

From one tragedy to another



Broodbitch Drop Of Nitro (above left) has left her legacy for Dave Andrews (right) with promising young bitch Super Ann and littermate, Vince Curry finalist Mr Magnificent.

DAVE Andrews should have known his luck would turn the moment the \$20,000 offer came in.

It was back in 1997 and his Bonjase- Highland Queen bitch had just broken in with exceptional reports.

As most hobby trainers would do, Dave wasn't about to entertain the offer, no matter how huge. The bitch would repay that for sure.

Dave was living in Melbourne at the time and he and his mate Steve Hand were in partnership with the bitch, from the famous damline of Leeander Mist that Dave had bought through his friendship with John "Dutchy" Hellingman. Hellingman had huge success with the line which included Drop Of Wine, Monica's Mist, Golden Spur etc etc.

"She had broken the trial track record at the property run by Kevin McNamara," said Andrews. "Brett Lee was broken in there and he could not break her time."

But that was virtually the last bit of good news Dave Andrews had with Drop Of Nitro.

Not long after, Andrews was taking Drop Of Nitro trialling when she was injured in a trailer accident.

It wasn't until she was three and a half years old before the bitch was right again to have her first race start.

It was a non-betting race at Warragul.

"She won there in 24.60, and then won a 347m

race at Geelong, but it was obvious she was not right, so Steve and I decided not to continue with her race career.

"We kept her as a broodbitch."



Her first litter to Cry Havoc produced two classy types for Andrews, by this time back in Queensland.

"Drop Of Havoc won a Novice final at Tweed Heads and looked something special, and her litter brother Drop Of New was showing potential," said Dave.

"A week later Drop Of Havoc broke a hock and Drop Of New broke a tendon in two toes ... on the same night."

Dave was starting to think he was jinxed.

Her second litter to No Intent, however, are showing plenty of potential.

Rokocoko in Sydney and Super Intent in Melbourne are very promising, and Dave has Super Ann and Mr Magnificent both of who showed potential during the recent Vince Curry Series at Ipswich, the latter in the final.

Mr Magnificent continued the family tradition of bad luck when he finished unplaced after being involved in serious first turn trouble in the Vince Curry final.

That final was won by Runaway Sally.

But the bad luck doesn't end there.

Drop Of Nitro has a repeat No Intent mating (now six months), but only a few months ago was bitten by a snake and died at Dave's property, which he calls Graceland Lodge (he's a mad Elvis fan as well), on the Gold Coast.

He, his father Ray and friend Eddie Dyson race Super Ann in the "Mighty Lions Syndicate".

"Obviously we are all huge fans of the Brisbane

Lions," said Dave. "The bitch always showed potential."

John Hellingman got Dave into dogs.

"Dutchy" and Ray Andrews have been mates for almost 30 years. Hellingman stills gives Dave a hand with his dogs.

Dave is waiting for Drop Of Havoc to come into season and will breed with her. He has high hopes for Super Ann "We have been hoping this line will come good for us for some time," said Dave. "We had the grandmother until she was 14 years old. And I raced Vintage Wine, the dam of Mr Kent, and sold her up here.

"She won one race."

While Drop Of Nitro might have been a major disappointment for the Andrews kennel, Dave is confident she has left a legacy that will repay him much more than that \$20,000 he initially turned down.