



## MEDIA RELEASE

**14th October**

### *Max looks more than ready for the Big Time After win the SA Derby Final*

Victorian youngster Big Time Max could not have been more impressive with an outstanding win in the Group 2 Coca Cola SA Derby last Thursday night. Sent to the boxes a \$2.30 favourite from box two he made no mistakes leading all the way claiming the rich final in no uncertain terms and in the style of a greyhound with an enormous future.

Since his race career kicked off in June at the Meadows the wraps on the young black dog were big and perhaps he started a little disappointing finding trouble in running in a few of his early starts. However in August a win in the heat of the Cranbourne Puppy Championship in 30.39 followed up by an all the way victory in the final in a fast 30.24 stamped him as a class act.

He arrived in Adelaide to take on his own age as one of the front runners for the series and just got better as it went on. Big Time Max was runner-up to Thierry Bale in his heat beaten a half length in 29.76, came out last week to lead all the way from box seven in 29.48. He then blew them away in the final recording 29.39 after sections of 4.48 and 16.72. Crossfire Bale (\$11.70) tried hard and chasing the leader for most of the trip but was no match beaten seven and half lengths with Grandin Bale (\$15.20) third, nine and three-quarters from the winner. Both placed runners were from the Andrea Dailly kennel, who in a master training performance had no less than four finalists.

I spoke with a delighted owner-trainer Engin Gemci after the win and asked him if he was confident going into the final. "I thought if he begun well he would be hard to beat and as it turned out he flew the boxes. He's not a bad beginner and both times in the Group races he has begun exceptional well, particularly last night. It was a good draw for him as he always looks for the rails I don't think we have seen the best of him yet he still lacks experience and needs some more time. He has only had 14 starts and I reckon it takes 15 to 20 for them to get better in fields." Gemci said.

Gemci purchased Big Time Max from breeder Nick Janjic for \$20,000 as an unraced 17 month old pup. Janjic raced his sire Big Daddy Cool and still has the dam Lil Bit Loony at home.

"You take a bit a punt that they will race okay in fields and they can improve with age but it's still a gamble but he has turned out sensational I'm over the moon. He had trialed around Geelong and run about 25.76 so there was no doubt he could run but as we all know there is a bit more to it than just being able to run time. Actually Nick is as happy as we are he has put Big Daddy Cool on the map as a sire." Gemci said.

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I quizzed Gemci as to his future plans with Big Time Max. "I'd love to think he might be considered for the Top Gun, I honestly believe he is capable of running 29.60 around Sandown. Realistically we will be looking toward the Vic Peters at Wentworth Park as it is another age restricted race which is good for him at this point in time. Following that I would certainly be contesting the Melbourne Cup with him, who knows he might be capable of doing a Closing Argument he will have had the same sort of lead up." Gemci concluded.

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4<sup>th</sup> Buttsie Bale (\$17.00), 5<sup>th</sup> My Koombooyana (\$39.60), 6<sup>th</sup> Side Affects (\$33.40) 7<sup>th</sup> Bentley Bale (\$7.20) and Cromlah Bale (\$2.90)

Big Time Max is raced and trained by Engin Gemci he is a Black dog whelped November 2004 by Big Daddy Cool from Lil Bit Loony (Prince Of Tigers x Loony Louise). Big Time Max has won six of his 14 starts and has been placed on five occasions and with the \$20,000 first prize for the Derby it took his current stake earnings to \$40,030.

Listed below are the past winners of South Australian Derby, when it was first run in 1971 the race was called the South Australian Willows and it remained as such until it was changed to be named the Derby in 1977. The race has produced some great dogs including Adelaide Cup winner Thundering Two, Melbourne Cup winner Speedy Mick, Top Gun dead heater Golden Currency, leading Irish sire Top Honcho, Silver Chief winner Jamella Prince, Shoot-Out victor Great Wish and National Sprint Championship runner – up Lion Hearted.

**1971 North Kinta, 1972 Star Hold 1973 Special Draw, 1974 Redleg's Review, 1975 Call Me Satan, 1976 Bacoran, 1977 Sunny Credo, 1978 White Panther, 1979 Terra Power, 1980 Zanelli, 1981 Turul, 1982 Super Dinggaan 1983 Tempix Flame, 1984 Thundering Two, 1985 Taj Rossi, 1986 Speedy Mick, 1987 Title Blazer, 1988 Speed Row, 1989 Welcome Stranger, 1990 Gold Raider, 1991 Vintage McLaren, 1992 Tara Tivoli, 1993 Golden Currency, 1994 Benchimes, 1995 Top Honcho, 1996 Tribute To Dad, 1997 Awesome McLaren, 1998 Jamella Prince, 1999 Great Wish, 2000 Sam's Assistant, 2001 Come On Lleyton, 2002 Wizard's Chess, 2003 Lion Hearted, 2004 Our Spence and 2005 Manley Street.**

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