



PRIME DISPATCH

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Casa De Lago coming back after her strong win at Moonee Valley!!!

I was thrilled to see Casa De Lago's strong win at Moonee Valley. She is a very promising, lightly raced mare. One again Patrick Payne did a great job preparing her for this first up assignment. I'm certain the best is ahead of her. This was Lucina Doodt's first Moonee Valley winner. She rode the mare beautifully.

Over the past few years we have been involved in a number of apprentice jockey's milestone wins. From memory Jordan Childs, Talia Hope and Nathan Punch scored their first metropolitan wins on Prime horses.

I must say I was a bit disappointed when our good sprinters Husson Eagle and Invincible AI ran 2nd and 3rd at Flemington in the open sprint handicap. Both ran very well with a very good mare trained by Darren Weir edging us out. Both these horses are in great shape with Husson Eagle heading to the Magic Millions Cup on 12 January 2019. He will be joined by Zizzis, Addocarr and Not Surprising at the meeting. Invincible AI is likely to run the same day at Flemington.

Magic Millions day isn't far off with Husson Eagle and Zizzis having their final runs before the big day at Randwick on 29 December. Not Surprising will run at the Gold Coast the same day with Addocarr

going straight into the Magic Millions Maiden without another run. A 5th filly named Dunbrody Power which I purchased for Walter Power may also run in the maiden.

South Australia

Recently I wrote about how important it is that the smaller states remain relevant in view of the big stakes increases in NSW and Victoria. Well the news out of South Australia this week with cuts to stakes money and infrastructure spending is a major body blow to the industry in that state.

SA has struggled in recent years but this decision by the State Government may see many participants in the industry moving elsewhere. This is a sad state of affairs which hopefully isn't repeated in other jurisdictions. In real terms financially, we are better off running 10th on a Saturday in Melbourne than 3rd in Adelaide with our Victorian trained horses.

The State Government in South Australia has been a disaster for the industry in the state with bad decisions made having a negative impact across the state. The 15% Point of Consumption tax on bookmakers was a greedy money grab with the State Government reaping \$16 million a year from it but giving nothing back.

Merry Christmas

Our family wish you and your loved ones all the very best for the festive season and 2019. 2018 has been a good year for the O'Neill clan and hopefully we can enjoy a successful 2019.

I will be back in the office on 2 January 2019 and head to the Magic Millions on 5 January to finalise our lists before the sale commences on 9 January 2019.



Patrick Payne with Husson Eagle – my favourite photo from 2018!!!