

# Margaret's Pride and joy

*BACK in the early 80s, a little black bitch, home-bred by Margaret Quarrell, was as controversial, but as outstanding, as they come.*

*Journal Editor DAVID BRASCH looks at the career of Coin Spot Pride.*

*“DON'T ask me to choose between Wallowa Flash and Coin Spot Pride,” said Margaret Quarrell. “I don't want to lessen one dog by naming the other as the better of the two. Both of them mean so much to me.”*

The fact Wallowa Flash won a Gold Coast Cup, at one stage held the Gabba 558m track record, and was named Queensland Greyhound of the Year tells us something.

It tells us just how good Coin Spot Pride was. A black bitch, whelped in July 1980, Coin Spot Pride was by Mister Oollee-Coin Spot Lass. “Coin Spot Lass was Eddy Barry\*- Eskdale Lass and she had won three races at the Gabba out of about 16 starts,” said Margaret.

“She had plenty of ability, but had broken a toe and I had it operated on, but the operation was not a success. I decided to retire her to stud.”

At the time, the first progeny of Mister Oollee, the former champion Queensland sprinter, were just starting to hit the tracks.

Margaret was impressed firstly by their obvious talent, but mostly because of their ability to chase and chase hard.

“She had seven and we kept them all,” said Margaret.

“Lucy (Coin Spot Pride's kennel name) was the runt of the litter, but she was always on the go. She showed great acceleration in the paddock as a pup.

“In fact, she always looked the runt because we couldn't fatten her. But that was because she was always on the go.”

Margaret did a bit of early education on the bitch at 13 months and then sent her away for box work. “The report from the breaking in track was that she was mediocre, but I knew she would come on.”

First trials, over 370m at Lawnton didn't give Margaret much hope. “She could run only 22.50 or 22.60 for the sprint, but you could see her really motoring home from the driving tower to the catching pen.”

That's when Margaret decided to give her bitch a 558m trial around the Gabba. Coin Spot Pride was 17 months old and scorched around the track in 32.20, well inside the then track record ... at her first look at the track.

“People were running up to me asking if she was for sale, and that was even before I got back to the catching pen after the trial,” said Margaret.

Coin Spot Pride did not make her first racetrack appearance until June 19, 1982. She was nearly two years old.



*There is no prouder woman in greyhound racing of the deeds of her dogs than Margaret Quarrell. That's obvious at the Bradshaw Challenge presentation (above) and below with some Coin Spot Pride memorabilia.*

“We thought she would get away with a 420m maiden at the Tweed, but Tashina Tiger beat her in 24.25,” said Margaret. Her first win came at the Gold Coast over 560m in 33.50 on July 9.

Immediately the bitch started developing a reputation. But it was obvious she would *be a stayer*.

“We waited a while to let her find her feet, get experience before we went to the Gabba,” said Margaret. “She was a very sound bitch.”



Coin Spot Pride became the “now” dog at the Gabba until the fateful night she took on the staying stars in the 704m Carlton Cup in December 1982. She crashed heavily at the first turn, hitting the outside fence near the 558m boxes.

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|-----------------|------------------|
| Mister Moss     | Which Chariot*   |
| Mister Oollee   | Elsie Moss       |
| Player’s Risk   | Tivoli Dreamer*  |
| COIN SPOT PRIDE | Waitawhile Lou   |
| Eddy Barry*     | Monalee Champion |
| Coin Spot Lass  | Coil Valley      |
| Eskdale Lass    | Black Diro       |
|                 | Vymire Girl      |

“It stopped her in her tracks,” said Margaret. “In staying races at the Gabba she would always ease at that point.” The bitch was warned by stewards and had to undergo satisfactory trials. Margaret took no chances with Coin Spot Pride and sent her straight to Jimmy Coleman to train in Sydney.

“You must remember she was a family dog and the decision to send her to Jimmy was very hard on everyone, but it was in her best interests,” said Margaret.

Under Coleman’s astute guidance, Coin Spot Pride came back to her best but big race success eluded her.

“She was often slow away and bad luck beat her in many races,” said Margaret. “She was a tragedy beaten when second to Lease Of Life in the Fury Ford Cup at Harold Park.

“That’s when the club asked us to take on Lease Of Life in the Bradshaw Challenge, a match race worth \$3000. Lucy won easily.”

Coin Spot Pride also won the Lawnton *Oaks, the Winfield Cup at Grafton*, the Stayers Invitation at Tweed Heads during Galaxy time and was second to Quick Pulse in the Fury Ford Cup, second to Rocket Supreme in the Lismore Classic, and second to Matthews World in the Dairy King Cup at the Gold Coast.

In all she started 54 times for 27 wins, 18 seconds and four thirds. She earned \$24,000.

She set tracks records for 652m at Tweed Heads, the Gold Coast 560m (32.76), and 44.64 for 732m at Ipswich (her final race start on July 17, 1984).

Margaret had got the bitch home and she brilliantly won a distance event in track record time at Ipswich but dropped a back muscle after that race and didn’t start again.

Coin Spot Pride went to stud and Margaret regrets the next couple of years.

“I put her to Ballarat Prince and it was the worst thing I ever did,” she said. “I got a couple of pups that could run but they didn’t chase very hard and everyone said it was from her.

“But if you look at many of the other *Ballarat Prince progeny around at the time, I* didn’t think too many of them chased too hard either.”

Margaret admits she went through “a bit of a lull” at the time, and never bred with Coin Spot Pride again.

“At one time I had 19 pups on the property and it was very difficult to cope,” she said.

Coin Spot Pride wandered about Margaret’s Strathpine property for the rest of her days.

“Anyone who ever came to the house was greeted by Lucy.”

The bitch died when she was 13 and Margaret buried her just near the family pool.

“I even found a shrub at a local nursery that was called a ‘Coin Spot’. I just had to plant that over her grave.”

Coin Spot Pride deserved that.