



# PRIME DISPATCH

EDITION 285 – 31/10/2020

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**Good luck to Fituese running in the Group 3 Furphy Sprint at Flemington tomorrow!!!**

What a year it has been. I usually love September through to Christmas. There is a lot going on from the football finals through to the festive season celebrations. This year is certainly different. Thank you to the AFL and NRL for putting on a great show this year. Without the football to watch I am certain for many of us the past few months would have been far less bearable. Both codes are to be congratulated on providing an outlet for the millions of Australians locked up in their homes, particularly in Victoria. It was a big weekend for Victoria with the AFL and NRL Grand Finals being won by Victorian based teams. This follows the Melbourne Vixens win in the Netball a week earlier.

I'm really looking forward to the big week of racing at Flemington. These are four great days of racing, one of the world's great carnivals. The weather looks to be ok as we head towards Derby Day today which should ensure a near perfect surface to race on. Since I started writing Prime Dispatch which followed on from Prime Time I have been advocating for the Victorian Derby and Oaks to be

brought back to 2000m. The forward results of runners coming out of these two classics have been very disappointing over many years. Most of the runners are simply not ready to run 2500m with a few not even 3yo's when they compete.

If the Derby and Oaks were dropped back to 2000m the lead up program for both races could be fantastic with runners in races like the Caulfield Guineas, 1000 Guineas, Flight Stakes and Spring Champion Stakes being ideal. Hopefully commonsense will one day prevail.

Today we have nine great races at Flemington. These are all Group races with four Group 1's to be decided. We should see some great contests with the Coolmore Stud Stakes a sire making race for the right horse. I also love the Empire Rose Stakes. It is along with the Coolmore Classic at Rosehill equally the best mare's race in Australia. The Carbine Club Stakes will generally throw up a good horse. I wish Patrick Payne and Bill Egan all the best with Cherry Tortononi in the Derby. These two fine horsemen are an important part of the Prime Thoroughbreds story.

I think it is unfortunate Racing NSW has decided to put on a big meeting in competition with the Flemington one. The Golden Eagle is a \$7,500,000 for 4yo's. Unfortunately, it is likely to be run on a bog track. It is a good race. I think the racing public are entitled to see the best jockeys and horses compete for the time honoured races whether they be in Melbourne or Sydney. It should be noted Sydney's best riders Bowman, McEvoy and McDonald are at Flemington.

Every now and then a horse captures my attention for one reason or another. I haven't seen many horses with a better action than Anthony Van Dyke. His final sectionals in the Caulfield Cup were exceptional. I'm looking forward to him running on Tuesday. It will be interesting to see the final make up of the Melbourne Cup.

## **AUSTRALIAN AND NZ BREDS DOMINATE OCTOBER**

I have been highlighting the remarkable results the Australian and NZ bred horses have achieved at Saturday meetings in Melbourne and Sydney since the start of October. The table now sees 72 of the 76 races run won by the ANZACS. The internationals have won four with three of these by sires who stood in Australia!!! Australian bred won 62 and NZ 10. It pays to buy the local product.

## **FIRST SEASON SIRES**

The first season sires have come out of the blocks firing with Capitalist, Extreme Choice, Flying Artie, Frosted, Mikki Isle, Odyssey Moon and Shaala getting winners. Winning Rupert also had two impressive barrier trial winners this week at Ballarat. This is an impressive list. We have 2yo's by Extreme Choice, Winning Rupert and Flying Artie. I love supporting the first season sires with Fituese, Miss Divine Em and Rubisaki being from the first crop of Deep Field, Super One and Rubick.

It is amazing how a close relative can quickly increase the value of a yearling. Xtremetime's ½ brother was Group 1 placed in USA after we purchased her at this year's Gold Coast Magic Millions Sale. She is in work with John Thompson at Randwick.



**Xtremetime by Extreme Choice out of Peace Time (USA)**

### **TURNOVER ON VICTORIAN RACING THROUGH THE ROOF!!!**

The records keep falling in Victoria with the turnover for the Moonee Valley Cox Plate Carnival up by 15.8% to \$167 million. This follows on from the record breaking week at Caulfield. This augers well for the four days at Flemington. It appears that racing in Victoria has benefitted from the lock downs due to the Covid 19 crisis. RVL also reported a very strong 2019/20 financial year. Well done to all concerned.

I don't know why Racing NSW don't release their turnover figures for the big meetings. I notice the 2019/20 financials were released yesterday. I haven't had a chance to read it but it is available on the Racing NSW website.

**HELLBENT / ISLAND PAGO FILLY 2019**



**Hellbent / Island Pago filly 2019**  
**John Thompson to train - \$4,950 for 5%**

This is a really nice type of a filly by the exciting first season sire Hellbent out of the well related mare Island Pago.

She is a ½ sister to our 2yo filly by Astern out of Island Pago which is trained by Patrick Payne. Patrick has a very good opinion of the filly. This is good information and the reason I was so keen to get my hands on her. She ticks a lot of boxes.

I love purchasing weanlings and yearlings by the *first season sires*. About 30% of our best mares go to these sires. Our current outstanding fillies Rubisaki, Fituese and Miss Divine Em were out of the first crops of their respective sires.

Other good horses I have been associated with by young sires include Under Command, Unchain My Heart, Horrocks, Bedi, Huiskes and Rose Of Scotland. These were outstanding

horses. In any year I will normally purchase three or four yearlings by the new sires. While I don't always get it right, I have had a lot of success with this strategy.

On my way back to Melbourne from the Magic Millions National Sale I stayed at Yarraman Park and inspected this filly by exciting young sire Hellbent out of the Choisir mare Island Pago. She has a nice hindquarter and is strong through the hocks. I expected this to be the case given how good a sort her sister is. I've seen quite a few foals by Hellbent and like what I see.

The filly is a beautiful mover. She has a great swagger and gets along nicely. This is important. We are looking at buying athletes, not cart horses. She is a nice filly with good length of reign and deep girth. This is where the engine is located. She has plenty of scope to further develop through her girth and through her chest. She is strong behind and through the hocks.

A strong pointer to this filly's prospects is the record his sire I Am Invincible has achieved when mated to Choisir mares. Nine have raced with all nine winning including the Group winner Eckstein and Stakes winner I Am Eloquent.

The filly was reared at Yarraman Park in the Hunter Valley, one of our elite nurseries. I have had great success purchasing horses from Yarraman Park. Some of the horses I purchased include Desk Top Lover, Invincible Al, Believe 'n Achieve and Too Many Reds.

### **Hellbent**

The filly is by the Group 1 winning sprinter Hellbent, a son of Champion Sire and sire of sires I Am Invincible. I Am Invincible is one of the most exciting sires in Australia with his sons Brazen Beau and Super One doing a good job.

I remember the first time I inspected In Am Invincible at Yarraman Park. He is an impressive animal, strong and imposing. He has gone on to be one of the best sires of the modern era in Australia and currently leads the Australian Sires List. He is a super star and should establish a dynasty through his deeds and those of his sons and daughters.

I know the Mitchell family from Yarraman Park had been looking for a sire to come in behind I Am Invincible and Hellbent ticked all the boxes.

I was at Moonee Valley the night Hellbent won the Group 1 William Reid Stakes. His turn of foot and acceleration was spectacular. Australian racing is all about speed and he certainly had that to burn.

He is out of a Volksraad mare who also threw the talented sprinter Hulk. Hellbent's female line is quite good with the smart sprinters Second Effort and Diamond Effort featuring.

Volksraad is the broodmare sire of successful sire Shamexpress as well as the very good mare Lights Of Heaven and Champion Hong Kong galloper Able Friend.

## **Island Pago**

Island Pago is a very well related mare by the emerging broodmare sire Choisir. He is already represented by 36 stakes horses out of his daughters including four Group 1 winners. It shouldn't be surprising as he was a very fast horse and highly successful sire and served good books of mares.

Island Pago won at 1200m and is the  $\frac{3}{4}$  sister to the Stakes winners **Pago Rock** and **Rock My Pago**. This family also gave us the multiple Group winner Special Reward and WA Sires Produce winner Showy Chloe.

This is Island Pago's 4<sup>th</sup> live foal. Her second foal is a filly by I Am Invincible named In de Sun Iwilcome which showed good ability but hurt herself and is now back in work.

I spoke to Keith Dryden who trains her and he said a horse got away and she was spooked when it ran towards them and flipped over on the concrete damaging her wither. He has a good opinion of her.

I purchased the 3<sup>rd</sup> foal by Astern. Patrick Payne trains her. From day one her breaker Shane Stockdale talked her up with Lee Powell from Fulmen Park calling me after she arrived from the yearling sale to say she was the nicest filly on his property which is quite a statement.

I have had great success buying yearlings out of WA mares. Some of my best horses were out of mares from the west including Zero Drama, Unabated and Raido. The best horse I have been associated with was Dignity Dancer who was also out of a WA mare.

In conclusion, where is the downside for this filly? As I see it, we have ticks across the board from her sire, her dam and the farm she was reared. She is also a great type. I could not recommend a better filly to you. Good luck with her.