

Sunday 6 November 2016

UGO FOSCOLO DOMINATES THE GUINEAS WITH HIGH SPEED ALL-THE-WAY VICTORY



Michael Coleman stands high in triumph as Ugo Foscolo defies the doubters and runs out a strong mile to land this year's Two Thousand Guineas at Riccarton.

Any pre-race concern about **Ugo Foscolo (NZ)** (Zacinto) mastering 1600 metres proved unfounded at Riccarton where he turned in a classic front-running display to trump his rivals in yesterday's Group One Sothys New Zealand Two Thousand Guineas.

"He was very brave," trainer Stephen Marsh said. "There may have been a doubt about the mile but we had him very fit and he ran it out."

Under regular rider Michael Coleman, Ugo Foscolo travelled strongly in front and hit top gear 300 metres from home to surge clear.

"I said to Michael to go forward, that's the way to ride him," Marsh said. "He got the job done and I'm very proud of him."

"It's been a big team effort from my staff – Troy Harris rides him in all his work and my foreman Rhys Mildon has also done a great job."

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(Continued from page 1)

Ugo Foscolo also completed notable doubles for Harris, who won the Guineas aboard Tell A Tale (Tale Of The Cat) in 2008, and part-owner Lib Petagna, who was successful in 2013 with Atlante (Fastnet Rock).

"I just needed him to begin well and the inside gate helped us," Coleman said. "Once we were in front he rated nicely.

"He's got a really nice cruising speed. He was a bit green around the turn and I was waiting for something to come at us, but he was pretty strong."

Ugo Foscolo has now won five of his six starts with his only defeat coming in the Group Two Hawke's Bay Guineas at Hastings where he raced erratically before finishing sixth.

The lightly raced Savile Row (NZ) (Makfi) ran home well to finish a length and a quarter astern of Ugo Foscolo with

Heroic Valour (Fastnet Rock) taking third from Cha Siu Bao (Smart Missile).

The favourite Mongolian Falcon (Fastnet Rock) sat in second spot to the turn before wilting to run sixth, one spot behind his stablemate Wyndspelle (NZ) (Iffraaj).

Race	CJC New Zealand Two Thousand Guineas Gr.1 1600m
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

NEWS IN BRIEF

No joy for Kiwis on Flemington's final day

The concluding day of the Melbourne Cup carnival held little joy for New Zealand competitors, seconds in two races the final tally.

The best of those, and contender for unluckiest run on the card, was the big-finishing effort by Spieth (NZ) (Thorn Park) in the million dollar Group One Darley Classic, over 1200 metres.

While Warwick Farm trainer Bryce Heys was emotional after the exciting galloper fell a short head shy of giving him a maiden Group One win, rider Brad Rawiller was fuming.

"It's hard to swallow," he said, after the four-year-old had narrowly missed at his first try in the elite grade. "He probably should have won – not probably, should have won.

"It was an outstanding run by a horse who is very much an up-and-coming sprinter."

The other Kiwi to go close was the Trent Busuttin & Natalie Young-trained Mabeel (NZ) (Savabeel), who showed the form which had made him a leading sprinter/miler in his homeland last season when going down by a half length in a 1600 metre Rating 96 handicap.

"A good, tough on-speed effort," was rider Dwayne Dunn's summation.



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METROP WIN **MAKES MONTE HOT CUP FAV**



Nymph Monte runs away with the 2500 metre Metropolitan Handicap and into short-priced favouritism for next week's New Zealand Cup.

The odds about **Nymph Monte (NZ)** (Tavistock) completing a Riccarton hat-trick have tumbled after the stayer completed a Listed double on the track.

He had opened his southern campaign with victory in last month's Spring Classic and yesterday coasted home in the Listed Gold Club Metropolitan Trophy Handicap.

The price on the Opaki-trained stayer has now been cut from \$5 to \$2.60 to win next Saturday's Group Three New Zealand Cup.

Part-owner and trainer Grant Nicholson said he decided to campaign the five-year-old at Riccarton after he had been balloted out of the Group One Livamol Classic at Hastings.

"I decided to refocus after that and come down here and so far it's all working out."

Nymph Monte was given a good run near the pace by Danielle Johnson and they made short work of their rivals in the run home.

"We definitely wanted to go forward," Nicholson said. "We didn't think there was much pace in the race."

Johnson let Nymph Monte cruise up to the leaders at the top of the straight and they forged clear to comfortably account for Saint Kitt (NZ) (Keeper) and Imperium (NZ) (Encosta de Lago).

"We got a nice position in the one-one and he did the rest, he was too good," she said. "I got rolling on him early and he's been very dominant."

Johnson has no doubt that Nymph Monte will stay the two miles of next weekend's New Zealand Cup.

"He'll run that distance out fine," she said. "He's not much to look at but he's got a big ticker."

Race	CJC Metropolitan Trophy H. L 2500m
Winner	Nymph Monte (NZ) 2011
Owners	T Brooks, W L Dunn, G N Nicholson and A G Nugent
Trainer	Grant Nicholson (Opaki)
Breeding	by Tavistock out of Grove Nymph by Grosvenor
Breeder	Sir Patrick & Lady Hogan





MARK'S TACTICS PAY OFF AS LADY ZAFIRA POWERS HOME TO NAB BLACK-TYPE WIN

Patience is paying off for the connections of **Lady Zafira (NZ)** (Iffraaj), who added black type success to her record at yesterday's Riccarton meeting, the relatively lightly raced six-year-old reigning supreme in the Listed Yesberg Insurance Services Pegasus Handicap.

"I'm thrilled for her and for the syndicate and I have to thank my staff as well," Hastings trainer John Bary said. "It's been a big team effort so this is very rewarding."

Previously placed at Listed level when third in last season's Rotorua Stakes, Lady Zafira settled off a good speed and she was able to power

home to post the fifth victory of her 23-start career.

"She's best when she's ridden nice and quietly," Bary said.

The successful jockey was Mark Du Plessis, who executed the pre-race plan

to perfection aboard the daughter of Iffraaj.

"That's the best way to ride her," he said. "She'll get confidence from this as well."

Lady Zafira appreciated the good speed in the race and lengthened stride impressively in the closing 250 metres to spoil the southern party for local trainers Michael and Matthew Pitman.

The father and son combination had to settle for the minor placings with Kinagat (Street Cry) taking second ahead of Coup Darci Be (NZ) (Darci Brahma) and First Serve (NZ) (Swiss Ace).

The last-named was sent out a less than even money favourite and was given every chance in behind the pace by rider Samantha Wynne, but the four-year-old was unable to round off her effort in the straight.

Race	CJC Pegasus H. L 1000m
Winner	Lady Zafira (NZ) 2010
Owners	Lady Zafira Syndicate
Trainer	John Bary (Hastings)
Breeding	by Iffraaj (GB) out of Mary Robinson by Lord Ballina (Aus)
Breeder	Mrs M A Wallace
Sales	2012 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Ardsley Stud Ltd, P: Waterford Racing; \$7500



The end result of a decision to ride Lady Zafira off the speed... a 1¼ length win in the Pegasus Handicap.





START WONDERING IN IMPRESSIVE RETURN

Evan and JJ Rayner will let the dust settle after the impressive return to racing by **Start Wondering (NZ)** (Eighth Wonder) at Te Rapa before they map out his future.

The Wanganui trainers were bullish about the six-year-old's chances in yesterday's Listed Legacy Lodge Sprint and their confidence wasn't misplaced.

"It was a very good effort and we knew we had him as ready as we could," Evan Rayner said.

"I'll get home and have a couple of beers while we decide what we do."

Start Wondering settled in the trail and, once clear in the straight, the gelding powered away under rider Johnathan Parkes to win by two and three quarter lengths.

"All we've been waiting for is a good track for him," Rayner said. "That was a strong field and he's pulled up well, which is the main thing."

Start Wondering won four of his first eight starts for Wanganui trainer Paul Belsham and after his transfer to Chris Waller's stable in Sydney added three further victories at Rosehill before suffering a bleeding attack.

Belsham had announced his retirement from training in the interim so the Steve Gudsell-owned son of Eighth Wonder joined the Rayner team.

Reigning Group One Railway Stakes champion Ryan Mark



Back from Sydney after a bleeding attack cut short his Australian career, Start Wondering shows his class with a decisive win in yesterday's feature sprint at Te Rapa.

(NZ) (Thorn Park) turned in a commendable effort under topweight of 60kg to finish runner-up ahead of Triaction (NZ) (Elusive City) and Natuzzi (NZ) (Coats Choice).

Race	Waikato RC Sprint H. L 1200m
Winner	Start Wondering (NZ) 2010
Owners	S B Gudsell and Mrs J M Gudsell
Trainer	Evan & JJ Rayner (Wanganui)
Breeding	by Eighth Wonder out of Roseanbar by Al Akbar (Aus)
Breeder	I G Hadfield

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SUMMER MONSOON LIVES UP TO PEDIGREE

The well-related **Summer Monsoon** yesterday delivered an expected result when he proved too slick for his rivals at Te Rapa.

The precocious youngster was into stride quickly from an inside gate and was never headed en route to his maiden success in the Skycity Hamilton Waikato 10th December Package 1000.

"He's a really nice horse and he's showed us plenty of speed," said Stephen Autridge, who trains the well-related colt with Jamie Richards.

"I think that was a pretty handy field so it will be interesting to follow the form out of it."

A son of Stratum, the two-year-old's granddam is a sister to the champion stallion Redoute's Choice.

"He's got the pedigree and the ability but we haven't got any immediate plans for him," Autridge said.

"We'll get him home and decide the right path for him to take. Longer term, the race for the colts

and geldings at Matamata might be a good one for him."

He was referring to the Group Two Reid & Harrison Slipper in February, a race the stable won last year with Heroic Valour.

Summer Monsoon finished runner-up on debut last month and Autridge said the youngster had learned a lot from the outing.

"He ran really well at Ruakaka, where he did things wrong. With that experience he's done everything right today and jumping well from gate two and finding the rail won the race for him."

Debutant Midnight Runner (NZ) (Jimmy Choux) closed well to

get within a short neck of Summer Monsoon with the heavily supported Astor (NZ) (Iffraaj) finishing third in her first race day appearance.

Race	Waikato RC Skycity Waikato Cup 10th December 2YO S. 1000m
Winner	Summer Monsoon (Aus) 2014
Owners	Te Akau 2016 Sydney No 1 Breeding Syndicate (Mgr: D C Ellis)
Trainer	Stephen Autridge & Jamie Richards (Matamata)
Breeding	By Stratum (Aus) out of Princess Narine (Aus) by Red Ransom (USA)
Breeder	Blake Sandblom Pty Ltd and Henry Field Bloodstock Pty Ltd



Raceday experience stands Summer Monsoon in good stead as he holds out the debutant Midnight Runner in yesterday's juvenile event at Te Rapa.





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NOVA SWISS NOW THREE FROM THREE

Singapore's leading trainer Alwin Tan paid the unbeaten **Nova Swiss (NZ)** (Swiss Ace) the supreme compliment by calling him the best sprinter in his yard after his third win from as many starts at Kranji on Friday night.

The three-year-old has been a revelation from day one and was again ruthless in the way he spread-eagled his rivals in the \$580,000 Class 3 1000 metre sprint on Polytrack.

If there were any concerns about his early spot three wide facing the breeze, they were quickly allayed when regular partner Manoel Nunes opened up the reins at the top of the straight.

The two runners who had kept him out in the initial stages of the race were quickly gathered in and although the well-tried Mr Luck (Kitten's Joy) and Super Line (NZ) (Shamoline Warrior) momentarily loomed up, Nova Swiss was off and gone. It was the surprising Ghost (Exceed And Excel) who, in true Halloween spirit, flashed late between runners to finish second, 3¼ lengths away, beating Super Six (Kaphero) by half a length.

As much as the Nova Racing Stable's new sensation seems destined for bigger and better things, Tan was still trying to keep a lid on any lofty plans, though he sounded like he

already had a rough idea what would be on his plate next year.

"He's the best sprinter in my stable right now," he said. "I think he may get a few points from the handicapper after that.

"There is still a race he can run in on the last meeting of the year, a Kranji Stakes C race over 1000 metres, but I'll have to see how he pulls up first.

"Or else, he will come back next year and a race like the Merlion Trophy would be ideal for him. The Singapore Three-Year-Old Challenge would also be a possibility but he

needs to run over turf first and I'll have to discuss with the owners about that."

Nunes is hoping to stay in the saddle wherever Nova Swiss is pointed.

"I've always told Alwin that this horse will be better next year, but each time he comes out and wins like that," said the Brazilian.

"He's a horse we have high expectations for even if he is not fully mature yet. He's still confused and lost when he runs but, when he accelerates, he just keeps going.

"I wasn't worried he was three wide the whole way as I always had plenty of horse under me."

– Singapore Turf Club

Race	Singapore TC Class 3 H. 1000m
Winner	Nova Swiss (NZ) 2013
Owners	Nova Racing Stable
Trainer	Alwin Tan (Kranji)
Breeding	by Swiss Ace (Aus) out of Asciano Miss (Aus) by Jet Spur (Aus)
Breeder	G J Perry
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Westbury Stud, P: New Zealand Bloodstock as agent; \$10,000



Nova Swiss has the finish to himself at Kranji on Friday night.

