

Vintage year crowns Elite State top dog



MEDIA dog Elite State is the 20003 Queensland greyhound of the year.

The son of Just The Best-Spark Again raced by Jim Osborn and trained by Reg Kay, downed Bogie Leigh, Dooley's Mist and Spanish Belle for the award.

In what was an exceptional year for greyhound racing in Queensland, Elite State won the Group 1 Winter Carnival Cup at Albion Park, the Group 1 National Sprint at Angle Park, the group 2 Peter Mosman Classic at Wentworth Park, and the Group 3 Gold Coast Cup.

He also ran a flying 29.86 at Wentworth Park and a 29.97 around Albion Park.

He was a luckless third in the Paws of Thunder at Wentworth Park in what some believed was his most impressive performance. Elite State was retired to stud after that run.

The dog had also won a Young Guns and the Derby at Capalaba.

Performances by the other finalists were:

BOGIE LEIGH

Won the Group 1 Brisbane Cup at Albion Park, Group 1 Sapphire Classic at Sandown, Group 2 Queensland Futurity at Albion Park, Group 3 Lismore Cup and ran a luckless third in the Topgun arguably Australia's toughest greyhound race.

She also became the third fastest greyhound ever with a 29.83 win (twice) at Albion Park and set a track record when winning the Lismore Cup.

She had to be scratched on race morning from the state final of the National Sprint.

DOOLEY'S MIST

The Cry Havoc-Misty's Me Mum bitch was retired in June after winning the Group 1 Albion Park Gold Cup in stylish fashion.

She also won seven races at Albion Park from February to June over 520m, 600m and 710m.

SPANISH BELLE

The daughter of Royal Pilgrim-Miss Cruise burst onto the scene in July with a record-breaking win at the Gold Coast over 650m, then won the state final of the National Distance and equaled the Albion Park 600m track record running a blistering 34.85.

To cap off a great year, she then went to Wentworth Park to win heat and final of the Group 2 Summer Cup, running 42.37 in her heat win, the second fastest of the year for 720m.

Others in contention for a final spot were: Greasy Grizzly, Happy Chappy, Lissiloo and Perfect Heart. Queensland trained greyhounds won seven of the 23 Group 1 events staged in Australia in 2003.