



LADY ZAFIRA WINS LISTED PEGASUS STAKES IN SIZZLING TIME AT RICCARTON



LADY ZAFIRA 6 year old Bay Mare (Iffraaj/Mary Robinson)

The ups and downs of racing couldn't have been better demonstrated with Lady Zafira's trip to Christchurch encompassing both. With her first race over 1200m at Ashburton on October 15th she's standing quietly in the barriers when horse next to her becomes fidgety...she overreacts, rears up, knocks out two teeth and is late scratched.

Fast forward three weeks...have had to change her racing plan and now entered in \$50,000 Listed Pegasus Stakes over 1000m rather than Group 3 Valachi Downs Canterbury Breeders 1400m.

Plan hatched with Mark Du Plessis is to ride her stone cold and have last run at them. He settled her beautifully in the running, eased her out at the top of the straight and let her show the acceleration we've often seen on the training track to win by 1 ¼ lengths going away. Sizzling time of 55.87 with the last 600m in a dazzling 31.42.

To put this in some perspective...she ran at an average speed over the last 600m of 68.7kph...now that's really moving for a thoroughbred.

Given jockey's post-race comments we're going to aim her for the Group 1 Telegraph at Wellington.

TIGER TIM LIVES UP TO NAME WITH FIERCE BATTLE UP THE RICCARTON STRAIGHT

Not to be outdone on the same day, Tiger, who had also thrived on the away trip lined up in the Rating 85 1600m. Although racing out of his grade, he had shown at Ashburton three week earlier against Open class horses he was up for it.

A big striding horse who needs to get into a rhythm, the plan was to go forward from the wide draw and have him loping along on pace. It was a plan jockey Craig Grylls carried out to perfection as he had him bowling outside the leader.

At the top of the straight as the pressure went on he looked to be under a ride and halfway down the straight he was headed. But as Tiger has shown in the past, he's always up for the fight and he and Craig had a ding dong go up the straight with Court Order and his jockey Samantha Wynne before prevailing on the line.

An excellent result for owners Bill Gleeson and Peter Gillespie who have allowed him the time to mature over the last twelve months. I'm not sure how far Tiger is going to take us but he's always been held in the highest regard... and there's more in store before the seasons done.

HIGH SPIRITS PUTS HER SYNDICATE IN THE SAME STATE OF MIND



HIGH SPIRITS (Darci Brahma/Spiriting) nails them on the post

Spirits has had her syndicate members pulling their hair out in clumps on more than one occasion in her so far short nine start career....and let me tell you some of them can't afford to lose that much 😊 Always showing plenty of talent on the training track and in a couple of previous starts, she has taken time to put raceday experience together.

But at Hastings last week it looked like the penny finally dropped.

First time over the distance of 2100m, Cameron Lammas settled her on the rail and she was loping along at the back of the pack at a very moderate pace. At the 800m she's still loping along and at the 600m....yes still loping.

By the 400m you can see he's sitting on plenty of horse but she's still at the tail of the field, ten lengths off them and everyone's muttering under their breath unprintable thoughts.

Around the top of the turn....clear air...and Cameron's getting her balanced and you can see her starting to lengthen stride. At the 200m she's still six off them and looking like running into third....and then she changes legs and goes WHOOSH to the winning post. Final 600m in 34.88 and the last 200m in a staggering 10.97...a time most sprinters would be proud of.

She still has a lot of maturing to do, but there was something special shown by her last week and it bodes well for her future racing.

Lastly, it's been a difficult spring and incredibly frustrating for everyone when you have a horse ready to race...but you just know running it on unsuitably wet tracks does the horse no favours and only leads to further frustration all round.

So a big thank you to each and every one of my owners who have shown terrific patience over this unseasonably wet period....it is appreciated by me and the team here.

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

JB

PS: Thanks as always to Peter Rubery of Race Images Palmerston North for providing the winning photos

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