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NEWS – AUGUST 2008

Miagi The Magnificent

Courtesy GRNSW website

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Champion stayer Miagi (**Hallucinate x Deloris**) will be the red hot favourite for the 2008 Rapidvite National Distance Grand Final at Wentworth Park this coming Saturday night, after a dominant display in the NSW State Final.

Miagi once again wasn't the best to begin, but soon weaved his way through the field to take the lead in the home straight the first time. From there it was a race for second.

It will be an amazing performance from both greyhound and trainers if Miagi can take home the \$50,000 winner Cheque.

Trainer Warren Harper and his wife Jill have nursed the injury plagued star, only having one race over 450 metre in the lead-up to the series, after five months away from the race track.

"He's a phenomenal dog," said an emotional Warren Harper

"He's not a crock, he just tries so hard."

Not only has Miagi had to overcome injuries occurred on the race track, but the super stayer was mauled by an Alsatian early on in his career, almost ending his life, let alone his racing aspirations. But since his recovery, the son of Hallucinate and Deloris, has swept all before him, and is regarded by many as the country's best stayer.

Miagi is also the Wentworth Park 720 metre track record holder, clocking 42.03, by far the quickest of any dog in the series.

If Miagi is victorious, it will be extra sweet for Harper.

"I ran second in the first National Distance Championship in 1969 with a dog called Holding, Zoom Top was third," Harper said.

"So to do this...I'm just over the top."

After drawing box eight, Miagi will be odds on to take out the major prize.

On top of great racing action, it's free entry on Saturday night, at a re-invigorated Wentworth Park for the \$50,000 to the winner Grand Finals of the Rapidvite National Sprint and Distance Championships hosted by the NSW GBOTA.

CHARMER LODGE FEATURE NEWS - AUGUST 2008

Trimmed Down In My Days Stars

Courtesy GRNSW website

TRAINER Paul Bigeni blamed In My Days' (**Over Flo x Tammy's Wish**) weight of 34.5kg for the dog's disappointing third to Repeated in a heat of the Rapidvite National Sprint Championship at Wentworth Park.

In My Days, trimmed down to 33.6kg, led throughout to win Saturday night's Welcome Stake in a blistering 30.14sec, .10 faster than his previous best Wenty effort.

The dog has been wowing Wenty track touts with blistering handslips in the sub-24.50sec range but until Saturday had not "put it all together" in a race.

Bigeni, a 76-year-old Maltese migrant who has been training greyhounds for 35 years, believes In My Days could be the best he has prepared.

JEFF COLLERSON

Miagi Primed For Distance Title

Courtesy GRNSW website

TRACK record holder Miagi (**Hallucinate x Deloris**) has overcome the awkward five alley to secure tonight's NSW State Final at of the Rapidvite National Distance Championship at Wentworth Park. The brilliant stayer has been dogged by injuries throughout his spectacular career and was having only his third start following a five month break when he accounted for Risk It and Lyn's Daisy in a smart 42.51.

After a moderate getaway from box five, Miagi was only fifth in the early stages but dived to the rails before the first turn had only kennelmate Calhoun Park ahead of him at the 520m boxes the first time. Before the winning post, he wrested the lead, shot clear and the contest was as good as in the record books.

He was untroubled to score by 4-1/4 lengths while Lyn's Daisy's late burst of saw her miss second place – and a position in next Saturday's National Final – by a mere three quarters of a length.

The box draw for the National Distance Championship is: 1 Risk It, 2 Token Ned, 3 Mantra Lad, 4 Tayza, 5 Rebel Angel, 6 Fallen Zorro, 7 Nicely Done, 8 Miagi. Lynn's Daisy and My Son Rules are the reserves.

Earlier in the night a number of the interstate contender trialled (solo) and with Tayza (WA) registering 42.76, Nicely Done (Qld) 42.99 and Fallen Zorro (Tas) 42.67 while Victorian Rebel Angel registered a fast 30.01 over 520m

Miagi Stakes National Distance Claim

Courtesy GRNSW website

TRACK record holder Miagi (**Hallucinate x Deloris**) overcame a tardy start to posted the fastest time of the three heat winners in tonight's Rapidvite National Distance Championship heats at Wentworth Park.

The multiple record holder seems to stumble at box rise but worked to the outside of the track in the 80m run to the first turn and, after 200m, was in the vanguard position.

Mid-race he held a commanding lead over early pacemaker Dana Lou Lou and, while the chasing division made ground late, Miagi held on to score by three lengths in 42.65.

His time was some nine lengths outside his own record but the run was his first at 720m for just on six months and he will be 'match hardened' for next weeks important State Final and even better for the National Final on August 30 should he win or finish second in seven days time.

Dana Lou Lou held the late-closing Lyn's Daisy for the Quinella position by one length and, on calculated times, Lyn's Daisy's effort was good enough to secure a place in the field for the State Final.

Earlier in the night, the South Australian-trained Risk It secured the opening Distance heat in a solid 42.79. She had little luck at Angle Park over the less suitable 600m trip August 11 but appreciated the step up in distance and came from fifth in the middle stages to give noted strong finisher Octane AI a start and a beating.

Octane AI, however, struck trouble in the run to the home turn and his effort to finish second – some 2 1/4 lengths from Risk It – was sound. Gold Slammer battled away to finish third, a clear four lengths from the winner.

Miagi's younger half sister Calhoun Park secured the second Distance heat in 42.79. She was quickly in front from box eight and led her more experienced rivals a merry dance.

She has been ultra consistent since trainer Warren Harper stepped the daughter of Bond up in distance and tonight's offering represented a career best effort.

My Son Rules raced in second position from the first turn and had every chance while the well performed Fancy Penny made late ground to snare third but her calculated time was not good enough to win a place in the State Final.

The box draw for the NSW Distance Championship is: 1 Calhoun Park, 2 Gold Slammer, 3 My Son Rules, 4 Lyn's Daisy, 5 Miagi, 6 Dana Lou Lou, 7 Risk It, 8 Octane AI. Fancy Penny And Fort Shakin' are the reserves.

Miagi Ready For Nationals

Courtesy GRNSW website

MIAGI (**Hallucinate x Deloris**) will go into this Saturday night's heats of the Rapidvite National Distance Championship with a light preparation, but he is ready.

The dog trialled over 618m at Richmond last Wednesday and posted a slick 35.80sec.

"That is a smart time but the run was even better than it looks on paper," trainer Warren Harper said this week.

"Miagi became stirred up by the previous trial and went up in the air with the lids.

"I'm not sure if he got caught in the boxes or what, but a couple of other trainers who watched the trial reckon the mishap cost him four tenths of a second."

JEFF COLLERSON

Fast Time No Surprise For Ray

Courtesy GRNSW website

HALLUCINATING (**Hallucinate x Tommie's Placard**) sliced .46sec off her previous best Wentworth Park time when she posted a brilliant 30.16sec in her all the way win in Saturday night's The Gardens Sports Club Stake.

But while those figures may have surprised most punters, trainer Ray Matterson was not at all baffled.

"Like most greyhounds, Hallucinating is a different proposition when she gets on the bunny the way she did tonight," Ray said later.

"She has been going great guns and I thought she should nearly have won when she ran fifth to Snozz, a top notcher, at Gosford on August 5.

"And before that she was placed against strong opposition at Wenty.

"Hallucinating hasn't had much luck with box draws and while she had five again tonight there was not a lot of pace around her and when she pinged to the lead I knew she would run fast time."

JEFF COLLERSON

CROSSROADS FOR GARY

Courtesy GRAQ website

21 August, 2008.

OAKLAND Spirit's impressive victory at Albion Park on Thursday night has presented owner-trainer Gary Clarke with a problem.

"Where to now?" said Gary after the son of **Whisky Assassin-Hot Treasure** had blitzed a 4th-5th Grade (710m) in 42.40 at his debut over the distance.

He scored by an impressive six and three-quarter lengths over early leader Little Egyptian with a head to Aunty Vick who got home fairly for third.

"I'm not sure what to do with him from now," said Clarke. "The next few days will decide that for me. I'll see how he has pulled up."

Clarke reported that Oakland Spirit "could hardly walk" on his way back after the victory.

"If he does well in the next few days I'll probably nominate him for Albion Park next week," he said.

Oakland Spirit took his record to seven wins from 23 starts and he has now won three of five runs on the track.

"I have always been confident he would run 710m, but you never really know until they do it," said Clarke.

"I thought the one dog (Little Egyptian) would be the hardest to beat."

Clarke is excited that his dog has won over 710m.

"It opens an entire new world for us with him," said Gary.