done that if I didn't think it would have improved him," Sharrock said. "He's in grand condition."

Kawi jumped well from an outside gate for rider Leith

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Innes to take up a midfield spot before they made their move nearing the home bend.

"It was a great effort and he dominated that field," Sharrock said. "I left it up to Leith and he ended up logically where I thought. At weight-for-age, he's the best horse."

Kawi let down strongly in the run home to charge to the front a hundred metres from home and record a decisive 1¼ length victory.

"It was a very good effort and hats off to Allan – he was a fit horse today," Innes said.

"He won pretty easily in the end and with that run under his belt and a faster track on the second day, he's going to be hard to beat again."

Longshots filled the placings with El Pescado (NZ) (El Hermano) edging Farm Boy (NZ) (El Hermano) by a head for second, three-quarters of a length ahead of Longchamp (NZ) (Tavistock) who had a long head on Authentic Paddy (NZ) (Howbaddouwantit).

Race	Hawkes Bay Makfi Challenge S. Gr.1 1400m
Winner	Kawi (NZ) 2010
Owners	A A Baeyertz, J P Goodin, G A MacDonald, G H Phillips and Est late R W Sharrock
Trainer	Allan Sharrock (New Plymouth)
Breeding	by Savabeel (Aus) out of Magic Time by Volksraad (GB)
Breeder	Mrs C M & J P Goodin

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stars shine at Singapore trials

Expat-Kiwi Laurie Laxon's **Huka Falls (NZ)** (Align) ran a cracking barrier trial at Kranji on Tuesday, the trainer hopeful the length and a half win under Glen Boss will translate into a similar performance in today's \$5125,000 Kranji Stakes A race over 1200 metres.

"He looks all right, doesn't he? He won a nice trial from the front but he ran a pretty slow time," said Laxon of his Polytrack stalwart.

"He's drawn 10, but he always shows good gate speed. He doesn't have to lead; it's all up to Glen to decide where to put him. The other thing is it's a Kranji Stakes A race and he's never really done well in such races. Let's hope he proves me wrong on Sunday."

Chasing Huka Falls home on Tuesday, in what trainer Bruce Marsh described as a "perfect" trial, was 2014 Singapore Horse of the Year **War Affair (NZ)** (O'Reilly).

In his first such hit-out since being put away by the Kiwi handler over concerns about his race fitness back in February, the six-year-old was held in the gun run behind Huka Falls and just coasted to the line unextended.

Marsh was reluctant to make any hasty decisions regarding this much-anticipated racing comeback.

"Everything is up in the air. We don't want to set any plans in concrete until we progress from this trial," he said. "We would ideally like to run him in the Jumbo Jet Trophy next Sunday week, but nothing is a hundred percent sure at this stage."

– Singapore Turf Club

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UGO'S CLASSIC QUEST **KICKS OFF IN STYLE**

Exciting three-year-old **Ugo Foscolo (NZ)** (Zacinto) didn't get bogged down by the weight of expectation at Hastings, where he kicked off his classic campaign in perfect style.

The unbeaten gelding controlled yesterday's El Roca 3YO Sprint from the front and was a willing player in the straight as he took major honours in his first run for three months.

"He hadn't had a trial and he's still rough in the coat so I'm very happy," trainer Stephen Marsh said from Melbourne, where he was overseeing the preparation of Sofia Rosa (NZ) (Makfi), who races in the same colours as Ugo Foscolo, for the Group One New Zealand Bloodstock Memsie Stakes.

"He's the sort of horse that I thought would win without being pumped up – he's the real deal and I would have been disappointed if he didn't win.

"That was a pretty good field and you can follow a few out of it."

Successful in both of his juvenile starts including a Listed event at Te Rapa in May, Ugo Foscolo will return to Hastings on October 1 for his next start, in the Group Two Hawke's Bay Guineas.

That will be his final appearance before he heads south for the Group One New Zealand Two Thousand Guineas at Riccarton on November 5.

"That's always been the plan and at this stage we're sticking to it," Marsh said.

Rider Michael Coleman made use of Ugo Foscolo's ace draw to hold the lead and the gelding wasn't overly troubled to maintain his advantage in the closing 300 metres.

"We wanted to ride him

positively from the number one gate and take bad luck out of play," he said.

"He came off the bridle at the half mile and it was hard work into the straight with the head wind, but he found a nice kick. There's plenty of improvement in him."

Te Akau colt Hall Of Fame (NZ) (Savabeel) raced on the pace and chased valiantly to push the winner to a long neck margin, 1½ lengths ahead of the Group One VRC Derby hope Mongolian Falcon (Fastnet Rock), who found the line well.

Race	Hawkes Bay El Roca Sprint H. 1200m
Winner	Ugo Foscolo (NZ) 2013
Owners	JML Bloodstock (Mgr: L Petagna), T Muollo, P W O'Rourke, Ms R Phillippo, T I Bawden and K J 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



Another winner for the Cancer Society as Ugo Foscolo opens his three-year-old season with a win over the gallant Hall Of Fame.





NO-SWEAT WIN FOR HUMIDOR

Rising staying star **Humidor (NZ)** (Teofilo) has moved an effortless step closer to a Group One date in the closing leg of the Hawke's Bay Triple Crown series.

The talented four-year-old's odds

for the Livamol Classic on October 1 were slashed to \$9 following yesterday's sublime performance to triumph in the Reliable Man Rating 75 Mile at Hastings.

"That looks a really attractive race for him and we're sure he can compete at that level," said Johno Benner, who trains the gelding with his partner Hollie Wynyard.

"We'll get him home and have a chat to the owners and work out the safest way to get him there."

Humidor, who won the Group Three

Manawatu Classic last season, recently resumed with a third placing at Te Rapa and was confidently expected to trump his rivals at Hastings.

"The 1600 metres is well short of his best and he's still learning his craft," Benner said, "but we know he's very, very good."

Ridden by Mark Du Plessis, Humidor jumped well to sit in the trail and he put his rivals to the sword on straightening.

"We expected him to do that in this class," Du Plessis said. "He's a horse

Race	Hawkes Bay Reliable Man Mile H. 1600m
Winner	Humidor (NZ) 2012
Owners	Jomara Bloodstock Ltd
Trainer	Johno Benner & Hollie Wynyard (Otaki)
Breeding	by Teofilo (Ire) out of Zalika by Zabeel
Breeder	Jomara Bloodstock Ltd



who still doesn't know how good he is.

"He likes the rail, it gives him a lot of confidence and he can probably lose the side winkers now he's relaxing better. I've always liked him."

Humidor took control of the race at the top of the straight and under Du Plessis' urgings the odds-on shot powered clear for a commanding victory at the expense of third favourite Cristal (NZ) (High Chaparral).

Once again the Cancer Society profits as Humidor proves a class above his rivals in the R75 mile.





HE'S OUR ROKKII SET AMBITIOUS TARGETS

David Hayes is convinced **He's Our Rokkii (NZ)** (Roc de Cambes) is a bigger and better racehorse for a spring campaign that was launched yesterday with a Caulfield win.

He's Our Rokkii won back-to-back Group Three races in Sydney at the back-end of his autumn preparation and Hayes believes he could take the step up to Group One level as a four-year-old.

Defying a \$4.60 to \$7 betting drift in yesterday's Catanach's Jewellers Handicap, He's Our Rokkii defeated \$2.45

favourite Prince Of Brooklyn (Magnus) by a long neck with leader Jungle Edge (Dubawi) holding on for third, another 1¼ lengths away.

Hayes said the 1600 metre Toorak Handicap on the opening day of the Caulfield Cup meeting would be the first big spring target for He's Our Rokkii.

The Group One Longines Mile and Emirates Stakes over 2000 metres during the Melbourne Cup carnival are also on the radar.

He said he would look to take the gelding through his classes before stepping him up in the Toorak.

"I'm convinced he's really come up. He's taken a step," Hayes said.

Jockey Dwyane Dunn agreed with Hayes about the off-season development made by He's Our Rokkii.

"He's matured into a nice horse now and he deserves an opportunity," Dunn said.

"I think he starts to come into his own once he gets to 1800 and 2000 metres. That leaves you a lot of options."

– AAP TURF

Race	MRC Catanach's Jewellers H. 1400m
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, Ben Hayes & Tom Dabernig (Flemington)
Breeding	by Roc de Cambes out of Clerihew (GB) by Lomitas (GB)
Breeder	J R Collinson and C Feneridis



He's Our Rokkii (quartered cap) gets the better of Prince Of Brooklyn close to home at Caulfield.





ANTONIO PROSPERING IN AUSTRALIA

Former New Zealand-trained galloper Antonio **Giuseppe (NZ)** (Shocking) made it two wins in three Australian starts after taking out the 1500 metre Strassmeir Handicap at Rosehill yesterday.

Market fluctuations suggested Antonio Giuseppe would be prominent as he firmed from \$3.30 to start equal favourite at \$2.50 with Extensible (Exceed And Excel), who eased from \$2.05.

And the money told the story as the four-year-old claimed the lead from Peter and Paul Snowden's Extensible over the concluding stages to score by a half neck. Finishing another 3½ lengths away in third was Godolphin gelding Shards (Medaglia d'Oro).

Trainer Chris Waller had originally planned to run Antonio Giuseppe at last Wednesday's Warwick Farm meeting however the Heavy 10 conditions, combined with a handicap of 61.5kg, made yesterday's race the more appealing option.

"I believe every horse has a breaking point. Ninety-nine percent of horses try their hardest so when you're running them on a Heavy 10 track with a big weight and they're feeling the stitch at the 600 metres, their natural instinct is to fight hard and it disheartens them," Waller said.

"I wasn't worried about the wet track as such but the 54kg on a Heavy 9 appeared more suitable."

A patient ride by Brenton Avdulla

Antonio Giuseppe enhances his burgeoning Australian career with a strong win at yesterday's Rosehill meeting.

allowed Antonio Giuseppe to gather momentum in a slogging finish to the line.

"He was flat at the 600 metre mark but when Brenton let him come back and settle a touch that's when you could see him gather himself and quickly make up ground," Waller said.

"It was a good fight in the last 200 metres and it was good to see him come out on top, that's for sure.

"I think he's a nice progressive horse. He's not foolproof yet, he's still learning his trade, and will be given time to go through the grades."

Antonio Giuseppe's next assignment is likely to be an 1800 metre Benchmark 78 contest on Golden Rose day, as he aims for a hat-trick of metropolitan wins since arriving in Australia earlier this year.

He has lived up to the promise shown in his three-start New Zealand

career, which had brought an easy Avondale maiden win, a fourth at Ellerslie on Boxing Day and a midfield finish behind Valley Girl (NZ) (Mastercraftsman) and Predator (NZ) (Savabeel) in a \$50,000 special conditions race at the Karaka Million meeting.

– racenet.com.au

Race	ATC Strassmeir H. 1500m
Winner	Antonio Giuseppe (NZ) 2012
Owners	A M Muollo & Mrs G L Muollo
Trainer	Chris Waller (Rosehill)
Breeding	by Shocking (Aus) out of Crystalthecowgirl by High Chaparral (Ire)
Breeder	R H & Est late E M Rutherford
Sales	2014 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Beltana, P: Phill Cataldo Bloodstock; \$97,500



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LEOTIE LIKELY TO CHASE **GOLDEN ROSE**

Prizemoney is likely to lure **Leotie** (Darci Brahma) to Sydney for September 10's Golden Rose following an impressive win in yesterday's 1400 metre Wedrive Handicap at Caulfield.

"I think I'd rather race her in a million dollar race in Sydney than a two hundred thousand dollar race in Melbourne," trainer Henry Dwyer said after the \$2.30 favourite comfortably disposed of \$3.40 second favourite Sebrikka (Sebring) to score by 1¼ lengths.

"As long as it's a decent track then we'll probably go. I wouldn't want to go if it is going to be heavy though.

Race	MRC wedrive.com.au H. 1400m
Winner	Leotie (Aus) 2013
Owners	Rockmount (Mgr: G D Guest)
Trainer	Henry Dwyer (Caulfield)
Breeding	by Darci Brahma out of Prairie Star by High Chaparral (Ire)
Breeder	Bell View Park Stud

"She's a really smart filly and getting her to 1400 metres certainly helped. Pedigree-wise there's no reason why she won't get further."

Leotie settled third in the small field before accelerating clear in the home straight.

Dwyer said the daughter of Prairie Star (NZ) (High Chaparral) – a handy middle-distance performer for Cambridge trainer Anne Herbert half a decade ago – was still learning how to race.

"She's still got a bit to learn but she was impressive enough today," he said. "The Thousand Guineas has been her aim all along but if she doesn't get there, so be it. We'll certainly give her a chance anyway."

Jockey Chris Parnham said Leotie is open to further improvement.

"She's got a lot of upside, this filly," he said. "She's still learning what it's all about, wants to run about a bit but once she puts it all together she'll be a serious horse."

– racenet.com.au



Leotie is in full control of the opening event on yesterday's Caulfield card.





BARRIER TO BOX WIN FOR MISS APPLETON

Awapuni trainer Gary Vile is keen to head south later this year with his speed merchant **Miss Appleton (NZ)** (Align).

His plan to tackle the Group Three Stewards' Stakes at Riccarton in November with the mare gained momentum at Hastings yesterday when the six-year-old blitzed her rivals in the Swiss Ace Rating 85 Sprint.

The victory came as no surprise to Vile, who had freshened Miss Appleton since she finished third at Trentham in June and he had been buoyed by her winning trial performance at Foxton earlier this month.

"I was pretty confident with her," he said. "She had no weight on her back and she had trialed up very well and it took The Bold One to beat her in this race last year."

Miss Appleton flew the gates to make the running under apprentice Holly Andrew and they had the field in trouble on straightening.

"She always jumps the barrier very well and I said to Holly to go to the front and kick on the turn," Vile said.

Andrew carried out her instructions to perfection and Miss Appleton responded by romping clear for a hollow win.

"She's a tough horse with a big heart," she said. "She really put in when it mattered."

Local mare Xcuses Xcuses (NZ) (No Excuse Needed) sat in second spot to the turn and stuck on gamely in the run home with both Reilly Lincoln

(NZ) (Pins) and Shadows Cast (NZ) (Per Incanto) making late ground to be the next pair across the line.

Race	Hawkes Bay Swiss Ace Sprint H. 1200m
Winner	Miss Appleton (NZ) 2010
Owners	A G Beech, B G Collis, A C, H A, J D, L J E & Miss S A MacDonald, R W Mai, A R Osborne, M E Sinclair and G R Vile
Trainer	Gary Vile (Awapuni)
Breeding	by Align (Aus) out of Our Aspiration by Mi Preferido (USA)
Breeder	J R O'Brien



A low-flying Miss Appleton nears the finish line 3¼ lengths to the good.

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ANOTHER RUAKAKA WIN SETS UP GUINEAS CAMPAIGN FOR BARCELO AND THE MCKAYS

According to rider Shaun McKay, a wide gate proved favourable for **Barcelo (NZ)** (Alamosa) when the three-year-old triumphed in a competitive age group event at Ruakaka yesterday, the genuine young galloper covering extra ground before bagging a family victory in the Cookson Plumbing Sprint.

"I was always going to be out there and they went quite quickly so it was actually good for me and I could start moving when I wanted to," said McKay, whose father Peter trains Barcelo and shares in the ownership with his wife Kim.

The gelding was three wide near

the pace and finished resolutely in the straight to get the better of the filly Mystery Show (NZ) (Sakhee's Secret), who was wayward under pressure close to home.

"She gave my horse a bit of a bump and I could probably have protested if she had got up," McKay said.

Barcelo fashioned a tidy record last season and he was a winner on the course in early July before he returned to Ruakaka later that month to finish second to the well-regarded Barabas (NZ) (Dalghar).

"He was a different horse today," McKay said. "Dad freshened him up and didn't gallop him as much and he's

got the job done well."

Barcelo may now head back to Ruakaka in a fortnight's time for the Listed Northland Breeders' Stakes ahead of possible tilts at the Group Two Hawke's Bay Guineas and the Group One New Zealand Two Thousand Guineas.

It is a programme followed last season by stablemate **Amarula (NZ)** (Thorn Park), who was fifth in the black type event before he won at Hastings and subsequently ran seventh in the Riccarton feature.

Amarula was also in winning touch at Ruakaka yesterday with a dominant front-running performance to claim the A1 Homes Bream Bay Bowl in his first appearance since May.



Race	Whangarei RC Cookson Plumbing H. 1000m
Winner	Barcelo (NZ) 2013
Owners	Mrs K & P N McKay
Trainer	Peter McKay (Matamata)
Breeding	by Alamosa out of Light Majesty by Zabeel
Breeder	Monovalde Holdings Ltd
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Monovalde Farm, P: P N & K McKay; \$23,000

Barcelo (gold cap) is all out to catch Mystery Show in the closing stages of Ruakaka's three-year-old sprint.

