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NEWS DECEMBER 2008

Houdini escapes with Young Guns

13 Dec, 2008.

FORMER Kiwi trainer Russell McBride sealed the Capalaba trainer's premiership and landed the Young Guns final at the same time with Black Houdini today.

The son of **Whisky Assassin-Zane's Girl** scored by a length and a quarter in 19.80 for McBride and the Kyrobroy Syndicate.

He downed Royal Surfer with a neck to Advance Terms in third.

Black Houdini is a real track specialist. His overall record is 12 starts for eight wins and a third.

At Capalaba he has started 10 times for eight wins and a third.

McBride shifted from Wellington four years ago to Queensland with wife Tilly and twins Reece and Tracey.

McBride raced 26 points clear in the Capalaba trainer's premiership and with just one race meeting left is unbeatable.

He has 12 dogs in training at Clarendon.

He will now head to circle racing with Black Houdini.

"He has trialled well around Albion Park when Nigel Rugg trained him, and he's gone well at Ipswich for me," said Russell.

"I want to have a crack at the track record with him in the New Year.

Bob Simms bred the winner from star broodbitch Zane's Girl who had already produced SA Oaks winner Tiarta and litter sister, Oaks runner-up Megabrooke Sue (to Yo Yo's Boy).

"He is aptly named because when he was being reared, what he couldn't get under, he would get over," said Bob.

"We had to rebuild all our rearing yards."

He races the winner with family Royce and Boo.

Bob reported Tiarta and sister Megabrooke Sue have just whelped litters to Hallucinate and Black Enforcer respectively.

"Tiarta has a litter by Black Enforcer just breaking in now, another by Surf Lorian and now this one to Hallucinate which she whelped yesterday," he said.

Megabrooke Sue has a litter by collision racing now, another to Bombastic Shiraz and whelped eight to Black Enforcer this week

Ruffian has Derby aspirations

11 Dec, 2008.

TONY Brett has Group 1 National Derby plans in the back of his mind for rising star Ruffian.

The son of **Hallucinate-Miss Ross** scored a game and narrow win in a Christmas Stocking heat (520m) at Albion Park on Thursday night.

He got up in the last stride to down Like The Look by a neck in 30.29.

Shooster was third three-quarters of a length away.

It was the fifth wins in 10 starts for Ruffian but while Brett was happy to make plans for his dog's future, he did have some reservations.

"The dog should have a sticker on his back ... handle with care," said Brett.

"He is a really good dog, who will get under 30 seconds at Albion Park in the future when he gets fitter.

"But he is also fragile. He's already broken down once and I just hope he stays sound so he can show his real ability."

Ruffian gave early leader Like The Look a huge early start but railed gamely in the straight to run down Ron Ball's smart youngster.

Brett will now point Ruffian to next week's Christmas Stocking final at Albion Park.

"I was looking at the Maturity series at The Meadows but the heats of that are on Saturday week so he will have to miss it now that he has made the final of this race," said Brett.
"But he is the right age for all the classic races next year and the Derby is the next one and we'll aim him for that."
Ruffian will continue to race through the grades at Albion Park before heading to Wentworth Park in the New Year for the Derby.

Dean Magic Repeats

4 Dec, 2008.

A "track record" type run at Richmond a week ago convinced training legend Richie Dean that Repeated could be a Group 1 Brisbane Cup chance at Albion Park.

And Dean was proved right when the son of **Hallucinate-Thai Again** scored a brilliant 29.94 win by four and a half lengths in his heat.

He downed Intelligence with three lengths to Ruffian in third.

Repeated went through sections of 5.64, 11.67 and 12.68 on his way to his 12th win.

Dean, best known for his champion National lass, prepares Repeated and his littermates Thai Alert, Radio Star and Hendricks, for Julie Fletcher.

Julie's husband Bruce bred and trained the dogs but a hip operation a few months ago forced him to send the dogs to Dean.

Richie took Repeated to Sandown for a heat of the Melbourne Cup and he raced well when fourth to eventual final winner Surgeon.

He then came back to Richmond on a wet track and scored brilliantly in 30.78.

"It was as good as a track record on a dry track," said Jason Davis who handles the Dean dogs on track.

Richie has been hit by arthritis in recent times and cannot handle his dog on track.

"This dog just loves Richie," said Jason. "He watches his every move."

The rails was ideal for Repeated who utilised that draw to rail up inside Intelligence at the first turn and take control.

Intelligence, but a baby compared with his Cup heat rivals, has now made his third Group final in his short career.

He has also been in the Vic Peters and the Lismore Cup.

Repeated's performance was outstanding. He was having his first look at Albion Park and arrived in Brisbane on race morning after his first plane flight.

"It was a very good effort," said Jason.

Boxer 3rd fastest

3 Dec, 2008.

SHADOW Boxer became the third fastest ever winner over 600m at Albion Park on Tuesday night. Greg Brennan's home bred **Hallucinate-In My Dreams** dog scorched around the Creek in 34.76. He was making his 600m debut when scoring by almost 12 lengths over Maywyn Fury with Same Consequence in third.

Shadow Boxer's time was third best behind Oreo's track record of 34.57 and Maxie's 34.72.

The race was run in flying sections of 9.94, 11.99 with a final section of a sensational 12.83.

It is commonly regarded that for a 600m dog to be able to run 710m at Albion Park, it must be able to break 13 seconds for its final section of a 600m race.

Shadow Boxer was always going to be hard to hold out last night.

He settled third just two lengths off the leader passing the winning post the first time, but swept to the front passing the catching pen.

Brennan has always been confident his dog would run a powerful 600m.

He will now head the dog towards the heats of the Big Dog Cup over 600m at Albion Park on Thursday week. "He cramped a little in the run, but I couldn't be happier with the way he handled the jump up in distance," he said.

"The rise in class to the heats of the Big Dog Cup will not be easy, but he deserves his chance in it.

"Time will tell if he can turn that sort of stamina into 710m stamina," said Greg.

If he does ... look out!

YOUTHFUL Northern Rivers trainer Neil Falls is predicting a bright middle distance future for Genista Reign.

He said this after the son of **Hallucinate-Smokey Whisky** had got up in the last stride to win a 520m 5th Grade at Albion Park on Thursday night.

He won by a half head in a slow 30.94 beating Bruce's Knight with a length to Elated Lady in third. It was Genista Reign's seventh win in 22 starts but he was making his debut at Albion Park and it showed.

"He was very strange to the track and you could see that by his run," said Falls.

Genista Reign was well away but was checked at the first turn and Falls gave up on his dog's chances after that.

"I thought he was a bit of a place chance in the back straight but was surprised he won," said Falls.

Genista Reign was spelled some months ago and Falls said his dog had derived a lot of benefit from the break.

"He went through the Bull N Barley series at Grafton and was a bit unlucky not to get through," said Falls. "I then took him to Lismore for the Cup heats but it was his first run over 520 metres.

"He's crying out for a distance not but we don't want to step him up until he's gone through his grades over the sprints."

Falls said he would keep bringing Genista Reign back to Albion Park to do just that.

Bruce's Knight was probably unlucky not to have won. He loomed up on the home turn but checked off the heels of the leader Elated Lady.

27 Nov, 2008.

LAST Saturday Neil Falls gave himself little or no chance of winning the Young Guns final at Albion Park with Genista Thunder.

That's because Genista Thunder, the fastest heat winner and likely hot favourite, was at a vet surgery on a drip.

But come Thursday night and Genista Thunder (**Hallucinate-Smokey Whisky**) was at Albion Park coming from near last to win the \$10,000 final in 30.22.

He scored by six and a quarter lengths from Midnight Rumble with a length and a quarter to Earth Quest in third.

"He got the scours really badly and was passing blood," said Neils. "I took him to the vet and he was on a drip all day Saturday and Sunday."

By Monday the dog was right and a blood test, the results of which arrived on Thursday morning, was good. He was back to normal so Falls decided to run.

"The vet was very close to giving him some medication to help him," said Falls. "But that would have swabbed and we would have had to scratch.

"Luckily that didn't have to happen."

Falls changed the dog's diet giving him rice and cooked chicken dinners, plenty of small meals and it worked.

When the Young Guns was washed out last Thursday night, Falls took Genista Thunder to Lismore for a trial on Friday and the dog went brilliantly.

"He ran 30.00 but by Saturday morning he was crook," he said.

Immediate plans are up in the air.

"He's been needing a spell for a while and with the problem he had we might do just that," said Falls.

"I know the Group 1 heats are on next week but at this stage I'm leaning towards a spell.

"I'll talk to his owners and make a decision when I see how he pulls up."

Genista Thunder has now won 13 races from 26 starts and his Albion Park record is a great four wins from seven starts.

Of the victory, Falls' immediate reaction was: "Miracles do happen".