

Sunday 30 October 2016

I AM A STAR BEATS THE MARES TO BECOME THE FIRST 3YO WINNER OF MYER CLASSIC



I Am A Star (green and purple quarters) has a wall of mares chasing her in yesterday's Myer Classic but isn't in a mood to quit.

Am A Star (NZ) (I Am Invincible) has lived up to her name, providing trainer Shane Nichols with his first Group One winner.

Backing up from a placing at Moonee Valley against her own age last week, I Am A Star was one of two three-year-olds to take on the older mares in the Myer Classic at yesterday's Flemington meeting and became the first filly to win the Group One feature since three-year-olds became eligible in 2002.

Ridden by Dean Yendall, I Am A Star was consistently supported around the \$9 mark before starting at \$8.50 and scored a long neck victory over the Chris Waller-trained thirty-to-one shot French Emotion (Snitzel), with Denmagic (Denman), close to being the rank outsider at \$61, a short head away in third.

I Am A Star was Nichols' second Group One runner after

the filly finished second in the Thousand Guineas at Caulfield on October 8.

"It's an enormous buzz," Nichols said. "I'm not sure I can explain the feeling."

The trainer had no hesitation giving the filly her second start within eight days after she undertook a blood test earlier in the week.

"Her blood was stronger this week than it had been all prep," Nichols said. "She's really glowed and blossomed through the prep, which is why we've been able to achieve something like this today."

Yendall, who mostly rides on the country circuit, sits in third place on the national jockeys premiership and landed his second Group One victory. His first came earlier in the month when Yankee Rose (All American) won the Spring Champion Stakes at Randwick.

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At Flemington, Yendall took over from veteran rider Steven King, who was unable to make yesterday's 49kg.

"I was able to dictate across and give her a nice, comfortable run," Yendall said. "There was a bit of pressure from Zac Purton on Euro Angel getting to the 600 metres.

"I was able to be in the right spot into the straight and she gave me a nice kick out of the 400 metre mark, and I thought with that weight hopefully I'm going to be good enough to hold them off."

Yendall rode Yankee Rose into third place in last week's Cox Plate, where that filly had 47.5kg and was contacted by

Nichols well in advance to ride I Am A Star at 49kg yesterday. – AAP TURF

Race	VRC Myer Classic Gr.1 1600m
Winner	I Am a Star (NZ) 2013
Owners	M B Sandblom
Trainer	Shane Nichols (Mornington)
Breeding	by I Am Invincible (Aus) out of Star Band (USA) by Dixieland Band (USA)
Breeder	Eales Racing Pty Ltd
Sales	2014 National Weanling; Broodmare & Mixed Sale; V: Rich Hill Stud, P: Llanhennock Trust; \$12,000

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trudy into the Thousand Winners Club

Yesterday at Tauranga, **Trudy Thornton** gained entry to an elite jockeys' club, the 53-year-old posting the 1000th riding success of her career when she drove the John Revell-trained longshot Gangsters Lass (NZ) (Guillotine) to a memorable victory in the Crockford Real Estate Maiden.

"It was lovely to do it for Mr Revell, he's been a great supporter of mine," said Thornton, who returned to a rousing birdcage reception. "I haven't really chased this. It's about balance with the family – family means everything to me – but it is a great achievement."

Thornton, whose daughter Samantha Collett is also a successful jockey, rode her first winner in the 1982/83 season as an amateur before taking out an apprenticeship. She has proved herself a versatile rider with her career tally including 37 Group or Listed successes as well as eight over fences.

Thornton, who didn't single out a particular win as a highlight, said she had no intention of hanging up her riding boots any time soon. "I do it for my love of riding – and the money!" she said. "I still enjoy what I'm doing and if I had my time over I'd do it all again."



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EMILY'S CAREER **KICKS UP A NOTCH**

Welsh jockey Emily Farr yesterday took her career to another level at Awapuni where she successfully combined with **Pump Up The Volume (NZ)** (Savabeel), her polished display bringing a first black type win in the Listed Ricoh Feilding Gold Cup.

"It's wonderful and I've had a lot of support and I feel very privileged," Farr said.

The 25-year-old settled the Ralph Manning-trained stayer toward the back of the field before picking up ground across the top and the hardy eight-year-old held a sustained finish to post the seventh win of his fifty-start career.

Alinko Prince (NZ) (Alamosa)

acquitted himself well to finish second in his open class debut, as did Five To Midnight (NZ) (Domesday) who rallied strongly after going to the front 600 metres from home.

"He's better coming on the outside than through the field," said Farr, who is also an accomplished jumps jockey and won last season's Hawke's Bay Hurdles on Just Got Home (NZ) (Storming Home). "He

was always travelling well and I know he always finishes off in his races."

The winner of last year's Group Three Rotorua Cup, Pump Up The Volume has been in good touch this preparation with success at Awapuni in the winter and more recently stringing three placings together, including a runner-up finish in the Listed Taumarunui Gold Cup.

He is now likely to head south to Riccarton for the Group Three New Zealand Cup in which he is currently a \$12 chance.

Pump Up The Volume wasn't the only cup hopeful in the field with Blathwayt (NZ) (Colombia), who is at \$16 in the pre-post market, a sound enough fourth while the price on

Savaria (NZ) (Savabeel) drifted out to \$31 following her below-par effort for eighth. Just ahead of her, the seventh by Guarantor (NZ) (Howbaddouwantit) resulted in his price moving out to \$14.

Race	Feilding Gold Cup L 2100m
Winner	Pump Up the Volume (NZ) 2008
Owners	A B Coombe & R R Manning
Trainer	Ralph Manning (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Savabeel (Aus) out of Nat the Brat by Racing is Fun (USA)
Breeder	Waikato Stud 2001 Ltd
Sales	2009 National Broodmare & Mixed Sale; V: Waikato Stud Ltd, P: New Zealand Bloodstock Ltd; \$14,000



Emily Farr brings Pump Up The Volume with a perfectly timed run to win the Feilding Gold Cup.





MISS APPLETON RUNS RIVALS RAGGED

Awapuni mare **Miss Appleton (NZ)** (Align) might be a one trick pony but yesterday, and not for the first time, that was more than enough to fool her rivals on her home turf.

The six-year-old is at her dashing best when allowed to make the running and she again took up her customary role in front to burn off the open sprinters under apprentice Tim Johnson in the Courtesy Ford Redcraze Bowl.

It was Miss Appleton's sixth career victory, her fourth on the Palmerston North course, but her first in seven attempts at 1400

metres.

"I said to Tim to run it like a 1200 metre race. There were some nice horses behind her and I wanted them to have to carry their weight," said trainer Gary Vile, who had also produced Rock On (NZ) (Road to Rock) to win earlier in the day.

It was a plan that unfolded perfectly with Miss Appleton revelling in her work and she never looked like stopping in the straight, running the trip out strongly to score by a length and three-quarters.

"She's the nicest mare in the world to train," Vile said. "She just wants to eat and to work."

Salamanca (NZ) (Alamosa) chased Miss Appleton all the way but giving the winner five kilos was beyond him while the runner-up's stablemate Ringo (NZ) (Fastnet Rock), who gave the mare seven and a half kilos, came from last to take



Miss Appleton keeps going strongly for Tim Johnson to score her first open handicap win and her first over 1400 metres in yesterday's Redcraze Bowl.

third money.

The Michael Breslin-trained pair are in the mix for the upcoming New Zealand Cup carnival at Riccarton where Ringo is currently the joint \$6.50 second favourite with Battle Time (NZ) (Battle Paint) behind the \$5.50 market leader Thee Auld Floozie (NZ) (Mastercraftsman) for the Group Two Coupland's Bakeries Mile.

Race	Feilding JC Courtesy Ford Redcraze Bowl H. 1400m
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





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FINALLY, VOLPE VELOCE IS TROUBLE-FREE

Graham Richardson can finally take a confident look forward with **Volpe Veloce** (Foxwedge)

after she belatedly opened her three-year-old career in style at Tauranga, the Matamata trainer having a smile back on his face after his quality filly's successful return in yesterday's Mills Reef Winery and Restaurant 1200m.

"Sometimes with fillies everything can go wrong – and it pretty much did," Richardson said.

After two wins from as many starts last season, including a victory in the Listed Castletown Stakes, Richardson was understandably keen to get the filly to Riccarton for the Group One New Zealand One Thousand Guineas.

Unfortunately, Volpe Veloce's classic preparation got off to a disappointing start when she lashed out in the barrier before the Group Three Gold Trail Stakes at Hastings and was a late scratching.

"That was out of the blue," Richardson said. "She'd had two trials and two races before that and she'd been good in the gates."

Volpe Veloce then missed a run at Te Rapa with an elevated temperature and a subsequent run of unsuitably wet tracks further stalled her preparation and ultimately ended the Christchurch dream.

"She's out of the Thousand Guineas but there's plenty of races up here and she'll have fresh legs for the Christmas racing," Richardson said.

Johnathan Parkes rode Volpe Veloce in her Castletown Stakes victory last term and he was more than happy to head north to Tauranga to continue his association with the horse.

"She's a pretty classy filly with a lot ahead of her," he said. "She always felt

like she was in control and she did it with a leg in the air."

Volpe Veloce sat outside the leader to the turn and then glided clear to win by a couple of lengths from her stablemate Secret Stash (NZ) (Sakhee's Secret), whose effort also thrilled Richardson.

"He's got a future and there's some nice Guineas races coming up for him," he said.

Ears pricked and doing it easily, Volpe Veloce has too much class for her fellow three-year-olds at Tauranga.

Race	BOP RC Mills Reef Winery & Restaurant H. 1200m
Winner	Volpe Veloce (Aus) 2013
Owners	D & C Adams, H Allender, K Anderson, M Chubb, P Dixon, R Featherstone, G Mackin, G Richardson, K & L Robinson, M Skilling, P Spiers, B Wong and K Woodmass
Trainer	Graham Richardson (Matamata)
Breeding	by Foxwedge (Aus) out of Bardego (Aus) by Barathea (Ire)
Breeder	Mr N Vass
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Lyndhurst Farm, P: richardsonracing.co.nz; \$240,000





Sunday 30 October 2016

SHELLEY'S BREED ON THE UP AND UP



Veteran jockey Grant Cooksley brings Close Up home a decisive winner, the first leg of a family double at Tauranga.

Brothers **Close Up (NZ)** (Shinko King) and **Seventh Up (NZ)** (Shinko King) yesterday banked travel expenses for their upcoming southern venture when they posted a winning double at Tauranga to add to their family's proud roll of honour.

The former took top honours under Grant Cooksley in the Chesters Plumbing and Bathroom Handicap before the veteran jockey guided the year-younger Seventh Up to victory in the Gartshore Construction 1600.

The siblings are prepared at Cambridge by their co-breeder, part-owner and trainer Shelley Hale, who has enjoyed wonderful success with their mother Regelle (NZ).

The daughter of Exploding Prospect, who won four times herself, has been a broodmare gem with seven of her eight

foals to race having been successful. They include the Group One Hong Kong Classic Mile winner Thumbs Up (NZ) (Shinko King).

"She's in foal to Burgundy and is about three or four weeks away from foaling," Hale said.

"Fortunately, we got a Tavistock filly out of her last season, which was an amazing result."

The six-year-old Seventh Up has now won five of his eleven starts and was the big shortener in the market for next month's Group Two Coupland's Bakeries Mile at Riccarton, cut from \$21 to \$7.50.

Travelling companion Close Up has now won seven times, with his Tauranga success coming off the back of a runner-up

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SHELLEY'S BREED ON THE UP AND UP

(Continued from page 8)

finish at Pukekohe.

"He's older now and he's taken a bit longer to get fit," Hale said.

Close Up settled off the pace and let down strongly in

the straight to win going away by two and a quarter lengths while Seventh Up produced a similar performance to post a length and a quarter margin.

Race	BOP RC Gartshore Construction H. 1600m
Winner	Seventh Up (NZ) 2010
Owners	Miss S A Hale, Noel & Alison Johnstone Family Trust and R M Stent
Trainer	Shelley Hale (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Shinko King (Ire) out of Regelle by Exploding Prospect (USA)
Breeder	Miss S A Hale, N W Johnstone and R M Stent

Race	BOP RC Chesters Plumbing and Bathroom H. 1300m
Winner	Close Up (NZ) 2009
Owners	Miss S A Hale, Noel & Alison Johnstone Family Trust and R M Stent
Trainer	Shelley Hale (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Shinko King (Ire) out of Regelle by Exploding Prospect (USA)
Breeder	Miss S A Hale, N W Johnstone and R M Stent



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