



Ambitious Dragon chalking up Hong Kong Gr.1 win # 5

weekend@waikato

Dubai Clash Possible

The possible **Dubai World Cup** clash between Pins' Hong Kong superstar **Ambitious Dragon** and the Gr.1 globetrotter **So You Think** took a step closer to becoming a reality at Sha Tin last Sunday.

Successfully stepping up to the Gr.1 plate for the 5th time, Hong Kong's reigning 'Horse of the Year', **Ambitious Dragon** made light work of his peers in the **Citibank Hong Kong Cup (2000m)**, winning untested by 1 ¼ lengths.

With his previous start success in the **HK-1 Stewards' Cup (1600m)**, the 5YO's win not only warranted a certain Dubai discussion between owners Anderson and Johnson Lam and trainer Tony Millard, but netted a sweet HK\$2 million bonus as a result of being the victor of the first two legs of the Hong Kong Triple Crown.

"Next week we will look at where we go next; we need to see how the horse pulls up before we decide. He's so versatile that there are different races to consider," said Millard.

Fact

Current 2011/12 WS-bred Stakes Winner tally = 7

Shopaholic Strikes Again



WS filly **Shopaholic** followed up her **Gr. 3 The Vanity Stakes** at Flemington with a dominant win in the **Gr 2 Angus Armanasco Stakes (1400m)** at Caulfield last weekend.

The victory took the 3YO **Pins** filly's record to five wins, a second and two thirds from 10 starts for earnings of \$A283,044.

"She is a very high class filly. You could easily make a case to say she should be unbeaten in Australia. The two times she got beaten in the spring she was desperately unlucky and every time she is going to the races she is going up a notch," said trainer Danny O'Brien after the race.

Shopaholic is the first named foal of the former top-class **O'Reilly** mare **Splashing Out** who was also trained by O'Brien.

Looking ahead, **Shopaholic** will follow directly in the successful footsteps of fellow WS galloper **Do Ra Mi**, with her next intended start being the **Gr.2 Kewney Stakes** at Flemington on March 10. Further down the line, O'Brien has earmarked Brisbane's **Winter Stakes** and **Stradbroke Hcp** as possible Gr.1 targets ahead.







WS Stakes Horses this Weekend

HORSE	RACE NAME	WHERE	Race	Time (NZ)
SATURDAY				
QUINTESSENTIAL 08f Fast N Famous x Florette by Sword Dance	Gr.3 Lowland Stakes (2100m)	Hawke's Bay	7	4:06pm
SAVASONG 08f Savabeel x Songfest by Unbridled Song	Gr.3 Lowland Stakes (2100m)	Hawke's Bay	7	4:06pm
CONSUMMATE 08f Fast N Famous x Ngaio by Nassipour	Gr.3 Lowland Stakes (2100m)	Hawke's Bay	7	4:06pm
SACRED PINS 08g Pins x Hideaway by Centaine	Listed Fireball Quality Hcp (1100m)	ATC	3	4:20pm
JUSTANEXCUSE 06g No Excuse Needed x Aggressive by Val Dansant	Gr.3 Darley Plate (1200m)	ARC	7	4:26pm
ASPINAL 06f Pins x Clemont Rose by Sound Reason	Gr.3 Darley Plate (1200m)	ARC	7	4:26pm
SHARP PRINCESS 05m Pins x She's Snubbed by O'Reilly	Listed Parramatta Cup (2000m)	ATC	4	5:00pm
NINE PIN 08g Pins x Tantara by Soviet Star	Gr.1 New Zealand Derby (2400m)	ARC	9	5:46pm
JEROBOAM 08g O'Reilly x Sexy by Centaine	Gr.1 New Zealand Derby (2400m)	ARC	9	5:46pm
SILENT ACHIEVER 08f O'Reilly x Winning Spree by Zabeel	Gr.1 New Zealand Derby (2400m)	ARC	9	5:46pm
SANGSTER 08g Savabeel x Quinta Special by Spectrum	Gr.1 Australian Guineas (1600m)	VRC	6	6:00pm
STRIKE THE STARS 08g Savabeel x Ambitious by Last Tycoon	Gr.1 Australian Guineas (1600m)	VRC	6	6:00pm
BOMBALATOMBA 08g Fast N Famous x Carnegie Gold by Carnegie	Gr.1 Australian Guineas (1600m)	VRC	6	6:00pm

Weanlings Take Centre Stage

The next generation of weanlings have taken centre stage around the farm of late with the first group of 2011 foals being weaned just last week.

Some of the obvious stand outs from this first group included ...

-  Pins ex Daffodil filly
-  O'Reilly ex Legs filly
-  O'Reilly ex Ungaro filly
-  Zabeel ex Tootsie colt
-  O'Reilly ex Lodore Mystic filly
-  Pins ex Lowland colt



Pins ex Daffodil filly with Sharon Meyer







Pins ex Lasting Luck filly



O'Reilly ex Legs filly with Richard Stewart

Notes this Week

-  Gr.3 Cuddle Stakes Considered for O'Fille ([click here for more](#))
-  Dragon sets up possible Dubai clash with So You Think ([click here for more](#))
-  Dragon emphatic in HK-1 Citibank Hong Kong Gold Cup ([click here for more](#))
-  Fast N Famous Proving Just the Ticket for Adrian Clark ([click here for more](#))

WS Trivia

***The Gr.1 Australian Guineas has been a very important race for Waikato Stud.
Can you name two reasons for this?***

To answer, just reply to this email and the best response will receive a WS cap in the mail.

Mark's Mail



Pins has been on fire of late and had another good winner last night with **Heels** in Australia for trainer Gary Portelli. She's out of **Ungaro**, whose 7 from 7 winners-to-runners include stakes winners **Somepin Anypin, Salsa** and **Evergreen**

Was great actually being in Australia last weekend to experience **Shopaholic's** win. She'd improved lengths on her **Vanity** win, so I can't wait for the **Kewney** in just over a week's time.

Well done to owners Johnson and Anderson Lam and trainer Tony Millard with fellow **Pins** galloper **Ambitious Dragon**. He's something else that horse.

Looking ahead, all the best to Kevin Hickman with the **O'Reilly** filly **Silent Achiever** in the NZ Derby.

We'd be only too thrilled to see a trifecta involving her, **Jeroboam** and **Nine Pin**.

Good luck also to the connections of **Strike The Stars, Sangster** and **Bombalatomba** in the **Gr.1 Australian Guineas (1600m)** – it's been a great race for Waikato Stud but I won't go into that.

Closer to home, our fingers are crossed for Adrian Clark and the Nearco Stud team. Adrian purchased two **Fast N Famous** fillies on Nearco's behalf at the 2010 Select Sale and on Saturday both of them line up in the **Gr.3 Lowland Stakes (2100m)**.

I've heard straight from the trainer's mouth that **Quintessential** will hard to beat if it's not too wet, so one of these two fillies rates as my tip of the week...

Tip of the Week: Quintessential - Race 7 - Gr.3 Lowland Stakes (2100m), Hawke's Bay – 4:06pm (NZ)

M.

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