



# PRIME DISPATCH

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**Lord Elliott as a yearling!!!**

When I purchased Lord Elliot at the 2016 Magic Millions for \$510,000 I didn't realise I had so many trainers as friends, best friends at that. It was quite funny but the horse was always going to John Thompson. We purchased him in the hope he would be a classic three year old and train on for the big cups as he matured. He has been taken along quietly and done everything asked of him. He makes his debut at Warwick Farm on Wednesday over 1400m which is likely to be too short for him.

He will probably only have a couple of runs before being put away and prepared for the Sydney Autumn where the ATC Derby will be his main goal.

The eight runners in Lord Elliott's race that went through a sale collectively cost \$3,205,000. We are racing for \$40,000!!! There are some really high profile three year olds in the race including a \$1.3 million colt by Frankel. He strength of Sydney racing is quite extraordinary but a sign of the effort and profile thoroughbred racing now has in the state.

I was tearing what hair I have left out when Flying Jess was caught in heavy traffic all the way up the straight at Flemington on Saturday. It was no fault of Jordan Childs who put her in the right spot early but the tempo of the race was always going to be our biggest obstacle and this proved to be the case. We have a couple of options going forward but her track work and nominations will determine where she runs next. It may be at Moonee Valley on Moir Stakes night or at Flemington the week later.

I was thrilled with Lomazzo's return to the track. He was so unlucky not to get the photo. He has had a few minor niggling issues so far this preparation but seems on track now for a nice preparation.

### **BILL POLLARD RIP**



**Bill Pollard the way he should be remembered!!!**

On Thursday morning I got a text message from my brother Michael in Toowoomba to say Bill Pollard had passed away. Bill was a legend in Toowoomba Rugby League circles and I was lucky enough to play in a side he coached in 1976. He was as tough as teak but a really decent person who

went out of his way to make us all feel welcome in his side. Bill had a big influence on many young men he played with and coached and had a great way of getting his message across. As a club we certainly had a lot of fun together at Souths in the year I was there.

I first came across him when I was about 15 at school and we had to pick up some tents for the school fete. He was driving a truck for Henry Wagner and I was sent to help him. I couldn't get over how strong he was. He had a great career as a player, coach and administrator and I'm pretty sure he actually played with his son Steve, also a premierships coach who sadly passed away six years ago from pancreatic cancer.

I know a lot of our owners from around Toowoomba would remember him well. There were few better regarded men on the Darling Downs. He will be sadly missed. I called Tony Gollan who Bill coached to inform him of Bill's passing and he reminded me of one of his favourite sayings, 'depenca, depenca, depenca boys, please!!!'

While on Rugby League our congratulations go to Anthony Don being named Gold Coast Titan's Player of the Year. It isn't too often a winger wins such an award. Anthony has an interest in The Wasp.

Also Peter Smith deserves a special mention after being named the NRL Welfare Officer of the Year for his work with the Gold Coast Titans. Peter and I have been good friends for over 30 years and he has raced some very good horses with us including Husson Eagle and Shine On Anna.

### **VISIT TO DARREN WEIR AND PATRICK PAYNE'S STABLE**

We had a great visit to Darren and Patrick's stables on Sunday and we have plenty of nice horses coming through the system with both these fine trainers. Darren has done a lot of work at his Ballarat Stable and it really is a showcase with Ballarat Racecourse being easily the best provincial training facility in Victoria. Darren trained his 50<sup>th</sup> winner for the season on Saturday which is a remarkable effort only 6 weeks into the season.

### **IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE RICKY STUART FOUNDATION** **FLEMINGTON COMMITTEE ROOM LUNCH** **20 JANUARY 2018**

I am pleased to announce that our lunch in the Committee Room at Flemington on 20 January 2018 will be conducted in partnership with the Ricky Stuart Foundation in support of autism.

Ricky is an owner with Prime Thoroughbreds and is very well known in Rugby League and Rugby Union circles. He had distinguished careers firstly in Rugby Union where he toured Argentina with the Wallabies but as a Rugby League player and coach he has few peers. He is the current coach of the Canberra Raiders a club he won three premierships with as a player.

Ricky represented and coached the NSW State Of Origin Side, went on two tours of Great Britain and France with the Australian Rugby League Kangaroos and has won an NRL Premiership as a coach

with Eastern Suburbs in his first year as an NRL coach. In 1993 he was awarded the Rothman's Medal being recognised as the finest player in the competition.

It is our aim to firstly have a great day while doing so raising some money for this very worthwhile cause. We will deliver further information as we get closer but I can assure you it will be a memorable day for those lucky enough to attend. The cost for the day in the Committee Room is \$225 per head. The VRC Committee Room over looks saddling enclosure and is the prime position at the great course.

I'm expecting the function to be very popular given the number of replies I have already had for the day. This is a superb venue and Shawn Cosgrove will be our host for the day.

- racecourse admission
- dining package – sit down four course lunch
- beverage package
- car parking
- race books
- exclusive tote facilities

*To book this function email: [primefunctions@outlook.com](mailto:primefunctions@outlook.com)*

On Sunday 21 January we will be visiting Fulmen Park on the Mornington Peninsular for a bbq lunch. This will also give you the opportunity to inspect the facilities available at the property where we spell many of our horses.

### **AT THE TRACK**

I wrote a few weeks ago that we would be quiet during September and into October with things picking up in November. This is the case with or only runners this week likely to be Lord Elliot at Warwick Farm, Great Southern at Morphettville and Husson's Kiss in Hobart.

### **THE EVEREST**

The Everest is only four weeks off and the race has created plenty of interest. There is plenty of negotiating going on behind the scenes to get horses allocated to the slots with the owners of the slots paying \$600,000 for each one.

The horses with slots at present are Chautauqua, Brave Smash, She Will Reign, Houtzen, Fell Swoop, Redzel and English. If Menari wins the Golden Rose you would expect him to get a spot. Both

Redkirk Warrior and Vega Magic are in the mix to get a start with one of these two certainly getting a run. I'd be surprised if Russian Revolution didn't get a run and Deploy deserves to be there having broken the 1200m and 1300m course records at Randwick and Rosehill at his past two starts. Australia's leading jockey Hugh Bowman is booked to ride Clearly Innocent in the Premiere Stakes on 30 September and a win in this race would see him getting a run.

My mail is that Houtzen is avoiding the Moir Stakes which is understandable. I thought her run at Moonee Valley wasn't good enough for her to be a genuine contender. The Moir will be an important race with Russian Revolution, and She Will Reign set to clash in what will be a very high pressure race.

I wasn't that taken with She Will Reign's barrier trial at Rosehill this morning. H wasn't quickly into stride and was ridden out to win the trial. She won't want to miss the kick at Moonee Valley particularly if she draws an inside gate.

I'm still a big fan of Clearly Innocent particularly if we get a wet track and he loves Randwick but Chautauqua's run on Saturday was as good a lead in for 'The Everest' as you would be likely to see. His final 800m was exceptional with some good judges saying it may have been one of the best final 800m ever run at the famous track.

### **NEWS ON TRACKS**

It is great to hear work is about to start to fix the much maligned Eagle Farm track. Let's hope they get it right. This whole affair has been a disaster for Queensland racing and I believe all participants are entitled an explanation as to why the rebuild went so wrong.

I also believe the tenders are about to be requested for the rebuild of the Hobart track. I think work is set to start after the Hobart Cup meeting with the course to be closed for 12 months. We can only hope it doesn't rain in the lead up to the Hobart Cup Carnival because the track would be unlikely to cope with even 20ml of rain.

### **SHARES AVAILABLE**

We have no shares remaining in any of our current promotions. I am on the lookout for a nice yearling and I will advertise it through the newsletter should I find the right horse.