

Sunday 5 March 2017

GINGERNUTS TOO STRONG IN CLASSIC — SECURES FIRST DERBY WIN FOR TE AKAU



Opie Bosson is open about his delight as Gingernuts carries him to an easy win in the New Zealand Derby. Rising Red, brought across the Tasman by Melbourne-based Kiwis Trent Busuttin and Natalie Young and ridden by expat Mick Dee, battles into the picture for a creditable second.

A classic line from commentator George Simon encapsulated the finish to the million dollar Group One Vodafone New Zealand Derby at Ellerslie yesterday as he exclaimed “Gingernuts dunks them in the Derby”.

Simon was summing up the performance of exciting three-year-old **Gingernuts (NZ)** (Iffraaj), who slammed the door on his rivals with a withering finishing burst that saw him claim a first triumph in the blue riband event for the Te Akau Racing team.

Unheralded in Derby conversations until a freakish performance to claim the Group Two Avondale Guineas on the course a fortnight ago, Gingernuts showed that run was no fluke as he comprehensively outstayed his rivals in today's classic. Given a peach of a ride by Opie Bosson, the gelding was always travelling sweetly in a contest that saw an early sensation when well supported runners Cha Siu Bao (Smart Missile) and Lincoln Blue (NZ) (Savabeel) were tailed off in the first 400 metres after bucking when leaving the starting barriers.

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PEDIGREE

Comparable physical traits to his maternal grand sire Zabeel, and his sire Sir Tristram.

CHAMPION

3YO Colt in Australia 2015-2016.

PERFORMANCE

Dual Group 1 winner at three
ATC Rosehill Guineas Gr.1 (2000m)
VRC Derby Gr.1 (2500m).

VERSATILITY

2nd VRC Australian Guineas
Gr.1 (1600m).

SPEED

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GINGERNUTS TOO STRONG IN CLASSIC — SECURES FIRST DERBY WIN FOR TE AKAU

(Continued from page 1)

Bosson had Gingernuts positioned beautifully one off the fence ahead of midfield throughout before improving his position at the 800 metre mark. He briefly looked in trouble as race favourite Savile Row (NZ) (Makfi) hung out badly on the home corner, causing Bosson to angle wide to avoid striking trouble.

At that stage Rising Red (NZ) (Redwood) had hit the front and was fighting off his nearest challengers but Gingernuts sprinted quickly to loom alongside the Aussie raider before putting him away with his devastating finish. Jon Snow (NZ) (Iffraaj) battled strongly to grab third from Te Akau's second representative Beaumarchais (NZ) (Savabeel) with Sacred Elixir (NZ) (Pour Moi) close up in fifth.

Te Akau Racing boss David Ellis cut an emotional figure as he waited for the horse he secured for \$42,500 at the 2015 NZB Ready To Run Sale to return to a winner's enclosure packed with members of his 42-strong ownership syndicate.

"It's a very emotional moment," he stated as he fought back tears of joy.

"It was a terrific run and I'm so thrilled for the whole team, for Jamie and Steve who've done a fantastic job and for Opie, who just rode a sensational race.

"It's a first Derby for Te Akau and just a great occasion. For the whole team who work so hard at Te Akau it's just wonderful."

Co-trainer Jamie Richards was also full of praise for the team behind the success.

"It's a huge buzz as we didn't know where we were before the Avondale Guineas," he said.

"He went home and improved and was just a really happy horse. It's a big thanks to the staff at home who all do a super job as the quality of care these horses get is second to none."

Bosson, who had scored a Group Three victory for Te Akau just one race earlier on Splurge, was quick to acknowledge some luck had played a vital part in the win after nearly colliding with Savile Row.

"I went to go inside Savile Row at the 600 metre mark as he was hanging out but he ducked back in," he explained. "I then committed to go outside but he ran off again. However, I was travelling pretty good at the time and knew I had a lot of horse under me.

"Gingernuts started laying in down the straight but he did it easy in the end as he was having a bit of a gaze at the finish."

Gingernuts may get the opportunity to further his record in Australia, with Te Akau contemplating a trip to Brisbane for the Queensland winter carnival later in the year.



Race	ARC New Zealand Derby Gr.1 2400m
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

Bosson is still laughing as the field returns to scale, Gingernuts led in by a happy strapper with syndicator David Ellis close at hand.





DARLEY PLATE **TO RISING STAR SPLURGE**



It's Bosson in the Te Akau colours again, this time bringing Splurge with a well-timed finish to capture the Darley Plate.

The red-hot Te Akau Racing team added another major trophy to their already bulging summer cabinet when progressive sprinter **Splurge (NZ)** (Savabeel) scored a telling victory in the Group Three Darley Plate at Ellerslie yesterday.

Co-trainer Stephen Autridge has made no secret of the regard he holds for the four-year-old gelding who collected his first stakes victory and sixth win from just ten starts with a comprehensive performance.

"He's always been a racehorse who just knows where the winning post is," he explained.

"It doesn't matter whether it's a good track or a wet track he always puts in. We were a bit concerned it may have been a

bit short for him today but he's a real racehorse."

Fresh off a comfortable win in rating 85 company over the same 1200 metre distance a fortnight ago, Splurge took the rise in grade in his stride as he provided leading jockey Opie Bosson with an armchair ride. Trapped wide in the early rush, Bosson found the horse the perfect position on the outer after 400 metres as they stalked the pacemakers to the home turn.

Taken to the centre of the track Splurge produced a powerful finish to overhaul the eventual runner-up, Volks Lightning (NZ) (Volksraad), as he cruised home to score by just over a length in a slick 1:09.27.

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DARLEY PLATE TO RISING STAR SPLURGE

(Continued from page 4)

Autridge, co-trainer Jamie Richards and the Te Akau team will now sit down and plan the next move for the gelding, which could include a trip across the Tasman.

“We’ll go home and make sure he’s all right before we decide anything further for him,” Autridge said.

“He’s come a long way in a short time. We’re looking at going to places like Brisbane as he’s certainly up to it.”

The eye-catching run of the race came from last year’s New Zealand Derby winner Rangipo (Stryker), who stormed home to snatch third in his first run back from a disappointing Australian spring campaign.

Race	ARC Darley P. Gr.3 1200m
Winner	Splurge (NZ) 2012
Owners	Te Akau 2014 Breeding Syndicate (Mgr: D C Ellis)
Trainer	Stephen Autridge & Jamie Richards (Matamata)
Breeding	by Savabeel (Aus) out of Splashing Out by O’Reilly
Breeder	Waikato Stud Ltd
Sales	2014 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Waikato Stud Ltd, P: D C Ellis; \$500,000

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lincoln Road in line for Merlion

Due to the low weights **Lincoln Road (NZ)** (Swiss Ace) has been getting of late, heavyweight jockey John Powell has been forced to pass up the ride but the once-lethal pairing will reunite as the Polytrack specialist runs in the \$5350,000 Sgp-Group Two Merlion Trophy in Singapore tonight.

A winner of his first five races, all on the all-weather track and with Powell aboard at four of them since his Kranji debut in October 2015, Lincoln Road will carry 57.5kg in the 1200 metre first leg of the Singapore Sprint Series – a weight that Powell can certainly make.

The five-year-old hasn’t visited the winner’s enclosure since the last of his five-in-a-row but neither has he disgraced himself. The on-pace galloper was always up there in the mix, but unfortunately found one or two better in the run home, including a brave second to Rafaello (Oratorio) in the Sgp-Group Three Garden City Trophy last August when carrying only 51.5kgs under Glen Boss.

It won’t be a case of the old firm meeting again, though, as Powell, who usually gets first call from trainer Shane Baertschiger, has kept riding Lincoln Road in trackwork and barrier trials.

Powell admitted to knowing the Singapore stable banner of New Zealand outfit Lincoln Farms rather well but says he doesn’t hold the key to the horse’s success.

“I don’t think he goes any better with me. I was just lucky I got on at the right time when he was going through his grades and winning races,” he said humbly. “Anyone would have won on him then.

“If he’s not been winning since, it’s just because he has been running in better company. He’s done well without winning but I think his ability has caught up with him. The Merlion field is good but not all that strong. He has his chance and I’m sure he can put in another good run.”

Other notable Kiwi-breds in the field are Nova Swiss (NZ) (Swiss Ace), the winner of his first two starts as a juvenile in New Zealand last season and the winner of five-from-five in Singapore, and Laurie Laxon’s resuming stayer Mr Spielberg (NZ) (Pentire), beaten favourite at his most recent start, in the 2200 metre Sgp-Group One Singapore Gold Cup last November.

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ELEONORA OUTTOUGHS **FILLIES IN SUNLINE**

The Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman training juggernaut landed the first black type feature on the Ellerslie programme yesterday when the rugged performer **Eleonora (NZ)** (Makfi) emphasised her quality with a fighting performance to take out the McKee Family sponsored Group Three Sunline Vase.

Having just her second run back from a successful spring campaign in Melbourne, the filly proved she's as tough as teak as she stepped up to 2100 metres and repelled a horde of challenges in the home straight to register her third win from just ten starts.

Sent out a warm favourite by punters, Eleonora was hustled out of the gates by rider Danielle Johnson as she took up a prominent position behind the dawdling pace set by Hot Saki (NZ) (No Excuse Needed). Johnson bided her time before

issuing a challenge one off the fence as the field straightened for the run home and shot to a narrow advantage. The challenges came thick and fast, firstly from second favourite Dreamcrafter (NZ) (Mastercraftsman), who was bullocking through a narrow gap on the rail, and out wide from a trio comprising Dame Margo Fonteyn (NZ) (High Chaparral), Vearma (NZ) (Darci Brahma) and Date Night (NZ) (Savabeel).

That was Johnson's cue to get desperate on Eleonora, who lifted magnificently to see off her pursuers, eventually scoring by three quarters of a length from Dreamcrafter with Dame Margo Fonteyn close up in third.

The victory has likely sealed a bid for the Group One Australian Oaks at Randwick in early April, an event that part-owner Dame Lowell Goddard is keen to attend.

"Isn't she wonderful; she's just an absolute joy," she enthused.

"She's an absolute character. I believe the Australian Oaks



The day's shortest-priced winner and arguably the toughest, Eleonora grinds her way to the finish for Danielle Johnson to take out the Sunline Plate.

is on the programme and if she's there, I will be there."

Eleonora carries the colours of successful Wellington businessman Lib Petagna, who shares in the ownership with Dame Lowell. Bred by Pencarrow principal Sir Peter Vela, the filly is the granddaughter of legendary racemare Ethereal (NZ) (Rhythm), who secured four Group One victories in her racing career including the Caulfield Cup/Melbourne Cup double in 2001.

Race	ARC Sunline Vase Gr.3 2100m
Winner	Eleonora (NZ) 2013
Owners	Dame Lowell Goddard & JML Bloodstock Ltd (Mgr L Petagna)
Trainer	Murray Baker & Andrew Forsman (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Makfi (GB) out of Sopra Tutto by Van Nistelrooy (USA)
Breeder	Pencarrow Thoroughbreds Ltd
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Pencarrow Stud, P: Bruce Perry Bloodstock; \$60,000





Sunday 5 March 2017

FLYING FERRANDO IS SYDNEY BOUND

Talented sprinter **Ferrando (NZ)** (Fast 'N' Famous) looks to have booked a trip to Sydney care of an all-the-way win in the Group Three Mongolian Khan Trophy at Ellerslie.

Trained by Graeme and Debbie Rogerson, Ferrando notched his third straight victory and his fourth career success from six starts.

The three-year-old was expertly handled by apprentice Ryan Elliot, who ensured Ferrando pinged from the gates before controlling the tempo to prevail from the fast-finishing Royal Fashion (Snitzel), with Kingsman (NZ) (Darci Brahma) back in third.

"He has the makings of a good horse," Graeme Rogerson said. "He's not there yet, but I've had some great sprinters and this horse is up there with them.

"He's going to Sydney. How he gets there we will sit down and work it out."

Rogerson said the likely target for Ferrando in Sydney was the \$A600,000 Group Two Arrowfield 3YO Sprint at Randwick on April 8, over the same 1200 metre trip as yesterday's race.

"He'll run in the three-year-old race and then we might try for the Stradbroke or the Doomben Ten Thousand. We'll just see."

Rogerson was full of praise for his winning apprentice, who notched his first Group victory.

"He's a good boy. He's got a lot of faith in the horse. He eased him, eased him and I don't think he asked him to go in the finish."

Elliot was understandably delighted to get his first Group winner.

"It feels special when it's on this horse for Graeme and Debbie Rogerson," Elliot said. "I've done a lot of the work with him, so it's a great result."



Race	ARC Mr Tiz Trophy Gr.3 1200m
Winner	Ferrando (NZ) 2013
Owners	Fatesal Holdings Ltd, D E & Mrs E M Olsen, R R Ratcliffe, Redbank Pty Ltd (Mgr: P Favretto), G A Rogerson MNZM, G N Wealleans and G R Wilson
Trainer	Graeme & Debbie Rogerson (Tuhikaramea)
Breeding	by Fast 'N' Famous (Aus) out of Rio Nugget by Captain Rio (GB)
Breeder	Mrs E A Cowell & Killarney Bay Bloodstock Ltd
Sales	2015 Ready to Run Sale; V: Ohukia Lodge Ltd, P: New Zealand Bloodstock, as agent; \$40,000

A jockey's first Group race win is always memorable and apprentice Ryan Elliot's joy is unrestrained as Ferrando coasts home in the three-year-old sprint.

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TAVIDREAM KEEPS BRISBANE **DREAM ALIVE**

Promising three-year-old **Tavidream (NZ)** (Tavistock) may have secured an Australian assignment with yesterday's stylish victory at Ellerslie, the showy gelding embellishing an already impressive formline when registering his third win from just five starts by taking out a special conditions maiden event over 1600 metres.



Cameron Lammas has an armchair ride as Tavidream is untroubled to win the special conditions mile.

The Donna Logan and Chris Gibbs trained runner was handled expertly by rider Cameron Lammas who settled his charge within striking distance of the leaders throughout the early stages of the contest.

Lammas moved Tavidream into a challenging position early in the run home and when asked for a serious effort he put a length on his rivals in the space of a few strides. He comfortably held that margin to the winning post ahead of gallant mare Needlepoint (NZ) (Pins) who finished well to snatch second. Race favourite Sacred Way (High Chaparral), who was the medium of some heavy betting prior to the start, made ground well from near the rear to finish third but never really looked a winning hope.

Logan was in high spirits after the win as she discussed the immediate future for the horse.

"He's still a work in progress but certainly is a promising type," she noted.

"We've had some sale offers for him but at this stage he's still with us and we couldn't be happier with him.

"Cameron was really positive today as he's a horse that

likes to roll along and get into his own rhythm. You might see him in Brisbane in the Derby after this."

Lammas was equally impressed with the winning performance, his second on the gelding after they combined to win a similar event at Ellerslie last month.

"You just have to keep him settled," he advised.

"Once you've got him settled he just chills out and relaxes and when you ask him he really kicks on. He's still doing a few little things wrong but when I asked him today he kicked clear and did it easy."

Race	ARC Hilton S. 1600m
Winner	Tavidream (NZ) 2013
Owners	C & J Gibbs, A Goodwin, D Wintle, D & A Conder, P McIntyre, B Trimmer, S Graham, M Darroch, R Dickey and Tav A Steiny Syndicate
Trainer	Donna Logan & Chris Gibbs (Ruakaka)
Breeding	by Tavistock out of Cinnadream (Aus) by King of Kings (Ire)
Breeder	R S Tomlinson

