



MEDIA RELEASE

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“Ozy Ozy Ozy”

By Craig Evans

Racing fans at Cannington on Saturday night witnessed the emergence of a star chaser as Cape Ozy (\$17.20) raced away with the \$60,000 Schweppes All Stars Final with a faultless display, leading throughout in an impressive 30.50 sec.

The Victorian visitor, having just his second run at Cannington, made light of his awkward box draw outside of the two favourites Kalden Fury (\$1.70) and Corzac (\$3.50) with an explosive turn-of-foot to record 5.78 for the first sectional time and show canny track sense to deny his rivals clear galloping room around the catching pen corner.

“I think he will develop into a top-class dog and will measure up to the best chasers in the country,” an overjoyed trainer Neil Ryan said after the race.

“I was very confident tonight because I know what the dog can do. It is a big effort what he has done as he had a tough trip travelling over last Thursday before his heat win.”

Ryan, who didn't venture West for Cape Ozy's heat win, paid credit to young local trainer John Paikos who looked after the dog for the ten days he was in Perth.

“John has a great future and any owners who are looking for a good trainer should look no further than John Paikos, he has done a great job with Cape Ozy.”

For Balcatta trainer Paikos, the thrill of Saturdays win in the Group 2 All Stars was still sinking in as he enjoyed the more relaxed setting at Northam's cup meeting on Sunday afternoon.

“I t was a big night, Neil is a top bloke and we get on really good. I first met him when he brought over his stayer Fine Lad a couple of years ago and I offered to give him and his dog a lift to Cannington.”

“I had been watching Neil and his dogs race on Sky Channel and I knew Cape Ozy was a nice type and then out of the blue he rang and said he was sending him over to me for the All Stars.”

Trained at Horsham in country Victoria, Cape Ozy had to endure a taxing trip West that included a four hour drive to Melbourne Airport before flying to Perth.

“All up the trip took about ten hours start-to-finish and when I picked him up from the plane I took him to Cannington for a walk around. That was his only look at the track before the Heats but Neil was so confident he could win. I must admit I was a bit surprised how well he went,” Paikos said.

Being an August 2004 whelping, Cape Ozy is eligible for the Group 3 Peters Young Stars at Cannington, the Heats being run Saturday November 11 but Ryan is at this stage considering the Group Melbourne Cup at Sandown in late November.

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"I really think he will mature and benefit enormously from this trip away to Perth and he will be up there with the best in the land," Ryan said, safe in the knowledge that as the All Stars winner his dog gets automatic entry into the Melbourne Cup Heats.

"He ran 30 seconds flat, best-of-the-night at Sandown three weeks ago and a few things were against him that night, he can go much quicker and he'll measure in the Cup, if that is the direction I choose to take."



Cape Ozy with (L-R) trainer Neil Ryan John Paikos Jnr with proud parents Jenny & John Paikos Snr.

Cape Ozy is a Black dog whelped August 2004 by Exceptional from Keshina (Black Shiraz x Cape Drina) he is owned by L & D Wachtel and trained by Neil Ryan. "Ozy" has raced 17 times for five wins and eight placings. His prizemoney earnings took a big boost with the All Stars first prize of \$40,000 taking his over all stake money to \$54,325.

After the placings the field finished in the following order 4th McPrime (\$42.50), 5th Petite Mamselle (\$12.10), 6th Louis Booker (\$28.30) 7th Zuko (\$31.80 fav) and Cupitt's Law (\$11.70).

The All Stars Sprint has always been a major event on the Cannington Calendar every year since first run in 1977. Listed below are the previous winners.

1977 **Pied Issue**, 1978 **Ceamarbil**, 1979 **Chief Vader**, 1980 **White Panther**, 1981 **Fiery Message**, 1982 **Cola Cub**, 1983 **Ginger Eagle**, 1984 **Windfire**, 1985 **Lusty Mick**, 1986 **The Woodsman**, 1987 **Spicy Miss**, 1988 **Dirty Looks**, 1989 **Brindle Tangara**, 1990 **Sandi's Me Mum**, 1991 **Mossdale Magic**, 1992 **Dandy Lassie**, 1993 **Do It Now**, 1994 **Rivendel Bound**, 1995 **Isn't She Lovely**, 1996 **Pezza's Tiger**, 1997 **Betcha Jones**, 1998 **Reggemite**, 1999 **Billy The Duck**, 2000 **Cobram Storm**, 2001 **Ultimate Rebel**, 2002 **Twain**, 2003 **Blocker Stanley**, 2004 **Token Royale** and 2005 **Lord Monelli**.

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