

Monday 24 June 2019

COLLETT GETS GROUP ONE MONKEY OFF BACK



Invincibella (right) and Jason Collett on their way to victory at Eagle Farm (AAP)

Ex-pat Kiwi jockey Jason Collett put some narrow defeats at the highest level well behind him on Saturday when he captured his first Group One victory in the saddle when successful on the Chris Waller-trained Invincibella (I Am Invincible) in the Tattersall's Tiara (1400m) at Eagle Farm.

"It feels pretty good this morning," Collett said on Sunday as he began the long trek back to Sydney from Brisbane.

"We didn't celebrate too much as I knew I had a long drive back today but it feels pretty good to finally achieve a Group One win after going close on quite a few occasions."

Collett produced a copybook display on Invincibella, having the mare in a handy position throughout before launching his bid at the top of the Eagle Farm straight. Momentarily headed by three-year-old filly Pohutukawa, Invincibella fought back to claim her first Group One success and 11th career win overall.

"We managed to get in a good spot early on and coming to the home corner I was starting to get a little confident as there hadn't been a great deal of speed on and she was

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travelling easily at that stage," Collett said.

"I asked her to slide forward and she got to the front pretty quickly but then Pohutukawa went past us and I was thinking 'not again'."

"To her credit she (Invincibella) doesn't give in and is very strong in a finish and that told over the last 100m as she got her nose back in front when it mattered."

Delighted to get the Group One monkey off his back, Collett admitted that things had been falling into place with his riding in the past six months after a slow start to the season. Currently sitting at number eight on the Sydney Metropolitan jockeys' premiership with the second-best strike rate in the top ten, Collett is pleased with how his season has panned out.

"I didn't get off to the best start to the season but since January it has come good," he said.

"I've managed to pick up some good wins along the way including the Magic Millions Snippets (1200m) on Egyptian Symbol for Bjorn Baker and things have progressed well from there."

"I've been getting some really good opportunities so hopefully I can keep that momentum going into next season now."

In completing the milestone, Collett joined his sisters Natasha and Alysha in riding a Group One winner, an achievement that was not lost on the laidback son of well-known New Zealand trainers Richard and Judy Collett.

"It is a pretty special feeling now that I have joined the Group One club along with Natasha and Alysha," he said.

"I actually tried to give Dad a call to let him know but he's on a fishing trip up in Alaska somewhere and was on a plane when I called."

"I think he probably had a good few messages on his phone when he could switch it back on so I'm expecting a call at some stage. I think he might even be getting a bit of stick as he's the only one in the family without a Group One now."

– NZ Racing Desk

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ROCKETING VOYAGE

Leading rider Zac Purton enjoyed a rocket run on young sprinting sensation **Voyage**

Warrior (Declaration Of War) in the Class 3 Ma On Shan Handicap (1000m) to take home a wining treble at Sha Tin on Sunday.

"It was a good effort," Purton said of the top-weight, who took his career tally to three wins and a second from four starts, all down the 1000m straight.

"He had to carry top-weight and Look Eras really served it up to him through the mid stages, so he had to absorb all that pressure as well. I thought he did a good job," Purton added.

The rider had the leg-up for the first time today, having inflicted the gelding's only defeat the time before atop the highly-regarded Thanks Forever (Duporth), who won that race in receipt of 13lb.

Trainer Ricky Yiu was delighted to see his charge regain the winning thread: "He gradually rolled to the outside, he didn't even pull his stick – the winning jockey knows what kind of car he's driving, it's as simple as that!"

And the trainer answered in the affirmative when asked if he would pitch Voyage Warrior into Group races in the first half of next season, should he continue to deliver.

"I would," he said. "He'll be four next season and there are some big races, feature races coming up that I really want him to participate in. I'll gradually



Zac Purton guides Voyage Warrior home at Sha Tin

move him up to 1200 metres, it's about time to run him round the bend, that's the plan. He's done well as a three-year-old, it's been a long season and he won't run again this season."

Bred in the Waikato by Bob Emery at his Belvedere Farm operation, Voyage Warrior is a son of Stravinsky mare Chaleur. Purchased from the Henley Park draft during the Select session of the 2017 National Sale for \$55,000, Voyage Warrior returned to Karaka later that year for the Ready To Run Sale, where he was knocked down to Yiu for \$280,000 from the JK Farm draft

Race	HKJC Ma on Shan H. 1000m.
Winner	Voyage Warrior (AUS) 2015
Owners	Tommy Ching Tsun Wah
Trainer	PF Yiu (Sha Tin)
Breeding	by Declaration Of War (USA) out of Chaleur by Stravinsky (USA)
Breeder	NZ Thoroughbred Holdings Ltd & Whangateau Thoroughbreds Ltd; Auckland; NZ
Sales	2017 National Yearling Sale - Select Sale V: Henley Park \$55,000 P: The Robt Dawe Agency 2017 Ready to Run Sale V: JK Farm \$280000 P: R Yiu



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KIWIS PART OF ROYAL PROCESSION AT ROYAL ASCOT



Sir Peter Vela enjoying the Royal Procession on the last day at Royal Ascot (Liesl King)

New Zealand has been well-represented in the four-carriage Royal Procession on the final day of Royal Ascot with Rosehill-based trainer Chris Waller enjoying a memorable 24 hours.

On Saturday, the former Foxton horseman landed the Gr.1 Tattersall's Tiara (1400m) at Eagle Farm with Invincibella to provide him with a record-breaking 18th Group One win for the season.

Waller eclipsed the previous record of 17 set by legendary trainer Tommy Smith in 1979-80 but had a good reason for not being on-course at Eagle Farm on Saturday to celebrate.

He and his wife Stephanie, also originally from Foxton, were thousands of miles away getting ready for an appointment with Her Majesty The Queen as part of an elite line-up.

Every day of the five-day Royal Ascot Festival, come rain or sunshine,

The Queen arrives at the entrance of Ascot's straight mile at precisely 2 p.m.

Drawn by the famous Windsor Greys, Her Majesty's Landau leads the procession of carriages up the mile, past the Silver Ring, Grandstand and Royal Enclosure before finishing with a circuit of the Parade Ring.

Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, accompanied The Queen on this occasion in the lead carriage.

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KIWIS PART OF ROYAL PROCESSION AT ROYAL ASCOT

(Continued from page 5)

The Wallers were not the only New Zealanders in the procession, with Sir Peter Vela and his wife Lady Pamela Vela sharing the second carriage with General Sir Adrian Bradshaw and his wife, Lady Bradshaw.

Sir Peter Vela, who was knighted

for services to the thoroughbred industry, is the owner of leading thoroughbred auction house, New Zealand Bloodstock, and a successful breeder and racehorse owner through his Pencarrow Stud in Tamahere.

Vela was one of six people

appointed to the Racing Industry Transition Agency on Friday, with the goal of turning around the fortunes of the New Zealand racing industry.

– NZ Racing Desk



Chris Waller during the Royal Procession at Royal Ascot (Liesl King)



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WINTER SERIES FINAL LOOMS FOR ROMANCER

The Winter Championship Series Final shapes as a logical next target for the Grahame Begg-trained **Romancer (NZ)** (Redwood) after he pressed his claims for the Listed race with a victory at Flemington.

Five-year-old Romancer is the first horse Begg has had for prominent syndicator OTI Racing and the gelding was having his second start for the trainer in Saturday's 1400m-open handicap at Flemington.

The race was a heat of the Winter Championship Series in Melbourne and Romancer, who carried 52kg after Lachlan King's 2kg claim, enjoyed the soft conditions and held off a late challenge by Blazejowski (Dash For Cash) to win by a half-head.

"I think we've got to go to the Final. You never know, he might get the same conditions again on that day," Begg said.

"I reckon he's a 1400 to 1600-metre horse."

"He's in the race and he's qualified, so why wouldn't you go there?"

"He's trained out of Pinecliff and he loves the environment down there."

The \$160,000 Listed Winter Championship Series Final (1600m) is at Flemington on July 6.

Romancer had his first 14 starts in New Zealand where he registered four wins including a Listed victory as a three-year-old.

He won the Donald Cup (1620m) last November during a 10-start preparation for now-disqualified Victorian trainer Darren Weir before being transferred to Begg earlier this year.

Romancer's stablemate and another former New Zealander, Our Libretto (NZ) (O'Reilly), has been retired after her third in Saturday's Listed Tattersall's Cup (3000m) at Eagle Farm.

She will begin a new career in the breeding barn after winning five races under Begg's care.

Race	VRC Brian Beattie H. 1400m.
Winner	Romancer (NZ) 2013
Owners	OTI Racing, Mr J P Spence, Mrs J T Spence, Mr L Webb, Ms M Webb, Ms D McKeown, Uthmeyer Racing, Mr W R Bowker, Mr A Brown, Mrs L A Warwick, Ms D M Logan, Miss K F Milliken, Mrs D H M Milliken, Mr C K R Dawson, Travaglini Racing, Mr T N Porter, Mr W S Pelchen
Trainer	Graeme Begg (Pinecliff Mt. Eliza)
Breeding	by Redwood (GB) out of Romantically (AUS) by Foreplay (AUS)
Breeder	NZ Thoroughbred Holdings Ltd & Whangateau Thoroughbreds Ltd; Auckland; NZ
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale - Select Sale V: Westbury Stud \$110000 P: DM Logan Racing Stables



Romancer scores in a desperate finish at Flemington (Bruno Cannatelli)



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INTIMIDATE OVERCOMES ANXIOUS MOMENTS



Intimidate scores a handsome victory at Riccarton (Race Images South)

Rangiora trainer Nick Wigley was holding his breath just moments before the start of Saturday's two-year-old contest at Riccarton as smart filly **Intimidate (NZ)** (Charm Spirit) put on a petulant display behind the starting gates.

The Charm Spirit filly held up the start of the 1000m event before finally entering her stall under the urgings of the Riccarton barrier staff. Safely loaded away Intimidate then proceeded to give her race rivals a galloping lesson as she led all the way in the hands of rider Tina Comignaghi

to register her first victory at just her second start.

Wigley admitted he was getting a little anxious as he watched the pre-race drama unfold.

"She can get a little toey at the best of times and when she started playing up it had me on edge a little," Wigley said.

"Earlier on she was quite a calm filly but she suffered a pretty decent case of shin soreness after her first start back in October and since then she gets pretty fired up about things."

"She starts to shake and play up

which she did going out onto the track on Saturday and then around at the start.

"Once she loaded away, she was fine and Tina said she stood there as good as gold so I think in the future we might get her loaded away first to try and alleviate any problems."

Bred and raced under the Wigley family's Inglewood Stud banner, Intimidate had been offered for sale as a yearling during the 2018 Karaka Book 1 Yearling Sale but returned home after not fetching a bid.

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INTIMIDATE OVERCOMES ANXIOUS MOMENTS

(Continued from page 8)

"We took her up to Karaka but no one wanted her so we brought her home again," Wigley said.

"She has always showed us plenty of ability and we thought she would be a Welcome Stakes (Listed 1000m) contender back in the spring but after failing first up when she went shin sore, we put her away for a decent break to let her mature.

"She had won two trials leading into Saturday and after her last trial win on a slow track at the start of the month, Tina was confident she would handle the going on Saturday.

"She did it well in the end so she can have another break before we bring her back in the spring. I think a race like the Canterbury Belle Stakes (Listed, 1200m) in September would be a good target for her."

Wigley also paid tribute to the staff at Inglewood Stud who have been instrumental in getting the filly back to her best after her spell.

"The girls at the stud have done a great job with her and have put in many hours to get her back in top shape," he said.

"They deserve a lot of the credit and I'm sure they were feeling pretty chuffed after the result."

Wigley announced that one of those staff, Kayla Milnes, would be

entering into a training partnership with him in early July.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Amberley RC Barney Knudsen Dash 2YO H. 1000m.
Winner	Intimidate (NZ) 2016
Owners	Inglewood Stud (N.Z.) Ltd
Trainer	Nick Wigley (Rangiora)
Breeding	by Charm Spirit (IRE) out of Mandy O'Reilly by O'Reilly
Breeder	Inglewood Stud (N.Z.) Ltd; Canterbury; NZ



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GOBSTOPPER MAKES SUCCESSFUL JUMPING DEBUT

Former New Zealand Cup winner **Gobstopper (NZ)** (Tavistock) revealed a new string to his bow when he made a successful debut over fences at Te Aroha on Sunday.

The Andrew Campbell-trained galloper had carved out a handy career on the flat with his Group Three victory in the 2018 New Zealand Cup (3200m) the major highlight of his six wins before Sunday's contest.

Some indifferent form since that New Zealand Cup triumph saw Campbell trial Gobstopper over fences to sharpen him up but he was reluctant to commit to a hurdle start until following the advice of jumps rider Emily Farr.

Race	Te Aroha JC Piako Mitsubishi Maiden Hurdle 3100m.
Winner	Gobstopper (NZ) 2012
Owners	C D Allison, C V & J A Barnao, A R Campbell, T G Heptinstall, T M Pivac & D R Platt
Trainer	Andrew Campbell (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Tavistock out of Bagalollies (AUS) by Zabeel
Breeder	C D Allison; C V & J A Barnao; A R Campbell; T G Heptinstall; T M Pivac & D R Platt



Gobstopper responded with a polished display for Farr in the maiden 3100m event, jumping fluently near the pace throughout. Farr sent Gobstopper to the lead at the 600m where he established a winning break on his rivals and although he made a mess of the last fence, he cruised home by a widening 13 lengths at the finish.

"I know him inside and out as I ride him every day," Farr said.

"They (his owners) were 'we don't want to jump him, but we should jump him' but I was like he jumps that good he will look after me."

"Coming to the last I knew I was on the wrong leg but I thought if I sit still, he will bunny hop it and he did."

"He doesn't have the speed like he used to and he likes to sit and do his own thing so you can't tell him what to do, you just have to sit there and ask him nicely."

"As an older horse this gives him something different and with the speed he has, all you need to do is concentrate on jumping the fences."

Campbell cut a relieved figure as his charge returned to the winner's enclosure, admitting his heart was in his mouth at the

last fence.

"I was worried the whole way as jumping is not my favourite game," Campbell said.

"My heart was in my mouth at the last but it's good when they win though."

"Emily has done a lot of work with him and I take my hat off to her, she is a champion."

By Tavistock out of handy racemare Bagalollies, Gobstopper is the younger brother of dual Hong Kong Horse of the Year, Werther (NZ) who was trained by Campbell throughout his early career before being sold to Hong Kong interests after placing second in the 2015 Gr.1 Queensland Derby (2400m).

– NZ Racing Desk

Gobstopper (inner) flies his fence in the early stages at Te Aroha (Trish Dunell)



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NZ STALLION AWARDS

THE CENTAINE AWARD

STALLIONS	EARNINGS
SAVABEEL	\$16,494,923
ROAD TO ROCK	\$9,321,611
O'REILLY	\$9,209,781
DARCI BRAHMA	\$8,634,765
PINS	\$6,326,347
PER INCANTO	\$5,505,119
MASTERCRAFTSMAN	\$5,288,440
OCEAN PARK	\$5,286,609
TAVISTOCK	\$5,158,583
SWISS ACE	\$4,535,997

Criteria: Sire whose NZ-conceived progeny have accumulated the highest stakes earnings worldwide

THE DEWAR STALLION TROPHY

STALLIONS	EARNINGS
SAVABEEL	\$9,292,620
O'REILLY	\$5,794,088
PINS	\$4,233,573
OCEAN PARK	\$3,684,262
TAVISTOCK	\$3,025,467
ZED	\$2,799,400
DARCI BRAHMA	\$2,691,586
RELIABLE MAN	\$2,590,325
PER INCANTO	\$2,469,273
RIP VAN WINKLE	\$2,418,479

Criteria: Sire whose progeny have accumulated the highest combined stakes earnings in Australia & New Zealand

THE GROSVENOR AWARD

STALLIONS	EARNINGS
SAVABEEL	\$3,918,394
PINS	\$2,072,321
PER INCANTO	\$2,050,968
DARCI BRAHMA	\$1,485,832
SHOWCASING	\$1,345,932
IFFRAAJ	\$1,294,202
RIP VAN WINKLE	\$1,293,744
SWISS ACE	\$1,118,743
ALAMOSA	\$1,116,260
O'REILLY	\$1,097,446

Criteria: Leading Sires by Earnings in New Zealand



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NZ BRED WINNERS IN SINGAPORE JUNE 21 /

HORSE & BREEDING	BREEDER	RACE	SALES DETAILS
CHARMING DIAMOND (NZ) 2016 by Showcasing (GB) out of London Dream by Handsome Ransom (AUS)	KT & Mrs T M Brophy & K D Landigan; Central; NZ	Singapore TC Restricted Maiden S. 1100m.	2018 Ready to Run Sale V: Kiltannon Stables Ltd \$120000 P: SD Baertschiger
NO REGRETS (NZ) 2016 by Showcasing (GB) out of Rockelle (AUS) by Rock of Gibraltar (IRE)	BF Bloodstock Ltd & Haunui Bloodstock Ltd; Auckland; NZ	Singapore TC IRT Juvenile S. 1200m.	2018 National Yearling Sale - Book 1 V: Haunui Farm \$130000 P: Hughes B/stock
HOTSHOTS SLAM (NZ) 2016 by Swiss Ace (AUS) out of Derrydane by Danehill (USA)	G Harvey; Auckland; NZ	Singapore TC Restricted Maiden S. 1100m.	2018 National Yearling Sale - Book 1 V: Westbury Stud \$180000 P: S Gray

NZ BRED WINNERS IN MACAU JUNE 22 /

HORSE & BREEDING	BREEDER	RACE	SALES DETAILS
ROYAL GARDEN (MAC) Battle Tank (NZ) 2013 by Remind (USA) out of Kaytee by Senor Pete (USA)	Ms D Clark & M G Gordon; Canterbury; NZ	Macau Milan H. 1500m.	2015 National Yearling Sale - Festival Session V: Long Acres Stud \$4000 P: MF Bates/N Smith 2015 Ready to Run Sale V: Kiltannon Stables Ltd \$13000 P: NZB as agent

NZ BRED WINNERS IN HONG KONG JUNE 23 /

HORSE & BREEDING	BREEDER	RACE	SALES DETAILS
BELLAGIO (HK) Idea From Above (NZ) 2014 by Echoes of Heaven (AUS) out of Idea (AUS) by Danewin (AUS)	A D; Mrs A M & D J Cherry; NZ	HKJC Piper's Hill H. 1400m.	

NZ BRED WINNERS IN MALAYSIA JUNE 23 /

HORSE & BREEDING	BREEDER	RACE	SALES DETAILS
CHAMPAGNE ROSE (NZ) 2008 by Savabeel (AUS) out of Tristraad by Volksraad (GB)	Miss C A Marshall	Perak TC Class 5 H. 1200	
PROUD PINOY (MLY) Nicollier (NZ) 2011 by Swiss Ace (AUS) out of Rose Of Dane (AUS) by Danehill (USA)	Ramsey Pastoral Co Pty Ltd	Perak TC Class 4 H 1100	
NOVA DASHING (NZ) 2013 by Darci Brahma out of Shinko Princess by Shinko King (IRE)	Bromley Bloodstock Ltd	Perak TC Class 5 H. 1400	2015 National Yearling Sale – Select Session V: Seaton Park Ltd \$36000 P: Mr KM Onn

