

Sunday 8 March 2020

KIWIS STRIKE AGAIN IN G1 CANTERBURY STAKES



The Bostonian continued New Zealand horses early dominance of Sydney's Group One races at Randwick on Saturday. (bradleyphotos.com.au)

New Zealand-trained horses have continued their early dominance of Sydney's Group One autumn races with **The Bostonian (NZ)** (Jimmy Choux) scoring a bulldog-like win in the Canterbury Stakes at Randwick.

The Kiwis have now won the first three elite races of the carnival after trainer Jamie Richards last week

landed a Group One double with Te Akau Shark (NZ) (Rip Van Winkle) and Probabeel (NZ) (Savabeel).

It was the Tony Pike-trained The Bostonian's turn on Saturday, the two-time Group One winner stalking a strong speed and lifting late to overhaul Savatiano (Street Cry) and score by 1-1/4 lengths with Mister Sea Wolf (Amadeus Wolf) another three

lengths away.

The victory gave Nash Rawiller another milestone Group One and he believed The Bostonian could continue to be a Sydney autumn carnival force.

"I've been knocking on the door but this is my first Group One since I've been back from Hong Kong," Rawiller said.

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KIWIS STRIKE AGAIN IN G1 CANTERBURY STAKES

(Continued from page 1)

"It's good timing to get the monkey off my back going into the autumn carnival.

"We had a beautiful run behind the one we felt was hardest to beat (Savatiano) and I was able to track it as long as I could after doing a bit of work early.

"To his credit he was really strong when he came out from behind them."

Pike slated the George Ryder Stakes (1500m) at Rosehill in two weeks as the next target for The Bostonian which would set up a clash with Te Akau Shark.

He says the early carnival results

have been a shot in the arm for the Kiwis who are enjoying a resurgence after a couple of quiet seasons.

"It's been a great couple of weeks for the Kiwis. Jamie had a super weekend last weekend which is great, two Group One wins in the same day and The Bostonian has come over and won," Pike said.

"We haven't had a lot of numbers over here yet but I think a fair few are coming over in the next few weeks after the Derby and the Oaks."

The winner of the Doomben 10,000 last year, The Bostonian struggled to reproduce that form on firm tracks during the Melbourne spring but relished the soft ground in Saturday's 1300-metre sprint at Randwick.

- AAP



| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Race | ATC Canterbury S. Gr.1 1300m |
| Winner | (The) Bostonian (NZ) 2014 |
| Owners | Archer Equine Investments Ltd |
| Trainer | Tony Pike (Cambridge) |
| Breeding | by Jimmy Choux out of Keepa Cheval by Keeper (AUS) |
| Breeder | Archer Equine Investments Ltd |

Trainer Tony Pike at the presentations.
(bradleyphotos.com.au)





ROGER THAT UPSETS **IN AUCKLAND CUP**

Rider Sam Collett is fast becoming the darling of the Gr.1 Barfoot & Thompson Auckland Cup (3200m) after making it back-to-back wins in the premier two-mile feature when guiding outsider **Roger That (NZ)** (Shinko King) to a boilover victory on Saturday.

Collett claimed her first Cup, and first Group One title, when she scored aboard race favourite Glory Days (NZ) (Red Giant) in 2019, but this time around she was far from the punters friend on a \$40 shot who had been overlooked despite having some solid

lead-up form for the contest.

Prepared at Tauranga by Antony Fuller, the seven-year-old Shinko King gelding had been thereabouts in his last five starts including a gritty runner-up effort in the Gr.3 OMF Stakes (2000m) back in November before finishing on nicely for fifth in the Gr.3 Counties Cup (2100m) at his next start.

Sparingly raced by Fuller on the hard summer tracks, Roger That went into Saturday's contest fresh from finishing second behind Joe's Legacy (NZ) (Guillotine) in the Listed Kaimai

Stakes (2000m) at Matamata last month.

Despite being caught three wide in the early running Roger That trucked along sweetly in midfield throughout before Collett asked him to move into contention with 700m to run.

Making his run five wide, he swept to the lead on straightening and refused to give in as he maintained an advantage to the line to defeat Australian raider Sound (Lando) with race favourite Platinum Invador (NZ) (Redwood) in third after chasing hard

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Sam Collett and Roger That cause an upset as they win the Gr.1 Barfoot & Thompson Auckland Cup (Trish Dunell)



ROGER THAT UPSETS IN AUCKLAND CUP

(Continued from page 4)

all the way down the home straight.

"I can't express the words about how happy I am for Antony and Sarah (wife)," Collett said.

"They do such a good job and this horse is always thereabouts and he always runs an honest race.

"I drew seventeen and thought 'oh god,' but he just jogged around and ate up the 3200m.

"I was posted three wide for the first 600m and then was able to slot in.

"He gave me such a dream ride as he didn't pull and just towed me along and I thought this can't be happening."

Fuller, who only prepares a handful of horses from his Tauranga base, was pleasantly surprised by the result as he waited for his charge to make his way back into the winner's enclosure.

"It's just amazing," Fuller said.

"There is a young girl who works for us and she asked me this morning if I was excited.

"I said 'I think I'm bloody daft as I could have picked an easier race for the horse.'

"We were just hoping he would run well although we were confident he would stay.

"The question was whether he would stay fast enough for long enough but I think he showed today that he is a very good stayer.

"When he hit the lead turning in, I thought they would have to be pretty good to beat him as he won't quit, there is no white flag in this horse and he just won't hand it up."

Out of the unraced Yamanin Vital mare Heather Lyn, Roger That has plenty of staying blood on his dam's side with dual Gr.3 New Zealand Cup (3200m) and Gr.2 Wellington Cup (3200m) winner Blood Brotha (NZ) (Danzighill) featuring in his extended family along with Gr.1 New Zealand Derby (2400m) placegetter King Johny (NZ) (Seasoned Star), while he also

traces back to multiple Group One winners Princess Mellay (NZ) (Mellay) and her champion son Prince Majestic (NZ) (Noble Bijou).

The Auckland Cup was run in a slick time of 3:19.96, the fastest time since Zavite's (NZ) (Zabeel) victory in 2010.

– NZ Racing Desk

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Race | ARC Auckland Cup Gr.1 3200m |
| Winner | Roger That (NZ) 2012 |
| Owners | P G Allan, S B Cunningham, Mrs S H Fuller & C Squires |
| Trainer | Antony Fuller (Tauranga) |
| Breeding | by Shinko King (IRE) out of Heather Lyn by Yamanin Vital |
| Breeder | R H Brooks |



Jockey Sam Collett with trainer Antony Fuller at the presentations. (Trish Dunell)



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GROUP ONE ROLL CONTINUES FOR TE AKAU RACING



Cool Aza Beel and Opie Bosson cruise to the line to take out the Gr.1 Sistema Stakes (1200m) (Trish Dunell)

Outstanding juvenile **Cool Aza Beel (NZ)** (Savabeel) kept the Group One winning roll of Te Akau Racing going as he dominated his rivals when taking out the Gr.1 Sistema Stakes (1200m) at Ellerslie.

A stylish winner of the Karaka Million 2YO (1200m) at the venue in late January, the Savabeel colt didn't have the best dress rehearsal for Saturday's contest when beaten into second by stablemate Need I Say More (No Nay Never) at Matamata a fortnight ago on a slow and tricky track surface.

Back on good footing and drawn barrier one, punters installed the Jamie Richards-trained runner as a dominating \$1.70 favourite and he never gave his fans a moment of concern once he slotted into the trail for rider Opie Bosson.

Bosson bided his time behind a steady pace before angling three-wide on the point of the home turn to issue a

challenge. Asked for his effort, Cool Aza Beel shot two-lengths clear and kept up a powerful gallop to defeat improving filly Vernazza (NZ) (More Than Ready) and the late-finishing Kelly Renee (NZ) (Vespa) who shaded Play That Song (NZ) (Showcasing) for third.

"They didn't go that hard early on and he was pulling a little but once I got him out into the clear it was all over," Bosson said.

"He's a good colt and just a gun little racehorse.

"Last start he was just dipping and diving in the ground so I knew getting him back on to a good track, he would be hard to beat."

Purchased by Te Akau boss David Ellis for \$150,000 from the Fairdale Stud draft during the Book 1 session at the 2019

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GROUP ONE ROLL CONTINUES FOR TE AKAU RACING

(Continued from page 7)

Karaka Yearling Sale, Cool Aza Beel made it four Group One victories in the last three weeks for the Matamata stable after Advantage (Fastnet Rock) won the Haunui Farm WFA Group One Classic (1600m) at Otaki on February 22, followed by a double at Randwick last weekend with Probabeel (NZ) (Savabeel) in the Surround Stakes (1400m) and Te Akau Shark (NZ) (Rip Van Winkle) in the Chipping Norton Stakes (1600m).

"He's a very special colt," Richards said.

"He might have been half a run short at Matamata but the ground had to be taken into consideration and we couldn't have had him any better for today.

"We put a little rubber nose band on him to just slow him down a little early on today but Opie peeled out at the right time and he quickened really nicely.

"I did think Vernazza was going to give us a good crack there but he is a very good colt."

Richards wouldn't be drawn on the immediate future for Cool Aza Beel although he indicated the Gr.1 Courtesy Ford Manawatu Sires' Produce Stakes (1400m) on March 28 was a possibility.

Cool Aza Beel has now won four of his six career starts and has laid a strong claim to the Champion Two-Year-Old title that will be decided at the conclusion of the racing season in July.



Cool Aza Beel returns to the Ellerslie birdcage after securing his first Group One prize in the Sistema Stakes (1200m) at Ellerslie (Trish Dunell)

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Race | ARC Sistema S. Gr.1 1200m |
| Winner | Cool Aza Beel (NZ) 2017 |
| Owners | Te Akau Sassy Beel Syndicate (Mgr: Karyn Fenton-Ellis MNZM) |
| Trainer | Jamie Richards (Matamata) |
| Breeding | by Savabeel (AUS) out of Cool 'n' Sassy (AUS) by Testa Rossa (AUS) |
| Breeder | Fairdale Stud (2007) Ltd |
| Sales | 2019 National Yearling Sale - Book 1 V: Fairdale Stud \$150000 P: DC Ellis |

– NZ Racing Desk





AVANTAGE ALL CLASS IN ELLERSLIE FEATURE

In what is becoming a familiar sight this season it was the tangerine and blue colours of Te Akau Racing at the head of affairs once again as the Matamata operation made it consecutive Group One victories at Ellerslie on Saturday.

Quality mare **Avantage** (Fastnet Rock) gave punters another taste of her versatility and genuine all-round class as she took out the Gr.1 Bonecrusher New Zealand Stakes (2000m) in her first start beyond 1600m, barely an hour after Cool Aza Beel (NZ) (Savabeel) had taken out the Gr.1 Sistema Stakes (1200m) two races earlier for Matamata trainer Jamie Richards.

The Fastnet Rock four-year-old had won one of New Zealand's premier sprint contests just three

starts ago when taking out the Gr.1 Telegraph (1200m) at Trentham while last start she scored her third career Group One victory in the Haunui Farm WFA Group One Classic (1600m).

Some pundits felt a step up to 2000m could find her out but the distance challenge never looked a factor once regular pilot Opie Bosson found clear air in the home straight as Avantage dashed away from a quality line-up to record career Group One win number four to go with her Karaka Million 2YO (1200m) title as a two-year-old.

Trainer Jamie Richards is running



Avantage hands out a beating to her rivals in the Gr.1 Bonecrusher New Zealand Stakes (2000m) (Trish Dunell)

out of superlatives for the mare who was purchased by Te Akau boss David Ellis for \$210,000 from The Oaks Stud draft at the 2017 Karaka Premier Yearling sale.

"She is just tough isn't she," Richards said.

"We've always spoken about her constitution and her strength.

"We're really lucky to have a stable full of quality horses and a wonderful team that looks after them.

"These are the type of horses that Dave goes to the sales to try and buy and the results are there to see."

The win made it consecutive

victories in the event for Te Akau Racing after Melody Belle triumphed in 2019. Richards believes that Avantage may well go on to match the deeds of the reigning New Zealand Horse of the Year and ten-time Group One winner as he looks to plot a path for Avantage to her next Group One assignment, the Fiber Fresh New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders' Stakes (1600m) at Te Aroha .

"I don't think there is going to be much between these two mares in the coming years," he said.

"Avantage is a little bit different

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AVANTAGE ALL CLASS IN ELLERSLIE FEATURE

(Continued from page 9)

as she is a great eater and has a little more natural strength so she should be able to handle the back-up into the race at Te Aroha.

"It will be back to a mile which is probably her pet distance so I would say that is where we will probably be in three weeks."

It was win number ninety one for the season for Richards, who leads the National Trainers' premiership by a margin of twenty victories from nearest rival Stephen Marsh and stakes victory number 16 in New Zealand to go with three further Group One wins in Australia courtesy of Melody Belle (NZ) (Commands), Probabeel (NZ) (Savabeel) and Te Akau Shark (NZ) (Rip Van Winkle).

– NZ Racing Desk

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Race | ARC Bonecrusher New Zealand S. Gr.1 2000m |
| Winner | Avantage (AUS) 2015 |
| Owners | Te Akau Avantage Syndicate (Mgr: KW Fenton-Ellis MNZM) |
| Trainer | Jamie Richards (Matamata) |
| Breeding | by Fastnet Rock (AUS) out of Asavant (NZ) by Zabeel (NZ) |
| Breeder | Mr W Calder & Mrs K N Calder |
| Sales | 2017 National Yearling Sale - Premier Session V: The Oaks Stud \$210000 P: Mr DC Ellis |

Avantage and rider Opie Bosson (Trish Dunell)



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SOFT TRACK AIDS PAINT THE TOWN TWO VICTORY



Paint The Town Two relished conditions at Flemington. (Bruno Cannatelli)

Paint The Town Two (NZ) (Darci Brahma) has relished the soft ground in recording a career-high victory at Flemington.

The New Zealand mare scored her sixth victory when successful in the Gr.3 Schweppervescence Trophy (1600m), her first in stakes company.

Ridden by Jamie Kah, Paint The Town Two scored by a short-head win from Bam's On Fire (Universal Ruler) with Fidelia (Not A Single Doubt) three quarters of a length away third.

Adrian McGregor, representing trainer Bevan Laming, said the victory was an important milestone in the future of Paint The Town Two as a broodmare.

"Today was a bit of a grand final," McGregor said.

"We got her from New Zealand and from the day she arrived she has picked up a cheque nearly every start.

"She loves a bit of cut in the ground and when the rain came on Thursday we were hoping for a heavy track.

"We thought she would be a really good chance but with the track being upgraded, we were still confident but thought she was a better chance on a wetter track.

"On a firmer track she gets back in the field, but on a rain-affected track she races forward, travels better and lets down better."

Kah said she did not plan to be as positive aboard Paint The Town Two, but was happy to roll forward after a quick beginning.

"She is so consistent this horse and only a small thing, but she gives it 110 per cent every start," Kah said.

Paint The Town Two recorded one win from eleven starts when racing in New Zealand under trainer Stephen Marsh.

-AAP

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Race | VRC Schweppervescence Trophy Gr.3 1600m |
| Winner | Paint the Town (Two) (NZ) 2014 |
| Owners | Mr SB Laming, The Oaks Stud |
| Trainer | Bevan Laming (Cranbourne) |
| Breeding | by Darci Brahma out of Italic (GB) by Medicean (GB) |
| Breeder | The Oaks Stud |
| Sales | 2016 National Yearling Sale - Select Session V: The Oaks Stud \$22500 P: The Oaks Stud |

