



PRIME DISPATCH

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Husson Eagle wins Mildura Cup!!!

I couldn't imagine a better choice than Husson Eagle to win our last race of the 2017/18 Season. On 1 August this gallant sprinter turned seven and he has given his owners a great ride as he heads into his sixth racing season. He has won \$1,053,768 million and is maintaining his zest for racing and he is as sound as a bell.

He is likely to be set for the \$1million Magic Millions Cup to be run at the Gold Coast in January. This is a carnival we have had great success at. Husson Eagle is trained by Patrick Payne who is pictured above with him at Flemington. There are not many trainers in Australia that have as good a handle on where their horses are at as does Patrick.

Husson Eagle is joined by Raido, Makeadane and Annaman as the senior members of our racing team. It is nice to have four, 7yos coming through from the team of 13 I purchased in 2013. It is a credit to our trainers and staff that these horses have had such lengthy and worthwhile careers. These were not expensive horses with the four costing just \$180,000. Combined their earnings are in excess of \$1,750,000 with hopefully more to come.

I would be hard to please if I wasn't happy with the results we achieved in the 2017/18 Season. Our team achieved Stakes or Metropolitan wins in Victoria, NSW, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania. We had our first runner in West Australia.

I couldn't be happier with the job our trainers are doing for us. Along with their dedicated staffs they give us 110% all the time and our results reflect those of a much bigger team of horses.

We retired some very good mares during the season with great results being achieved by Flying Jess and Savoureux which sold for \$540,000 and \$200,000 respectively.

I thank each of our owners for their support and for us to have fully syndicated all our yearlings is a great effort in the competitive market we are currently operating in. I expect market forces to thin out the syndication ranks over the next 12 to 18 months.

Sires Lists

The sire lists make interesting reading and I am constantly referring to them trying to identify any trends that may be occurring. The top 50 on the Australian General Sire's List for the 2017/18 Season paint an interesting picture.

Only one of the 11 shuttle sires on this list is returning to Australia for the coming season. There are a variety of reasons for this and no real conclusions can be drawn from it. Champion sire More Than Ready is the only one returning to Vinery Stud in the Hunter Valley.

The days when NZ based sires were prominent on this list seem to be behind us with just Savabeel coming in at 27th. This may surprise some of you, but we have seen a general decline in the impact the NZ bred's have been having on our Sires Lists for a few years now. Ironically, Savabeel was reared at Gerry Harvey's Baramul Stud in the Widdien Valley. There is some good news on the horizon with Ocean Park is doing a good job. He came in at 4th on the Second Season Sire's List.

The List is dominated by sires based in NSW with Victoria having two sires in the top 20. These are Written Tycoon and Magnus.

The powerful Hunter Valley studs should continue to dominate our breeding scene for the foreseeable future although we are seeing some promising results coming through from horses such as Spirit Of Boom in Queensland, Fighting Sun in Victoria, Needs Further in Tasmania and Akheed Mofeed in South Australia. Playing God is an interesting horse over in the West and we have some relatively high-profile freshman sires standing in the smaller states for the coming breeding season. It is important some of these sires fire.

While you read of perceived issues facing racing I see our biggest challenge is to encourage new breeders into the industry. Stakes money in this country is linked to betting turn over and to have healthy wagering you need competitive fields across the full spectrum of racing.

It is no secret we have seen a decline in the number of mares being bred in WA and Tasmania in recent years with the numbers dropping by as much as 50%. These drops are in the main seeing small fields of 2yo being served up in these states which logically this trend will flow through in the years to come. The less attractive the fields the less likely punters are to bet on these races.

I'm not sure what the figures are in the other states but I would guess we have a similar problem starting to surface in South Australia and Queensland. The cost of breeding horses has risen in recent years which is a contributing factor to the decline in numbers. Once a breeder decides not to send his

mare to stud the chances are he/she are on their way out. It will be interesting to monitor developments in this area over the next couple of seasons.

A lot of work is being done at Racing Victoria in conjunction with Thoroughbred Breeders Victoria to try and identify the issues which have seen the breeding industry in Victoria fall so far behind NSW. It will be interesting to see what solutions they come up with but the breeding industry is like a battleship and it takes a long time for it to change direction.

Looking at the overall picture I am very excited by the results produced by the First Season Sires during the last season. We could have as many as eight commercial sires emerge from this group with Zoustar, Spirit Of Boom, Sizzling, Epaulette and Fighting Sun doing a great job. It is fair to say in any year only about five sires go on to be commercial horses out of the 40 to 50 new horses that stand.

Since 1 August we have seen good results for Zoustar, Epaulette and Sizzling which is very encouraging.

This year at the Yearling Sales I purchased yearlings by the first season sires Deep Field, Dissident, Rubick, Shooting To Win and Wandjina. The early reports on each of these yearlings are good. We will know soon enough if I made the right decision in supporting these young horses. Each of these is a colonially bred horse which is a great start.

It will be interesting to see how I review the year in 12 months!!!

On The Track

We have had a good start to the new season with Everard and Not Surprising winning and we have plenty of runners coming up.

Casa De Lago runs at Warrnambool this afternoon. Husson Eagle and Invincible Al ae down to race at Flemington on Saturday, Almerheri is in at Newcastle and Zelsignoret has drawn a nice marble at Wodonga.

Good luck to each of these runners.

Tasmania

Good news in Tasmania where Tasracing has confirmed the Hobart track will be rebuilt after the 2019 Hobart Cup meeting. This has been a long time coming with the track well past its use by date.

The industry received a boost with over \$13 million being returned in product fees which helps a lot.

Tasracing has a new CEO with Dr. Alicia Fuller taking on the challenging role. I met with her last Friday and left feeling confident the industry in the Apple Isle was in good hands. I may be wrong, but I believe Dr. Fuller is the first woman to head up a Racing Jurisdiction in Australia.

I wish her well with the industry being a big employer in the state. It surprises me how often the politicians give lip service to the racing industry until they need support from it or there is an issue.

We will be targeting the Tasmanian Summer Carnival with a few of our horses. The better races are now worth plenty of money which should see a strong representation from interstate stables.

Weanlings

The reaction to our three weanling purchases has been terrific and they are an important addition to our racing team. Over the years we have had tremendous success syndicating horses before Christmas. Most of these have been purchased as weanlings. Invincible AI was such a promotion. In my opinion these horses are offered at about \$30,000 below what they would have been had they been offered as yearlings next year. This has allowed our clients to become involved at a reasonable introductory rate.

Once again, I'm confident our selection processes give our owners the chance of having good success on the track. Some of the horses offered in this manner have included Believe 'n Achieve, Pitt Street, Holding, Invincible AI, Too Many Reds and Eramor. We normally only offer two or three horses at this time of the year. Last year I offered just the one filly which was the Star Witness filly out of Involve named Nussink. These three weanlings will head to Patrick Payne and Darren Weir. I hope you find them of interest.



Sizzling filly out of Distant Symphony 201
Patrick Payne To Train 10% shares \$8,500 (5% \$4,250)

If there is a young sire in Australia that has grabbed my attention it is Sizzling. I was very active at last year's sales series and purchased two yearlings and was the under bidder on a third. These horses have displayed great potential already with Zizzis winning twice from three starts including a big win in the 2018 Adelaide Magic Millions 2YO Classic where she trounced a very good field.

The other yearling that I purchased was Addocarr who has been placed at one of his two starts. Unfortunately, he pulled up with mucus in his throat when scoped after a below expectation run at his second start. Interestingly another colt by Sizzling named The Fire Trap won the Bruce McLachlan Classic at the Sunshine Coast recently won his maiden the day Addocarr had his first start. The Fire Trap's winning time that day was slower than Addocarr's heat. Addocarr has been gelded and has displayed great promise. The Fire Trap has since won in Sydney.

I was the under bidder on a 3rd yearling which races under the name Sizzling Belle. She is a beautiful filly, is a city winner and was placed in the Listed Black Opal Stakes. The one that got away.

Sizzling

I really liked what I saw in many of the progeny of Sizzling at last year's sales. To me it is a no brainer that he will be a success at stud. He was a terrific racehorse and precocious two years old from the most dominant sire line in Australia for the past 20 years out of a 'black type' mare by one of the greatest sprinters of the modern generation in General Nediym.

Sizzling's pedigree page is very strong with a host of very good horses down the page. In fact, it couldn't be any stronger with both the 2nd and 3rd dams being superior producers. I love General Nediym (1st dam), Alzao stakes winner (2nd Dam) and Without Fear stakes producer (3rd dam) down the page.

Estate Label, the 3rd dam was a very high-class producer also throwing the outstanding two years old filly Loving Cup. I must say I had a bit to do with both sides of this pedigree with Sizzling's sire Snitzel being out of Snippet's Lass. Both General Nediym and Snippet's Lass were trained by Bill Mitchell when I was his Racing Manager.

They were both high class racehorses with Snippet's Lass being one of the toughest mares I have had anything to do with. Sizzling has started out his stud career in great fashion and is currently 3rd on the Australian First Season List.

Distant Symphony

Distant Symphony has done a good job with four winners to her credit including the stakes winner Mystic Master. Her results are better than they look because she really hasn't been too a top sire with this mating being the best she has had in my opinion.

Distant Symphony has a nice record being a ½ sister to the Group 1 winner **Rostova**. She is by Distant Music who has done a remarkable job at stud with seven stakes winners from limited chances. His best is **Bella Martini** by Stratum with two stakes wins to her credit. This reads very well to me. Other well-known horses out of Distant Music mares to race here include **Miss Promiscuity**, Upbeat, Meteoroid and Volcanic General.

All in all, this filly represents great value and heads to an outstanding trainer who has done a remarkable job for us.

Correct as at 23 July 2018

More Winners – More Often – More Fun



Super One filly out of Manhattan Angel – 2017
Darren Weir – Ballarat 10% shares \$ %7,500 (5% shares \$3,750)

I doubt if we have a more exciting sire hit our breeding scene in recent years than I Am Invincible. He has done a remarkable job at stud and while his oldest progeny is only six, he already has three sons at stud in Brazen Beau, Hellbent and Super One. This is a big achievement with these young sires standing at Darley, Yarraman Park and Newgate Farm, three of our highest profile studs.

I went to Cranbourne to inspect Super One when he had his first start in Australia and was very impressed with him. He was a strong athletic horse. I have been very impressed by his progeny and

was thrilled when I found this filly at the Magic Millions National Sale. It has been interesting just how many people commented to me after I purchased her on what a good type she was.

Super One

Super One was a very good looking yearling and precocious two years old being unbeaten in four starts in Singapore. One of the greatest assets a sire can have is speed and Super One possessed that in abundance.

He is by the hottest sire in Australia at present in I Am Invincible who is currently ranked second on the Australian Sire's List and the Leading Sire of 2yo winners in Australia.

Super One has a good pedigree on his dam's side and is out of a Tale Of The Cat mare. Tale Of The Cat has been a wonderful broodmare sire with 158 stakes horses coming from his daughters. While most of those are overseas his best-known performers here are Snitty Kitty, Felines, Stampede, Adrift, Atomic and of course Super One.

Super One came back to Australia and won the Group DC McKay Stakes before going to stud. He wasn't over raced which I prefer and is a strong, attractive horse. It is important to note some of our very best studs took up shares in the horse when he was syndicated for stud.

Super One has 108 foals on the ground in his first crop and was again busy in his second season where he served a good book of mares. This is a very good sign.

Manhattan Angel

This is only Manhattan Angel's fourth foal. She has had two to race with both being winners and importantly both were metropolitan placed as 2yo. The 3rd foal was a cracking colt by The Factor which had to be put down after an accident.

Manhattan Angel comes from a good family that includes Pleasuring which won the SAJC Group 3 SA Fillies Classic and the Listed double of the TRC Strutt Stakes and TTC Tasmanian Oaks during her last preparation. She was also a closing 4th in the Group 1 SAJC Australasian Oaks.

I love buying out of winning families and this one has seen the first four dams have 32 to race for 26 individual winners including the Group or Listed performers Northern Drake, Seattle Ice, Profit Report and Triumphant Feeling.

Northern Drake was an outstanding galloper winning the VATC Group 1 Yalumba Stakes and was placed 2nd in the MVRC WS Cox Plate and Group 1 Mackinnon Stakes.

All in all, this filly represents great value and heads to an outstanding trainer. I'll be very surprised if she doesn't run at two and expect Super One to make it as a sire given the high-quality foals I have inspected.

Correct as at 23 July 2018

More Winners – More Often – More Fun



Epaulette colt out of Miss Piggy Ban
Patrick Payne - Victoria 10% Shares \$7,000 (5% \$3,500)

When I found out this colt was going to be offered in the Cornerstone Stud draft at the Magic Millions Weanling Sale I flew to Adelaide and inspected most of their weanlings with this colt being the only one I was interested in. At the sale I had one of my colleagues inspect the colt and I had him vetted and had a quick look at him prior to going into the ring. He is a lovely horse. He is very athletic and gets around well.

Dr Greg Nash who did my wet inspections at the sale was also very taken with him and as surprised as I was when I secured her for such a reasonable price. Sam Hayes from Cornerstone Stud was equally as surprised. It pays to keep your cards close to your chest at the sales.

Epaulette

I was really taken with the Epaulette's progeny at last year's sales and I have kept a close eye on his progress. He is currently 4th on the Australian First Season Sire's List behind three very good horses. It doesn't matter which way you look at Epaulette he is a high class horse. He was an excellent racehorse winning twice at two, he then raced at the highest level at three and again at four.

His two Group 1 wins came in the ATC Golden Rose and BRC Doomben 10,000 which are backed up with a Group 3 win as a juvenile in the Canberra RC Black Opal Stakes, 2nds in the Group 1 ATC TJ Smith Stakes, Group 2 ATC Todman Stakes and 3rd in the Group 1 MRC Caulfield Guineas. These results were achieved in some of our very best races.

He couldn't have done much more on the track. He also has a superb pedigree on his dam's side with his dam having four to race with all four Group 1 performers. Added to this he is by Commands who is a great levelling influence in a pedigree. In the main the foals by Commands have great attitudes with Under Command as good a natured horse as I have ever purchased.

Epaulette's performance to hold down 4th spot is further highlighted with him having two stakes winners already in good races.

This is what I wrote after I inspected Epaulette's first crop of yearlings. *'This is Epaulette's first crop of Australian yearlings. I'll be shocked if he doesn't make the grade.'*

Miss Piggy Bank

This is Miss Piggy Bank's fifth foal. She has had three to race with all three winning. I purchased the 3rd foal out of the mare named Our Netbank who has been very consistent. The previous foal has had three wins from just eight starts. He is named Pluckit. The first foal won 11 races. She was named Cash Register.

Miss Piggy Bank is well related winning twice and being stakes placed in the SAJC Hill Smith Stakes. She is by Secret Savings who did a great job here with his daughters throwing the Group 1 performers Samaready, Secret Admirer, Friends Of Ka Ying as well as Night War, Hellova Street, Santos and Secret Trail.

Added to this Miss Piggy Bank's second dam is by Royal Academy which puts a lot of polish into any pedigree.

Correct as at 23 July 2018