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STABLE NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2009

RESULTS:

Frankly a dreadful start to the year, with our few runners, who were in the main limbering up for jumps campaigns, making little impression. The year can and will only get better!

HORSES IN TRAINING:

GREAT MASTER 6yo Anabaa (USA) – Albanella (GER): Cut no ice on the flat so far but has also raced very much without luck. There is a real quality about this son of Anabaa, and the stable remains quietly confident we will tap into this over hurdles. It has taken some real work to skim the lad down to fitness too – what can you expect from a horse who can race over 2000m on a 35 degree day and actually PUT ON a kilo for his exertions!



Great Master at Stawell this month (Westvic)

THE TAUREAN 7yog Scenic (IRE) – Georgia: Remaining in fine fettle, and likely to resume racing in March, although will be seen to best effect on wet tracks and over jumps a bit later on.

PRIDE OF PINS 7yog Pins – Cipriani (NZ): Shame, Pride of Pins, shame. Disgraced himself on the flat recently, basically refusing to take any real part – in fact, not since Robert Nason was appointed CEO of Racing Victoria has someone with so little interest in racing been seen on our courses. Pride of Pins has hurdle-schooled like a demon though, so we expect to see a different animal over the jumps in March.

ONAJET 6yog Super Jet (USA) - Our Ampulla: Running laps of the paddock in his eagerness to get back to the track, but will have to cool his heels until there is a bit more give in the ground.

CLOUD BASE 6yog Scenic (IRE) – War Cloud: Has done well since his summer break (his first proper holiday since his 3yo days!) Due to return for the stable early in February, when we hope he can recapture his best form of last year.

GORGE 6yog Thunder Gulch (USA) – Heed Zamelina: Glowing with health as he approaches race fitness and also schooling over hurdles extremely well, picking up his feet like a show-jumper. Should strike the track for us late February, but with luck there will be a long and fruitful campaign ahead for the ultra-tough gelding.

RULING DUBAI 3yof Dubai Destination (USA) – Bylaw (USA): Looking a picture since her return from an injury she incurred in a freak stalls accident. Hopes for her have increased of late with her ³/₄ brother Happy Victory (King's Best – Bylaw) now a Group 1 winner! Which makes Anthony's and Belhus Racing's effort in selecting and securing her cheaply at the 2007 Premier Sale extremely good work!

SNAKE ON ME 3yog Golden Snake (USA) – Hit the Point: Has thrived since returning to us and launching into full work, putting on a lazy 35kgs (!) of muscle. Definitely back on the right track now and tipped to fulfil his significant promise this year.

MIZEN HEAD 2yof Secret Savings (USA) – Hultarani (USA): Working precociously well and will hopefully make it to the races this campaign. Not over tall, but possesses an impressive rear-end (which some say makes up for a lot in a lady....)

SIRE LINES:

One of the greatest rivalries in world racing is the battle of the Northern hemisphere's two great sire lines: the Mr Prospector and Northern Dancer lines. In the last decade or so, with the shuttle-sire phenomenon, the battle has moved Down Under as well. Northern Dancer clearly holds sway here via the dynastic deeds of his grandson Danehill (by Danzig): in fact currently in Australia there are 114 Danehill sons & 56 Danehill grandsons at stud! Northern Dancer is also well represented by a number of other sires tracing through his sons Danzig and legendary Irish sire Sadlers Wells. However, in the last year Mr Prospector has landed some major blows of his own in this country, most notably via the deeds of his son Hussonet and grandson Street Cry (who begot Whobegotyou).



Northern Dancer wins the 1964 Kentucky Derby in a record 2.00 minutes flat. Forty five years on, nearly half the sires standing in Australia are descended from this stocky colt.....who was rejected by all and sundry at the 1962 yearling sales!

Despite the fact that the first six figure (or indeed half that value) yearling has not yet entered our gates, the two sire lines still flex some muscle in our stable's current team. Northern Dancer is represented by The Taurean and Cloud Base (both grandsons of Sadlers Wells), Snake On Me and Great Master (grandsons of Danzig) and Onajet (great grandson of Danzig). Not to be completely outdone, Mr Prospector is represented by Mizen Head (granddaughter of his son Seeking the Gold), Ruling Dubai (granddaughter of his son Kingmambo) and of course Gorge (grandson of his son Gulch).

So the battle between the world's great sire lines rages on even within our fields. Mr Prospector is a little under-represented at present, so maybe we should try to borrow Weekend Hussler for a campaign, just to even the teams.

And in the interests of patriotism we should point out that our most valuable race winner to date, Golfyn, hails from the fabled Australian (and now fast disappearing) Star Kingdom line.

On a less historic note, one of the most trumpeted bloodstock excursions of 2008 was one of Victoria's major stables making a highly publicised foray to the UK to attempt to buy Melbourne Cup winners at the Newmarket horses-in-training sale. On a PR level of course the idea was a winner: "How to reap a stack of free headlines despite under-performing with a multi-million dollar team over the spring carnival". As for how it will succeed in yielding Melbourne Cup horses remains to be seen, but it's hard to understand such enormous money being spent on stayers that still have to come and acclimatise to Australian conditions, when we know at this year's yearling sales those lots from staying families will most likely, as in other years, be ignored by the big buyers.

UPCOMING SALES:

The Melbourne Premier Yearling sale commences 1st March. Anthony will, with the assistance of his dedicated team, be working the sale extremely hard, drawing on all of his veterinary expertise along with his years of experience selecting yearlings both in Australia and at the world's major sales in Kentucky, Newmarket and Ireland. This year's sales will offer a great chance for owners to buy into a top quality yearling without having to splash out huge money: this is not the year to miss out! To register your interest in taking a share in a future champion call or email Anthony on:

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The next big thing awaits.....