



LOUBOUTIN THE MOST RECENT STABLE STAR



LOUBOUTIN (Jimmy Choux/Say No More) wins two in a row at Wanganui (all photo's courtesy Race Images PN)

You only have to look closely at the photo above to know the track conditions at Wanganui on this day were atrocious. Louboutin's eye is closed, as if to say, 'thank goodness that's done' and a mud splattered Lisa Allpress hanging on to her helmet as the winning post looms. What this photo doesn't tell you is that Louboutin once again streeted her rivals, this time by 5 ½ lengths, adding to her 14 length Maiden win on the same track three weeks earlier.

By multiple Group 1 winning Jimmy Choux out of the two-time Group 1 winning mare Say No More it's only right to say she's bred to be good...and also right to say that it's taken until the end of her three year old season to show it. When you're dealing with horses every day you realise, that just like people, some take a little longer to mature than others. Always mentally tough, it's been the physical maturity for Louboutin and there's no doubt she's still got a way to go before she reaches that peak.

The good news is she's going to be given that time by her owner Kevin Hickman, and she's now gone out for a good long break before coming back to what we anticipate will be a strong campaign next season. Her ability to handle tough heavy track conditions could see her being a force in the racing ranks next winter.

CALLSIGN MAV... "HE FEELS THE NEED FOR SPEED"



CALLSIGN MAV (Atlante/Raadisi) gave jockey Craig Grylls a great feel at Hastings

As a young guy in the 1980's, if you could possibly come out of the movie theatre after watching Top Gun not wanting the girl, owning the Kawasaki Ninja 900cc motorbike or mimicking Tom Cruise's "I feel the need for speed"....then you weren't a red blooded teenager. Fast forward to mid 2019's, and after watching Callsign Mav's rousing win over 800m at Hastings...if you weren't genuinely excited at his prospects for next season.....then you're not a red blooded horse trainer.

The comments in the race form following his run say it all...3rd 3 wide to 400, challenge 200, strong late 46.98 - 600m 33.61. Very smart times on a Slow 8 track....especially the last 600m. If you read my last newsletter you'd know I've had a high opinion of Mav for a while. After talking with Craig after his ride he confirmed he thinks he is a horse with a future and he's keen to maintain the association heading into his three year old year.

Speed in this instance wasn't just confined to Callsign Mav. One of his owners, Jeremy Cross flew from Australia to watch his debut. Unfortunately, his flight out of Auckland was cancelled and he had to make alternative arrangements to fly down with Air New Zealand. Arriving at Napier less than 30 minutes before the race he made a mad dash to get to the track, all without breaking the speed limit of course. Within sight of the racecourse and realising he wouldn't quite make it he pulled over and watched it on his phone. Job done and high fives with himself he winged it through the main gates and sprinted to the birdcage, arriving just in time to see Mav and rider salute the judge.

Obligatory intro's, handshakes, photo's, congratulatory calls and texts from other owners, post race speeches and drinks and the smile just got wider. Fantastic effort Jeremy and great to meet you at last.

LESS THAN A MONTH TO GO UNTIL THE HAWKE'S BAY SPRING RACING CARNIVAL

Heartfelt thanks to a great set of owners and an amazing team here at the stable for all you've contributed this season. It has been the second best for number of wins since I started training and we are back in the top 20 of the New Zealand Trainers premiership this year.

There have been some great highlights over the year, but few got the blood pumping as much as **KING LOUIS** winning the Group 3 Mongolian Khan Trophy at Ellerslie. From a seemingly hopeless position at the top of the straight, jockey Jason Waddell threaded a path and kept him up to his work before he sprouted wings at the 100m to get up on the line. Total jubilation for all involved!

Watching two of the stables old hands fulfilling their potential is another. As I've mentioned previously, **THE BANDITO** is one of those horses every trainer wants in their barn; tough, honest and doesn't know how to give up. To watch him finish his season with a determined win in the Bramco Granite & Marble Flying Handicap at Awapuni gave everyone here huge satisfaction. **HUGO THE BOSS'** four wins from seven starts this season have not only been great fun for his owners but have given me a good deal of personal satisfaction....I've been preaching how good I think he is for some time. Can't wait for his season ahead and neither can his syndicate....he's a ball of 6 year old muscle.

It's also been a stellar year for the team with our two year old runners. From eight two year old starters we had five winners and one second placing on debut. Mark them all down in your Black Book for their three year old year. **THE TAILOR'S NIECE, THE FUGITIVE, SERENA, ON SHOW CALLSIGN MAV** and **CINZENTO** and keep an eye out when the other two starters get racing again. **LADY GODIVA AND ELEVENTHOUR** were never going to be two year olds but the races each of them had will stand them in great stead heading into the new season.

Thanks again to everyone for contributing to the season. All the best and I'll see you in the winner's circle.

JB

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