



FIGHTING SPIRIT AGAIN EVIDENT FROM GLIMPSE



GLIMPSE under the urging of Johnathan Parkes showed her will to win at Hastings (photo courtesy Race Images PN)

Bred and raced by Chris and Susanna Grace from a family they've been involved with for several years, **Glimpse** has always shown determination in her trackwork gallops and displays that same grit when she races as do others in her family. This was never more evident than at Hastings in April.

From the barriers Johnathan Parkes had her travelling behind stablemate The Cossack who maintained a steady clip through the 600m. With challenges coming from behind Parkesy eased her outside the leader before mounting his run at the top of the straight hitting the lead at the 200 where she got the front. Outside her the Tony Pike trained three year old Harbourside was also hitting top gear and he got his head in front with 100 to go. But Glimpse is made of stern stuff and Johnathan Parkes is a rider who knows how to lift and get the best out of a horse. And lift she did, getting her nose in front within strides of the winning post.

Following two further runs she's now having a spell back at the Grace's property and will come back for a spring campaign over the three days here at Hastings.

SMOKIN' OAK BACK TO WINNING FORM



SMOKIN' OAK (Burgundy/Silk Slipper) reveled in the Heavy 11 surface at Wanganui (photo courtesy Race Images PN)

The decision to send a horse for a “wind operation” has been the bane of owners and trainers alike over the years.....do we, don't we, do we, don't we! However, with recent significant medical and surgical advances the success rate continues to improve and this decision has become a little easier to make given the improved prognosis.

Last December after a couple of very puzzling runs from Smokin' Oak it was found he had what is technically termed “laryngeal hemiplegia” or as more commonly known...a “roarer”. A tie-back operation was carried out at Matamata Vets and he had the mandatory 8 weeks off before commencing any exercise. It was immediately noticeable on his return to training how much more relaxed and quieter he was.

His first two runs back brought on a little head scratching as his training had been right up to the mark. But apart from being a bit slow to start in his first race and being in the worst of the track in the second there was nothing much else apparent from these runs.

Come Wanganui races last Saturday and I couldn't have been happier. It had been raining solidly overnight with heavy showers pre-race so the track was a genuine Heavy 11 and loose...conditions very similar to his winning run at Waipukurau where he cleared Maiden ranks. Jockey Robbie Hannam and I spoke pre-race and we both thought best to get him there or thereabouts and make a run at them at moving time.

A fraction slow from the gates it always looked as if Robbie was hustling him to keep up but afterwards he said he travelled well throughout and when asked to go, picked up the bit and once into the straight kept up a strong run to the line winning by 1 ½ lengths and ran the fastest last 600m for the day.

Congratulations to his syndicate of owners, Doug & Jill Callaghan, Mick Thompson, Iain, McLean, Peter, Gerard, Paul and Anne Gillespie, Mike Phillips, John & Ros Stace, Johnnie & Pauline Campbell, Narendra Balia, Mike White and of course my mother Ann Bary. Thanks for your patience and support and here's to a few more of those good Saturdays!

TIME TO START GEARING UP FOR SPRING

Most of the horses have been having their customary spell at this time of the year and the weather couldn't have been better. Sun on their back, temperate Autumn highs and plenty of paddock time have seen them all thriving.

So with June here it'll be back to "nose to the grindstone " for us all in preparation for spring racing. Typically, it takes 8 to 10 weeks after such a break to get them legged up and then galloping before being ready for a jumpout or trial. The two and three year olds, just like teenagers have a natural fitness and adapt quickly; whereas the older horses take a little more time....sound vaguely familiar?

We have some heady assignments in store this year with four two year old winners heading into their Classic season. The way **The Tailor's Niece**, **Serena**, **On Show** and **The Fugitive** won, they all look like they're good enough to be very competitive in the three year old Black Type races e.g. Gold Trail Stakes, Hawke's Bay and New Zealand 2000 Guineas. With 13 rising three year olds heading into the new season I've never been more excited with the team in the stable.

Cinzento is now having a spell following her run in the Listed Castletown Stakes at Wanganui on Saturday where it was clear she didn't handle the Heavy 11 track. She's had a good two year old campaign and I'm confident she'll come back a stronger more mature filly for her three year old season.....and better tracks.

Amongst the older brigade who are heading into spring and later, **The Bandito** and **Hugo The Boss** look amazingly well after their break with both having put on over 30kgs apiece. Provided the track is on the good side, the Pegasus Stakes at Riccarton beckons Hugo and I'd love to see him having a tilt at the Group 1 Telegraph Stakes at Trentham in January. The Bandito gained a black type win in his last run and we'll look to place him in similar races when he recommences.

King Louis showed when winning the Group 3 Mongolian Khan Trophy over 1200m in January he's a horse to be reckoned with. An imposing 554kgs before he went out for a spell he'll be turning heads again when he steps out at the races later this year and I can see him moving through to Open company.

Vinnie's Volley is raring to go. Mike got some video of her last week for her syndicate and even though it's only June she looks full of the joys of spring hooning around the paddock enjoying life. A mare with a ton of ability I'm hoping the break has had her maturing mentally as well as physically. Really looking forward to seeing her use that speed at the winning end of the race this season.

Miss Labasa looks like an excitement machine heading into August having won her first three races in a row. We thought she might get to a New Zealand Oaks but it became clear after two more runs, a stayer she isn't. When a maiden horse wins first up over 1400m in 1.22.78 and then follows up with a 1.22.08 you know it's a "goodun"....time's don't lie. There's no question in my mind she is a serious horse in the making and we'll be looking to take her through the grades before heading onto the Group racing assignments.

However, before the new season arrives, we still have a couple to keep an eye on before then. **Callsign Mav**, the winner of a jumpout already looks like a three year old and will step out here at Hastings over 800m mid-July.... he has talent and the look of a Guineas horse so make a note of him in your black book.

The Cossack will be making his jumping debut at Awapuni on June 15th and **Bucky** will be trialling next week at Taupo and plan is to make his debut following this.

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

JB

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