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Career Best

Jonjonjonny winning at Mildura brought up win number 253 for the season, matching our career best effort which was achieved last season.

Jonjonjonny hasn't been the easiest of horses to handle in his short career, but with age he seems to be slowly maturing.

The four year old Statue of Liberty colt settled at the rear of the field. With plenty of ground to make up, Jordy Childs hooked him to the outside and was simply too good for his rivals, going on to score by a length and a half to stable mate Richter's Gift.

Pont Royale winning the 0-58 1900m Handicap at Geelong the following day took us to a new record with a month to go.

Pont Royale is a half brother to 2009 Magic Million Golden Slipper winner Phelan Ready and is a son of Sebring who won the Slipper the previous year.

No doubt his staying prowess is from his dam Nancy Eleanor who won a Morphettville Guineas.

Pont Royale was sold the following day at the Inglis Sale.

Stamping her Ground



Vertical Hold made her presence felt with a dominant win on the first day of the Swan Hill Carnival.

The three year old Authorized filly was having her first start in the Fillies & Mares 1200m Maiden Plate.

After being poleaxed

at the start, Dean Yendall had no other option than to settle at the rear of the field.

At the top of the straight she was the widest runner and by golly did she let go with a "Wooshka!!"

The up and coming filly was purchased from the 2013 Inglis Scone Select Yearling Sale for \$32,000.

She looks to have a bright future ahead, with plenty of fun for her owners which include Jim Conroy, Stephen Everett, Brett Hall, Ron Kelly, Dion Loncar, Elizabeth Wilson, HAB Syndicate, Rone Racing, Wilawl Go Racing and Wysir Racing.

Short Trip brings home a double for Nancy

Nancy Alexander has owned horses all of her life and currently has two horses in work, Topography and Amaverde.

To have her only two horses in work at the same time doesn't occur very often and for them to both win at the same track on the same day, is simply a memory she will always treasure.

It's nothing for Nancy to travel hundreds of kilometres from Kaniva to watch her horses race – even to the other side of Melbourne, but she only had to make the short 80k trip to Edenhope on the long weekend to watch her two stars.

Topography still a Maiden heading into his seventh start was given a patient ride by apprentice Ben Thompson.

Over the 1450m he settled in a midfield position along the rails. He was still stuck in traffic with 400m to go, but when a gap opened around the home turn away he went to win by three and a half lengths.

You could probably say Nancy was super excited after this win but when Amaverde took out the Apsley Cup her excitement went to a whole new level.

In the famous Maroon & yellow colours Jordy Childs delivered a similar ride to Ben.

He was jog trotting with a wall of horses in front of him approaching the home turn and luckily a run opened along the rails.

With Gold Medals stealing a break on the home turn Jordy urged Amaverde on to win by $\frac{3}{4}$ of a length. My guess is Nancy enjoyed her red wine that night.



A Delight to be back in the Winners Circle



Ava's Delight's narrow margin win in the 2040m Handicap at Moonee Valley was almost exactly two years to the day since her last victory.

The five year old Artie Schiller mare has had her fair share of issues as well as having her own lurks and perks when it comes to race day.

In her 31 start career, she developed a bad habit of missing the start, sometimes by a length and other times by 3 or 4 lengths.

Of course this is detrimental when she is always flying home to finish in the placings.

At Moonee Valley she was again a little bit slow away but

nowhere near as bad as we have seen in the past.

Harry Coffey soon made up ground to settle in a midfield position and was the widest runner coming around the home turn.

With a few hard luck stories from other runners, she was able to score by a nose and you've always got to take the wins when you can get them, because you just don't know when the next one is going to be.

Ava's Delight was passed in at the Inglis Sales following her win and will continue to race on for her owners.

Memorable Win

The runaway win of Real Messi in the 1600m Maiden at Ballarat meant something special to Irish born rider Johnny Allen. It was his first flat success at a metropolitan meeting and was another momentous milestone for the stable, clocking up win number 253.

Real Messi racing in blinkers for the first time could never get on the track from his outside barrier. But it didn't matter as he revelled in the heavy going and charged away to win easily by 3 and a half lengths.

This brought up the second winner for the day with Olivier overcoming trouble in the straight to take out the BM84 1000m Handicap. He was also no stranger to the heavy track, having won in the conditions when resuming at Sandown back in April.

Hurdy Gurdy Man to Stud



Hurdy Gurdy Man, owned by Robyn and her late husband Ed, has been retired to stud and will stand at Moorookyle Park, 25 minutes north east of Ballarat.

The Street Cry stallion won the 2013 Group 3 Hobart Cup and was placed 5 other times at Black type level including the Bagot Handicap, Werribee, Ballarat and Warrnambool Cups.

On the country circuit he won the Woodford, Murtoa and Hamilton Cup and was crowned 2014 Country Racehorse of the Year.

As he is standing within close proximity to Ballarat there is no doubt his strapper Rachel Van der Linden will be his number 1 visitor.

Luckily for Robyn her other horses are continuing to keep her busy at the races, with First Bloom running a close 2nd at Moonee Valley and The Tar Man dead heating for 1st at Warrnambool.

Four From Four

Now And Zen made it four from four over the hurdles when he won the Open Hurdle at Morphetville. Since winning his first start over the hurdles at the Warrnambool May Carnival, Zenno, as he is known around the stables, has continued to progress through the grades.

He followed on with a win in the BM 120 Hurdle at Casterton, before winning the Rookie Jumper Final at Bendigo in early June.

At his first three starts he dictated the race from the front, but showed his versatility when he settled well back at Morphetville. No Song No Supper didn't give in without a fight, but Now And Zen's flat ability kicked in to go on and win by a length and a half.

Now And Zen will now face his biggest assignment to date when he tackles the Grand National Hurdle, which will now be held at Warrnambool this year on the 12th of July.

It has just been announced recent retiree Gotta Take Care will be leading the field out, which is a fantastic acknowledgement by the racing industry of his achievements.

JUNE WINNERS

ARCHIBAR ~ TWIN TEA BAGS ~ VERTICAL HOLD ~ LUSKIN BELLE ~ AMAVERDE ~ TOPOGRAPHY
PANTUO ~ WHITEHOUSE AFFAIR ~ LA PASSE ~ RED CORNER ~ NOW AND ZEN ~ STYLISH MISS
KELKEA ~ OLIVIER ~ REAL MESSI ~ IMAGING ~ AVA'S DELIGHT ~ JONJONJONNY ~ PONT ROYALE
ARTISTIC LASS ~ STRONG HAND ~ NOW AND ZEN ~ THE TAR MAN ~ HEZA BARGAIN ~ CONWELL

Farewell Woody

There aren't many horses you'd want to go to war with, but there is no doubt Woody, Gotta Take Care, would be one you'd put on the front line.

The son of Rubiton is as tough as they come, having 79 starts in his career spanning over 9 years, with 19 of those being over the hurdles.

Woody is probably lucky to have made it as far as he did, as after his first win at Mildura in 2009 he was almost out the door, but the master trainer thought he would try him over the jumps to see if this would spark his passion and willingness to win. "When you see him win his Maiden at Mildura, you wouldn't think he'd get to where he has. He was just one of those good tough horses who love work and jumping," said Weir following Woody's retirement.

It proved to be a lucky and rewarding move as he went onto win 9 hurdle races and rejuvenated his flat form to win a further 10 races, becoming the most winningest horse at the stable with 20 wins.

Further to his wins he finished in the placings another 20 times with highlights of his placings being 3rd placings in the Listed Andrew Ramsden and Bart Cummings and a 3rd in the Group 2 Moonee Valley Cup.

Obviously it is jumping that Woody is best known for though and he won his first hurdle race back in 2011. From here his hurdle career flourished with wins in the Kevin Lafferty Hurdle (2012), Yalumba Hurdle (2013), Galleywood Hurdle (2014), Australian Hurdle (2014) and an outstanding feat of 3 Brendan Drechsler Hurdles (2012, 2013, 2014).

He has retired soundly after being pulled out of his one and only hurdle start this season at Bendigo on the weekend.

"Horses like him are very hard to get and he's done more than his job and I'm happy he's retired sound and well and he'll get another life after racing. It's sad to see him go," said Darren.

He will be sadly missed around the stables and no one will miss him more than foreperson Angela who put in endless hours on caring for Woody throughout his career. Woody will now enjoy his retirement with Kirsty McMahon and former steeple chaser Cats Fun in Warrnambool.

79 STARTS:

20-10-10

INCLUDING:

19 JUMPS RACES

9-4-2

JOCKEYS:

JOHNNY ALLEN

19 RIDES

9-4-2

BRAD RAWILLER

17 RIDES

6-2-2

\$1,038,179

