



"GLIMPSE" SHOWED JUST THAT AT RECENT HASTINGS MEETING



GLIMPSE (Rip Van Winkle/Taitanium) carrying the colours of Christopher and Susannah Grace

Glimpse has a lot to live up to if she's to emulate the deeds of her Wellington Cup winning half-brother Graphic (5 wins) and half-sister Tenacity (5 wins). But at the recent Hastings meeting we got a tiny peek of the possibilities for her. A lightly raced four year old mare by Rip Van Winkle she showed a dogged determination under the ride of Cameron Lammas to take the gap at the top of the straight and maintained a strong gallop to the line winning her Maiden 1650m by 2 lengths.

She's thrived since this win and although still early days, from what I've seen on the training track it shouldn't be her last. Her galloping action certainly suggests she'll be just as happy with a little cut on a Dead track as she was on the Heavy 10, so bring on spring. It was also a tremendous thrill to get that first stable win for Chris and Susannah Grace. They've raced some very good horses, absolutely love the game and continue to put a huge passion and energy into this industry, so with any luck this win won't be the last we have for them.

MISS WILSON RETIRED



Following her run at Brisbane in June, Miss Wilson was found to have been galloped on in the race resulting in a badly swollen leg. After much thought by her owners Richard and Liz Wood a decision was made to retire her and she will be sent to Widden Stud's up and coming sire Zoustar this season.

Racing on both sides of the Tasman she recorded 7 wins, 4 seconds and 3 thirds from 23 starts and amassed \$344,923 in stakes money. The undoubted pinnacle of her career was winning the Group 1 Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes at Te Aroha in April; a race she finished 4th in the previous year. However, there were numerous other highlights...winning four on the trot after her return from Australia, including the Group III Cuddle Stakes and then the Group III Red Badge Sprint on the last day of the 2017 Spring Carnival at Hastings

One of my abiding memories is of seeing her unloaded from the truck as a two year old for the first time. This tall, outrageously leggy filly with a dash of white on her forehead walking down the ramp like a super model. Little wonder the girls immediately gave her the stable name Jerry after model Jerry Hall. Another was at Foxton as a two year old running in an 800m trial with Miranda Dravitzki riding. She rounded the top of the turn, started lengthening what was already a massive stride and with a 100m to go, changed lead and put 5 lengths on the chasing pack. You just knew then she was a "good'un"

A half sister to champion Jimmy Choux, her breeding career is assured and I hope her progeny take her to the top of the broodmare stakes. Thanks Jerry.

STABLE GEARED UP AND READY FOR SPRING RACING

With just over four weeks until the first day of the Hawke's Bay Spring Carnival it's full steam ahead here at the stables. Weather conditions couldn't be better for this time of the year...just this morning a hard frost followed by another fine day.

No question the horses are lapping up this fine weather we've been having and that's reflected in how well they're looking. The grass training tracks and plough are in perfect order and I'm thinking it would be good to get a little of the forecast rain towards the end of the week to keep them this way.

We have a number of established horses preparing for their season ahead including High Spirits, , Smokin' Oak, Vinnie's Volley, Hugo The Boss and up and coming three year old King Louis to name a few.

High Spirits won the two mile Chalmers Handicap before running a very creditable 5th in this years Wellington Cup. When I look at her now I see a mare who has finally matured into herself and I can't wait to see her over ground again this year. Smokin' Oak won two last season on ability alone as he tried to figure out what this game is all about. He works like a machine and when the penny drops he'll be a sight to see. I think racing will be his friend this season. Vinnie's Volley is raw potential. With just four starts for one win this past season she raced amongst top class three year olds and showed that's where she's meant to be. Another who was figuring it out and we just need to harness her speed at the right time. I have lots of time for Hugo The Boss and have said so on more than one occasion. Yes he can be a quirky horse and has done things wrong in some of his races....but when he gets it right he's a sight to behold. Has shown he wants a Good track so am aiming him for the Pegasus Stakes over 1000m at Riccarton in November. King Louis is one of the best looking horses you'll ever see and his first start 2nd placing in the Wellesley Stakes showed me he's got the potential to match. Has continued to mature and develop in the off season and I'll be aiming him for the Three Year Old Classics.

Lastly, with the new season commencing tomorrow a big thank you to all of my owners who have continued to support me throughout the year. I am always thankful you have entrusted your horses training and welfare with us as we strive to get the best possible results. To my staff, it's been both a satisfying and challenging year in so many ways, but I couldn't wish to have a better team to face it with. Thank you for all you do every day, day in day out.

All the best and I'll see you in the winner's circle.

JB

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