



PRIME DISPATCH

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Michelle Payne winning the Adelaide Magic Millions on Atalanta Miss for Prime

Congratulations Michelle on winning the Melbourne Cup

I was thrilled to see Michelle Payne win the Melbourne Cup on the Darren Weir trained Prince Of Penzance. Michelle is a tenacious young woman who deserves every success that comes to her. She has ridden a lot for us over the years with her win on Atalanta Miss being her best result for us.

Michelle was about 17 years old when she would come to Caulfield and ride work for Bill Mitchell. I remember her riding Under Command into 3rd place at Moonee Valley one day when we needed to claim on him. We took her off when he ran in the Futurity Stakes at his next start and after he got beaten she called to let me know in no uncertain terms that Under Command would have gone much better if he had been ridden by a female rider!!!

On another occasion she rang up for the ride on Holding but one of her sisters had been beaten on the horse at his previous start at Geelong when a \$1.50 favourite. I said to her that I would speak with the

owners but that it would be unlikely she would get the ride. I called her back to say I had discussed her riding the horse with one of the owners. I explained he wasn't keen for her to take the ride as he had endured too much 'payne' due to Cathy's ride at Geelong. Michelle was silent for a couple of seconds and came back demanding I 'ring that owner and tell that owner this is Michelle Payne not Cathy Payne calling for the ride' and she hung up on me.

I had great delight a couple of years later introducing the owner in question to Michelle at the races. I simply said to Michelle 'and by the way Michelle this is that owner, I thought you would like to meet him'.

Michelle is a credit to herself. She has had to come back from some terrible falls but she has terrific belief in her ability and I admire her. When she eventually retires she is a 'monty' to work in the media if she wants to. And now she's off to Ascot!!!

WE SHOULDN'T COMPLAIN WHEN IT RAINS BUT!!!

The heavy rain that has fallen in NSW over the past few days has set our summer team back a little with barrier trials being cancelled and a number of race meetings being washed out which is a bit frustrating.

In any case we are gearing up for a busy summer with Awasita, Bridies Brook, Great Southern, Husson Eagle, Lomazzo, Naranja, Savoureux, Raido, Stimuli and Strike For Victory set to barrier trial in the next 10 days and plenty of other gallopers not far off.

The weather will determine whether Go Arrivederci runs in Newcastle tomorrow.

FLEMINGTON

I have felt for a while that we are having a changing of the guard in the training ranks and the results at Flemington this week would suggest this is the case. We have seen the 28 races shared amongst 18 trainers with Darren Weir, Chris Waller and Mick Price leading the way with three wins each.

The carnival has been a great success and is just the tonic we needed after a few ordinary months where 'bad' news seemed to be the norm. The euphoria surrounding Prince Of Penzance's win in the big one was simply publicity the industry could not buy. It was priceless and watching Stevie Payne signing autographs at Kyneton on Wednesday was great stuff.

A few weeks ago I was at the jump outs at Burrumbeet near Ballarat and Stevie was on duty leading horses and running around getting Darren's staff cups of coffee. I have never met him but it is was

obvious watching him that he loves what he does and after speaking to Patrick about him on Wednesday morning I got to understand just how important a cog in this great family Stevie is.

Stevie is an integral part of the team at Darren Weir's. Darren has moulded a great team around him and I couldn't be happier with the way things have panned out. There are no airs and graces with Darren. He says it as he sees it not what he thinks the owners want to hear which is the way it should be.

I shouldn't finish my comments on Flemington without a special mention for Jim Cassidy who has ridden his final race. Jim was a great rider and certainly a character. He rode a number of winners for us, particularly after Bill Mitchell retired. Jim is pictured guiding home Dignity Dancer to a win at Caulfield as part of his Triple Crown win. Dignity Dancer was easily the best horse I have been associated with and Jim was an important part of his success.

I'm certain we haven't heard the last of 'the pumper' and I wish him and his family well in the future. He is one of our greatest ever riders and one of just three to ride more than 100 group 1 winners. I must say whenever I think of Jim Cassidy or hear his voice it puts a smile on my face, such was his character!!!

I'd love to have been a fly on the wall in the steward's room when Jim and Mr Murrphy had the odd discussion.



Ring a ding ding the pumper's the king!!!

THE AUSTRALIAN BRED HORSES CONTINUE TO FIGHT BACK

I thought it appropriate to carry on from last week and List the Group 1 winners and their origin for this season. With just the one day remaining in the Flemington Carnival it makes interesting reading with the locally bred horses having done really well.

The winners of the Group 1 races run this season are listed with 19 of the 25 having been won by horses sired by stallions that stood at a Hunter Valley Stud in NSW. There was one Victorian based sire represented and three from NZ. There were two European-bred winners. Draw your own conclusions.

NSW

Race Name – Horse – Sire – Where Stood At Stud

Golden Rose – Exposphere – Lonhro - **NSW**

George Main Stakes – Kermadec – Teofilo - **NSW**

Epsom Handicap – Winx – Street Cry - **NSW**

Flight Stakes – Speak Fondly – Northern Meteor - **NSW**

The Metropolitan – Magic Hurricane – Hurricane Run - **Europe**

Spring Champion Stakes – Vanbrugh – Encosta de Lago – **NSW**

Victoria

VRC Oaks – Jameka – Myboycharlie - **NSW**

Melbourne Cup - Prince Of Penzance – Pentire – **New Zealand**

Coolmore Stud Stakes – Japoisme – Choisir – **NSW**

Mackinnon Stakes – Gailo Chop – Deportivo – **Europe**

VRC Derby – Tarzino – Tavistock – **New Zealand**

Myer Classic – Politeness – Street Sense - **NSW**

Cox Plate – Winx – Street Cry – **NSW**

Manikato Stakes – Chautauqua – Encosta De Lago – **NSW**

Caulfield Cup – Mongolian Khan – Holy Roman Emperor – **NSW**

Caulfield Guineas – Press Statement – Hinchinbrook – **NSW**

1000 Guineas – Stay With Me – Street Cry – **NSW**

Toorak Handicap – Lucky Hussler – Husson – **NSW**

Caulfield Stakes – Criterion – Sebring – **NSW**

Turnbull Stakes – Preferment – Zabeel – **NZ**

Moir Stakes – Buffering – Mossman – **NSW**

Underwood Stakes – Mourinho – Oratorio - **NSW**

Sir Rupert Clarke Stakes – Stratum Star – Stratum - **NSW**

Makybe Diva Stakes – Fawkner – Reset - **Victoria**

Memsie Stakes – Boban – Bernardini – **NSW**

It will be interesting to see how the final standings look after Saturday.

WORDSMITH

I spend hours studying how the sires are performing, gaining intelligence from our trainers and feedback from stud masters on any news they may be getting. With eight of the best trainers in Australia looking after our horses I get plenty of good information.

Four years ago Charlie Goggin called me to say he had watched a couple of two year olds trial in Hobart by a new sire named Wordsmith. He said they were nice types out of average mares but could run. We kept monitoring them and they continued to impress us.

Wordsmith is owned by Paul and Elizabeth Geard from Tasmania and serviced their own broodmare band for the first three seasons. In fact in his first three seasons he had the grand total of 38 named foals with 36 of these racing for 22 individual winners with six individual stakes horses (27.2%) coming from these winners. These are phenomenal statistics and while all the horses by Wordsmith have only raced in Tasmania they have in the main dominated two and three year old racing in that state since we first saw them hit the track.

I recommended to a group of our owners that we send some of the mares I manage to Wordsmith and I am bullish about this decision. Wordsmith has continued to dominate the Tasmanian scene again this season with another treble on Wednesday night in Launceston. I expect he will continue to get plenty of winners even considering the small numbers of horses representing him. He has had 23 runners this season for 9 winners (39.1%). These winners have come from the past four Wednesday night meetings in Launceston with two trebles, a double and single winner. I expect they will continue to be a major force through the summer. Compare his strike rate with a horse like Lonhro with 194 runners for 46 winners (23%).

You would be foolish to underestimate the strength of the racing in Tasmania. The standard is very good with local horses of the calibre of The Cleaner, Banca Mo, Geegees Black Flash, Black'n'Tough, Valiant Warrior, Iggimacool and a host of other good gallopers running in the state in recent years and also many winning big races on the mainland.



I Am Invincible filly out of Belle Amici 2014

Darren Weir to train in Victoria

10 shares @ \$10,500

The filly pictured above is a terrific filly by the outstanding young sire I Am Invincible from the well related Catbird mare Belle Amici. I have inspected her four times at Yarraman Park since May and was keen to purchase her. She is a very good type of filly with a good hindquarter, great conformation and a attractive head.

She vetted out without any issues and was reared at Yarraman Park one of Australia's most well respected boutique nurseries.

The filly is an October foal and will be broken in in February/ March of 2016 with a view to giving her every chance to run as a two year old. **She comes from a very precocious family with Belle Amici's ½ brother Restless winning as a two year old and being stakes placed as well.** He was placed in six of his seven starts as a two year old and went on to win 10 races including four at Group or stakes level and \$578,305 in stakes money.

The first three dams have had 17 to race with 15 individual winners which is exceptional. To me this looks Belle Amici's best mating.

I Am Invincible

I Am Invincible was Australia's Leading First season Sire in 2013/14 Season by both stakes money and individual winners. In fact in his first season he gapped the opposition with as many winners as the next three sires on the list. In his second season he continued the good work finishing 2nd to Medaglia d'Oro for the stakes earnings. Medaglia d'Oro figures were somewhat distorted with him having the Golden Slipper winner which accounted for over half his stakes earnings. Once again I Am Invincible had the most individual winners in this year.

55.1% of I Am Invincible's runners won during the season with him being the only sire in the top 10 on the 2nd season list standing in Australia to break the half century. At the completion of the 2014/15 Season he was 3rd to Fastnet Rock and Street Cry on the National 3 Year Old List with both these sires having far stronger books of mares than I Am Invincible.

I Am Invincible's duel Group 1 winning son Brazen Beau has been purchased by Darley and is standing this season at a service fee of \$44,000. He was also placed 2nd in the Group 1 Diamond Jubilee Stakes at Royal Ascot.

I Am invincible had his service fee raised to \$55,000 this breeding season and was fully booked out in a matter of days and Yarraman Park are already taking bookings for next season.

Belle Amici

As I wrote earlier Belle Amici is well related and by the Golden Slipper winner Catbird. Catbird was a very well bred horse with a particularly strong female line. Catbird's stud career was cut short but he did a good job at stud and he is proving to be a very capable broodmare sire with the horses of the

Group and Stakes of the calibre of **Hawkspur, Catkins, Mystic Prince, Lady Royale, Atacama, Real Charm, Pinch River, Silversands and Entisaar** coming from his daughters.

Belle Amici is out of the outstanding race mare Let's Hurry the winner of 8 races including three at Group 2 level and one at Group 3 level. She was also placed twice at Group 1 level and was 4th in the VRC Oaks and SAJC Goodwood Handicap. All seven of her foals to race were winners.

One of the strong characteristics of I Am Invincible is that he crosses well with almost any sire line and he has in most cases upgraded the performance of the mares he has served. **In fact there is no particular sire line that stands out with his 15 stakes performers to date being represented by 14 different broodmare sires.**

It should be remembered he stood for only **\$11,000** in his first season and while he was a standout as a type didn't get the 'A' grade mares many of the other first season sires received. This has now changed and I am expecting his progeny which pass the vet to be out of our reach in next year's yearling sales.

I am thrilled to have this filly join our team and look forward to her wearing our colours.

BAY FILLY
Foaled 14th October, 2014

Sire: I AM INVINCIBLE 2004	Invincible Spirit	Green Desert	Danzig Foreign Courier Kris Eljazzi Blethingly Jesmond Lass Zoffany Sister Pedrille
		Rafha	Danzig Razyana Marscay Corn Vice Regal Vite Fillette Grey Ghost Lady Hurry (23-a)
	Cannarelle	Canny Lad	
		Countess Pedrille	
	Catbird	Danehill	
Dam: BELLE AMICI 2002	Fitting	Vite Cheval	
		Nigretta Miss	
	Let's Hurry		

By **I AM INVINCIBLE (AUS)** (B. 2004 - Stud 2010) Stakes-winner; won 5 races and \$270,050 inc. SAJC D.C. McKay S. [G3], MRC Sir John Monash S. [L]; sire of 9 SWs (1 G1) Brazen Beau, Look to the Stars, Massive Millennium, Super One, Fuld's Bet, Illustrious Lad, The Justice League, Leeds, Bassillique and SP Tetsuko, Silent Whisper, Mine Two, Convincible, Band on the Run, Miss Antaeus, Uratta Belle; also winners Hellbent, I Am the General, Most Important, Comprendre, Invincible Jules, Invincible Man, Abu Dhabi, Lexgetreddy, etc.

1st DAM

BELLE AMICI, by Catbird. 1 win at 1400 m. in Australia. Half-sister to **RESTLESS**. Dam of 5 living foals. Her fourth foal is a 2 YO, 2 raced, both winners-

ALIEN (2008 g by Elusive Quality (USA)). 5 wins at 1200, 1300 m. and \$112,296. in Malaysia.

CAMARADA (2010 g by Bernardini (USA)). 2 wins at 1200 m. in Australia.

2nd DAM

LET'S HURRY, by Vite Cheval (NZ). 8 wins at 1200, 1400 m. and \$485,710. Won AJC Expressway S. [G2], AJC Surround S. [G2], QTC Sir Byrne Hart S. [G2], VRC Great Western S. [G3]. 2nd VATC Vic-Health Cup [G1], STC

Winfield Classic [G1], QTC Sir Byrne Hart S. [G2], AJC T.L. Baillieu H. [L]. 3rd Tattersalls Club (nsw) Tramway H. [G3], VATC Tristarc S. [L]. 4th VRC VRC Oaks [G1], AJC Champagne S. [G1], SAJC Goodwood H. [G1], VRC Edward Manifold S. [G2], STC Tea Rose S. [G2]. Half-sister to **Girl's Best Friend**. Dam of 9 named foals, 7 raced, all winners inc.-.

RESTLESS (g by Thunder Gulch (USA)). **10 wins** 1200 to 2020 m. and \$578,305. Won BTC Carnival Cup [G3], AJC Japan Racing Association Plate [L], STC Sky High Quality S. [L], STC Parramatta Quality Cup [L]. 2nd AJC Craven Plate [G3], BTC Labour Day Cup [G3], AJC Australia Day Cup [L], AJC Carbine Club S. [L]. 3rd Gold Coast TC Prime Minister's Cup [G2], STC N.E. Manion Quality Cup [G3], AJC T.L. Baillieu H. [L], STC Frank Underwood Quality Cup [L]. 4th BTC Chairman's H. [G3].

WIZAWAY. **5 wins** 1300 to 2200 m. Won WATC racingjobs.com.au H., WATC Call Tab to Bet 132 369 H. 3rd WATC Racing Radio 1206Am Handicap.

SUPERIOR ECHO. **2 wins** at 1400, 1630 m. Won BTC Play Station Three-Years-Old Class 3 H.

3rd DAM

NIGRETTA MISS, by Grey Ghost (GB). **6 wins** at 1000, 1100 m. in Australia. Dam of 10 foals, 8 raced, 6 winners inc.-.

LET'S HURRY (f by Vite Cheval (NZ)). **8 wins**. See above.

Girl's Best Friend (c by Diamond Joe (GB)). **4 wins** 1200 to 2020 m. Won VATC H R Way Welter H., VRC Trivalve H., MVRC Happy Valley H. 3rd VATC Wallace S. [L], VATC Dandenong H.

EXPORETTA. **4 wins** 1200 to 1614 m. Won MVRC Coca Cola H., VRC Show Ego H. Producer.

ACADEMY LASS. **2 wins** at 1200, 1400 m. Won VATC The Park S., VATC Sturt H. 2nd VATC Sapphire H., VRC Rainbird H. 3rd VATC Grange H., VRC Pago Pago Plate. Dam of 6 winners inc.---

ANOTHER WOMBY. **3 wins** at 1118, 1200 m. and \$79,310. Won MVRC MVRC Plate. 2nd MRC Hickmans of Melbourne H. 3rd MRC Din San Nurseries H. Producer.

Helimar. Unraced. Dam of---

Trismar. Unraced. Dam of---

Blazing Arch (g by Archway (IRE)). **7 wins** 1600 to 2100 m. and \$108,195. Won STC Special Conditions H., STC Truscott's Toyota Superfecta, STC Special Conditions H. 3rd STC W.J. McKell Quality Cup [L], STC Class 6 Cup, STC On Course Tours Superfecta, STC Clipsal H.



Tony McEvoy had a great day on Tuesday with a double at Flemington