

Sunday 19 February 2017

KIWI QUINELLA IN DRAMATIC LIGHTNING AS TERRAVISTA NARROWLY NOSES OUT SPIETH



Inside the last thirty metres of yesterday's Lightning at Flemington and eventual winner Terravista (orange colours) has burst through a widening gap. Closer to the rail, runner-up Spieth is squeezing between Star Turn (green colours) and Flamberge.

Dramatic is one way to describe yesterday's Group One Lightning Stakes at Flemington.

There was pre-race drama when three runners were scratched at the gates before \$15 shot **Terravista** (Captain Rio) prevailed in a thrilling finish over the \$6 third favourite Spieth (NZ) (Thorn Park) and \$4 second choice Star Turn (Star Witness).

The \$A750,000 dash changed complexion in the last hundred metres as Star Turn hit the front but late charges from the older sprinters consigned the three-year-old to third.

The Lightning Stakes was jockey Corey Brown's first Group One win since returning from a successful stint in Singapore but the Melbourne Cup-winning rider had to wait for a bit of luck for Terravista at the 200 metre mark.

"Hugh Bowman (on Spieth) and I were scouting for the same runs and I was lucky enough to get a run between them and, once he got daylight, he launched at them," Brown said. "It was the Terravista of old."

Sydney trainer Joe Pride could do nothing while his charge searched for a run but was thrilled the seven-year-old had

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KIWI QUINELLA IN DRAMATIC LIGHTNING AS TERRAVISTA NARROWLY NOSES OUT SPIETH

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returned to his best, a year after he was denied by a narrow margin in last year's Lightning Stakes.

"I watched him travel. He looked like he was going beautifully. Obviously, I was worried he wasn't going to get a run but I prefer to see him like that than out in the clear," Pride said.

"He's the thousand metre horse in this field and if he hadn't got there today it was going to be a worry about when he was going to beat these kind of horses."

Spieth's second placing continued young trainer Bryce Heys's frustration after the classy sprinter was narrowly beaten in the Darley Classic down the straight in the spring.

Heys was visibly disappointed after the race but Spieth is likely to have his chance to break through for a maiden Group One win in the 1200 metre Newmarket Handicap on March 10.

Pride said he would look at the Newmarket as a possible target for Terravista but the handicapper's assessment of the gelding's Lightning Stakes would determine whether the son of Parfore returned to Flemington next month.

"It would depend on what the handicapper does with him

but he's a super horse down the straight," Pride said.

Although Terravista doesn't carry the (NZ) suffix, he is a genuine Kiwi product, being by Westbury Stud's enduring stallion Captain Rio from superstar broodmare Parfore (NZ) (Gold Brose). Conceived in New Zealand, Terravista was foaled in Australia when Parfore visited the shuttle stallion Dubawi, sire of her outstanding 2007 foal Tiger Tees (NZ), a multiple Group race winner. That second Dubawi mating produced Group Two winner Ball Of Muscle, her earlier foals including Singapore champion Super Easy (NZ) (Darci Brahma) and multiple stakes winner Our Lukas (NZ) (Generous).

- racenet.com.au

Race	VRC Lightning S. Gr.1 1000m
Winner	Terravista (Aus) 2009
Owners	N B Couper, A J Rix, G J Robinson, T M Ungar, I A Mckinnon, I G Cornell, Mrs L M Blundell, P W Callaghan, P J Trowbridge & Ms J M Barnier
Trainer	Joseph Pride (Warwick Farm)
Breeding	by Captain Rio (GB) out of Parfore (NZ) by Gold Brose (Aus)
Breeder	Mr M Ryan



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BIG BIKKIES NEEDED FOR GINGERNUTS



A lap of the track earlier, Gingernuts had muffed the getaway and given his Avondale Guineas rivals a start of around five lengths. As the field nears the finish, he's slipped through on the inner and is racing away to a 1¼-length win from Charles Road (grey and blue colours) and Mongolian Wolf (#5).

The connections of **Gingernuts (NZ)** are going to have to speculate to accumulate if they are to fully cash in on the three-year-old's form, the son of Iffraaj not currently among the entries for the Group One New Zealand Derby but yesterday at Eilerslie producing a compelling argument for inclusion.

Gingernuts bombed the start of the Group Two Retina Specialists Avondale Guineas and then had the audacity to come from last for a hollow victory in a 2100 metre event that has historically proved an outstanding classic guide.

"He's not in the Derby so we're going to have to sit down with the owners and I would say that a late nomination will be going in on Tuesday," said Jamie Richards, who trains in partnership with Stephen Autridge. "That was quite a serious win."

The previous winner of two races up to a mile, Gingernuts was aided by a fine ride from Johnathan Parkes, who saved every inch of ground after the start was blown by lengths.

"It was devastating to see him miss the kick like that but in fairness Johnathan took his time and the horse probably isn't good enough to go around the field so he took all the short cuts," Richards said.

"It was a serious step up for the horse and we wanted to give him his chance. He looks like a real stayer in the making –

he's out of a Generous mare."

His mother Double Elle (NZ) won five races and her son was originally bought as a weanling for \$5000 by central districts agent Phill Cataldo, who was also responsible for the purchase of the recent Group Two Waikato Guineas winner Wyndspelle (NZ), also a son of Iffraaj, for \$75,000.

Gingernuts subsequently realised \$42,500 at the Ready to Run Sale where he was secured by Te Akau principal David Ellis.

Charles Road (Myboycharlie) did his Derby prospects no harm with a solid run for second and neither did Mongolian Wolf (Pluck), who took third off the pacemaker Redeem The Dream (NZ) (Nadeem).

Race	ARC Avondale Guineas Gr.2 2100m
Winner	Gingernuts (NZ) 2013
Owners	Te Akau Gingernuts Syndicate (Mgr: D C Ellis)
Trainer	Stephen Autridge & Jamie Richards (Matamata)
Breeding	by Iffraaj (GB) out of Double Elle by Generous (Ire)
Breeder	Goodwood Stud Ltd
Sales	2014 National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Sale; V: Goodwood Stud, P: Phill Cataldo Bloodstock; \$5000
	2015 Ready to Run Sale; V: Stainley Park, P: Te Akau Racing; \$42,500





OLD-TIMER EL SOLDADO **JUST KEEPS GOING**

Not for the first time, **El Soldado (NZ)** (Colombia) has produced a major form reversal at Ellerslie to have his part-owner and trainer Phillip Devcich eyeing another feature race upset.

The ten-year-old was at tote odds of 68-1 and a fixed-odds price of 100-1 when he led all the way to shock his staying rivals in yesterday's Group Two Go Racing Syndications Avondale Cup.

His performance showed he was no forlorn hope to go back-to-back in the Group One Auckland Cup after causing a boil-over twelve months ago when he was at better than 120-1.

El Soldado was well-rated yesterday by Sam Collett and the gelding

showed a stubborn streak in the run home by denying Megablast (NZ) (Shinko King) and Mister Impatience (Hernando).

"That's amazing," Devcich said. "He just keeps going; that's the way he runs."

However, he certainly didn't at his previous appearance at Te Rapa at the start of this month when he failed to beat a runner home.

"In the last couple of weeks he's come along a lot," Devcich said. "I want to give him one more run before the Cup at either Matamata or in the Nathans.

"I think he's probably better now than he was last year."

Megablast enjoyed a good run throughout and didn't shirk his task in the run home while Mister Impatience was also solid.

In his first appearance since running third in the Group Three City of Auckland Cup on New Year's Day, Five To Midnight (NZ) (Domesday) finished an eye-catching fourth.

Race	ARC Avondale Cup Gr.2 2400m
Winner	El Soldado (NZ) 2006
Owners	P Devcich and B & Mrs C Higginson
Trainer	Phillip Devcich (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Colombia out of Zo'al by Norman Pentaquad (USA)
Breeder	P Devcich



El Soldado again rocks punters as he clings to his lead in yesterday's Avondale Cup. The grey Megablast gets closest with last year's Wellington Cup winner Mister Impatience continuing his improvement by running third.





KING SWAY GETS ANNA **WIN ONE HUNDRED**

Anna Jones was grateful to the efforts of the barrier attendants at New Plymouth yesterday in helping her to reach a memorable milestone in her career, the Matamata apprentice riding her hundredth winner when she got **Our King Sway (NZ)** (Shinko King) home at the head of the field in the Group Three Platinum Homes Taranaki Cup.

"I want to thank the boys at the gates," Jones said. "He wasn't being easy and they got him in.

"It's definitely a win to remember and I would like to also thank all the trainers and owners who have supported me."

Our King Sway was allowed time to find his feet before the Glenn Old-trained gelding picked up ground 800 metres from home.

"He was lovely and settled and I got off the rail hitting

the back straight and followed Nashville around," Jones said.

Our King Sway held a sustained run to wear down Overtheriver (NZ) (Mettre en Jeu), who went to the front a long way from home, while Cruiser (NZ) (Captain Rio) continued a genuine run of form with his third placing.

"It was pretty comfortable in the end," Jones said. "He had been knocking on the door and when the rain came

Our King Sway comes with a well-timed finish to capture the Taranaki Cup and give apprentice Anna Jones her one hundredth winner.

it was just perfect for him."

Yesterday's success was the second at stakes level for Jones, who won last season's Listed Westbury Classic at Avondale aboard the Karyn McQuade-trained Kindaleica (NZ) (Captain Rio).

Race	Taranaki RC Taranaki Cup Gr.3 1800m
Winner	Our King Sway (NZ) 2010
Owners	V S Nowell, G J & M A Old
Trainer	Glenn Old (Matamata)
Breeding	by Shinko King (Ire) out of Yendarra by Kendara
Breeder	Mrs P J Lewis and C P Tau
Sales	2011 National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Sale; V: Century Lodge, P: Messrs G J & M A Old; \$5200





IRISH FLAME COMPLETES A FAMILY DOUBLE

Local hope **Irish Flame (NZ)** (Zed) completed a notable family double yesterday when he upstaged his better fancied rivals in the juvenile feature at New Plymouth, the John Wheeler-trained youngster leaving no excuses for his rivals in the Group Three Phoenix Park Classic as he bombed the start and then had to cover extra ground before racing away for a commanding victory.

He is a grandson of the Centaine mare Fleur De Chine (NZ), who won three races as a two-year-old, including the 1996 edition of the New Plymouth event. She went on to finish fourth at her next appearance in the Group One Manawatu Sires' Produce Stakes and that's the race Wheeler has tagged for Irish Flame.

"I turned him out for three or four weeks after his first run," Wheeler said. "Being by Zed he's still quite immature



Dylan Turner has time to signal his satisfaction as Irish Flame carries him to a decisive win against the juveniles at New Plymouth.

but he's good enough to have a go at the Sires' Produce at Awapuni."

Fourth on debut on the course last month, Irish Flame was tardily away before rider Dylan Turner sent him around the field 600 metres from home.

The gelding revelled in his work and shot away 250 metres from home to score by a decisive length and a half at odds of 15-1.

"He's a good horse and I thought he was my best of the day," Wheeler said. "He went super; it was a very strong effort as he did a lot wrong and still had a fair bit to spare at the finish."

Icebomb (NZ) (Darci Brahma) came from second-last to finish second and Aquamosa (NZ) (Alamosa) took third money from the well-supported Sophie's Choice (NZ) (Darci Brahma).

NEWS IN BRIEF

Harry bounces back after Steve's spray

A week after copping a spray from trainer Steven Burridge when finishing fifth on his only mount for the night, jockey A'Isisuhairi (Harry) Kasim bounced back in the best way possible.

And proving there were no lasting ill-feeling between the two, Burridge provided A'Isisuhairi with his only two rides at Kranji on Friday – **Mozart Eclipse (NZ)** (Darci Brahma) and **Moritz Eclipse (NZ)** (Darci Brahma).

"I gave him a good rev-up the other night and see what it's done to him. He goes out and rides two winners tonight," said Burridge with a wink.

A'Isisuhairi was more tactful. "Mr Burridge knows how I ride but let's say we agreed to disagree after that ride. To win two from two is very satisfying."

Unsurprisingly, A'Isisuhairi gained the bigger kick from Moritz Eclipse as he is the only jockey to have won on the four-year-old, the latest win his third from eleven starts.

"I know this horse well as I rode and won on him early in his career," he said. "Unfortunately, the opportunities on him dropped but the ride came back to me and he got the job done tonight."

As well as being by Darci Brahma and in the ownership of the Eclipse Stable, both horses are graduates of New Zealand Ready To Run sales – Moritz Eclipse, in the Kilgravin Lodge draft, a \$50,000 purchase from the 2014 edition and Mozart Eclipse fetching \$110,000 for Phoenix Park a year later.

– Singapore Turf Club

Race	Taranaki RC Taranaki 2YO Classic Gr.3 1200m
Winner	Irish Flame (NZ) 2014
Owners	G C Kemp, Mrs M L & W G Reid and Est late B M Kemp
Trainer	John Wheeler (New Plymouth)
Breeding	by Zed out of Fleur de l'Orient by Thunder Gulch (USA)
Breeder	B M & G C Kemp and Mrs M L & W G Reid





TONY HAS A DAY OF UPS AND A DOWN

Cambridge trainer Tony Pike celebrated a winning double yesterday as well as the emergence of another potential Group One contender.

Successful with Sin To Win (NZ) (Sir Percy) in the Macular Degeneration NZ 1600 at Ellerslie, he was also delighted with the performance of Sacred Way (High Chaparral) to finish runner-up in the Visique Rose Optometrists 1500.

Pike's best moment came at New Plymouth, where **Sacred Rhythm (NZ)** (Pentire) claimed the Listed Bob Sharrock Memorial Oaks Prelude.

That would ordinarily add up to an excellent day's work, but Pike was

nonplussed by his beaten Avondale Guineas favourite.

"It was a pretty solid day for us but Sacred Elixir was the biggest disappointment," he said.

"He wasn't that far away in seventh but he travelled into it like he should have won and he just didn't finish off like he should have done.

"We've got a bit of work to

do and we'll get him checked out on Monday. Whether he runs in the Derby or not, we'll have to see closer to the time."

Sacred Rhythm ended the stable's day on a good note when she overcame a wide run to show she has a bright future over ground.

"It was only her third start and last time on Karaka Million night her saddle slipped and she got back and in all sorts of trouble," Pike said.

"She kept closing today and she's got plenty of staying potential – whether she gets to the Oaks or not I'm not sure. She's not nominated, but More Than Sacred was a late

nomination and she won it for us.

"If not, then Brisbane is an option and Sacred Way looks a definite Queensland Derby horse as well."

Race	Taranaki RC Oaks Prelude L 1800m
Winner	Sacred Rhythm (NZ) 2013
Owners	Raffles Dancers (NZ) Pty Ltd
Trainer	Tony Pike (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Pentire (GB) out of Bluegrass (Aus) by Fasliyev (USA)
Breeder	Rich Hill Thoroughbreds Ltd
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Rich Hill Stud, P: Raffles Racing/Mulcaster Bloodstock; \$85,000



Vinnie Colgan keeps a tight rein on Sacred Rhythm as the lightly raced filly demonstrates her staying prowess with a win in the Bob Sharrock Memorial Oaks Prelude.





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ANTONIO BACK WITH AUTUMN WARNING



Likely Cups prospect Antonio Giuseppe knocks off some handy sprinter/milers with ease as he returns to raceday action at yesterday's Rosehill meeting.

Boom stayer **Antonio Giuseppe (NZ)** (Shocking) made his class tell first-up when dominating his opposition in the James Ruse Benchmark 88 Handicap over 1500 metres at Rosehill yesterday.

In an ominous warning to his autumn carnival rivals, Antonio Giuseppe made light work of seven rivals over a distance well short of his best, the \$3.20 favourite brought to the outside in the home straight by Tye England and sweeping to victory while initial leaders Strawberry Boy (Redoute's Choice) and Tower Of Song (Fastnet Rock) had a bumping duel.

Trainer Chris Waller said the Group One Sydney Cup, over 3200 metres on April 8, could be Antonio Giuseppe's primary target this campaign but is

mindful of giving the horse his best shot at races like the Caulfield and Melbourne Cups in the spring.

"The intention is not to have an over-taxing autumn," Waller said. "The Sydney Cup is an option but another is to go to 2000 metres next and then see where he is going."

"He is a horse that just keeps stepping up."

A winner on debut at Avondale in December 2015, Antonio Giuseppe then contested \$50,000 events at Ellerslie on Boxing Day and Karaka Million night, finishing just behind the placegetters, before crossing the Tasman to join the Waller team. After a first-up fifth in July, he then reeled off four wins in succession before finishing his 2016 campaign

with a second in the Group One Metropolitan.

Sportsbet has trimmed Antonio Giuseppe's Sydney Cup quote from \$11 to \$8.

– racenet.com.au

Race	ATC James Ruse 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

