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TAB Everest 2023

Son of Savabeel, I Wish I Win flying the Kiwi flag



New Zealand will have a major presence in one of the world's richest and best-known races, The Everest, after Trackside Media secured a slot in this year's race.

Supercharged by its recent strategic partnering agreement with Entain, Trackside Media has been able to secure use of the Inglis slot in this year's race, which will be staged on Saturday, October 14 at Royal Randwick in Sydney.

Racing NSW, which masterminded The Everest concept that has captured the hearts and minds of racing fans globally, recently announced an increase of stakes on the race to A\$20M, making it the world's richest sprint race.

The Everest will be the focal point of a A\$30M+ race day on October 14, which will also feature the inaugural running of the A\$5M King Charles III Stakes over 1600M.

In an enormous coup for New Zealand, the Waikato Stud son of Savabeel and leading Everest Contender, I Wish I Win, has agreed to terms to race in the Trackside slot.

I Wish I Win, was bred in New Zealand by Waikato Stud, is majority owned by New Zealand connections, won on debut at Awapuni in March 2021 and had a total of 9 starts in New Zealand before making his way to the Peter Moody stable in Australia. He is currently a \$4.50 second favourite for The Everest and had been subject to strong interest from a range of slot holders.

“We had been involved in discussions with a number of the slot holders, but when we found out that a Kiwi company had secured a slot in this year’s race it became a very easy decision,” Waikato Stud principal Mark Chittick said.

“I Wish I Win has been a dream horse for us. He has quickly gone through the grades and to think he has now secured a spot to race for A\$20M is a pinch yourself moment.

“We really hope by partnering with Trackside, we can bring New Zealand on this journey with us. It is also an opportunity to celebrate the NZ breeding industry which time and again shows it punches above its weight.

“Obviously we just want to get the horse to the race in the best possible shape and then enjoy being a part of such a magnificent event in our great sport.”

The job of getting I Wish I Win to the starting gates will be that of champion Australian trainer Peter Moody.

“It is the first time I’ve had a horse good enough to have a crack at The Everest and I’m delighted to have secured a slot this far out,” Moody said.

“It will allow us to really tailor his preparation down to the minute.

“I’m also thrilled to be going on this ride with my good mates at Waikato Stud. We have enjoyed a long association and this horse is very special to all of us.”

Since bursting on to the Australian racing scene last year, I Wish I Win has won 6 of 16 starts, including the Group 1 ATC TJ Smith Stakes and the ATC Golden Eagle, amassing more than \$7.7M in prizemoney.

Entain New Zealand's Managing Director, Cameron Rodger, said securing a slot in The Everest on behalf of Trackside was a significant moment and was an opportunity to celebrate the New Zealand thoroughbred racing and breeding industries.

"We have obviously watched the growth of The Everest in Australia for a number of years, however wagering performance and engagement on the race in New Zealand has remained under-indexed" Rodger said.

"In what we hope will be the first year of many being involved in The Everest, we look forward to working closely with Racing NSW to get all Kiwis engaged in The Everest to cheer on one of our very own in I Wish I Win."

"To have the chance to not only be part of it, but to go across with a New Zealand bred superstar in I Wish I Win and with a legitimate chance to win is an absolute thrill for all the team at Entain.

"New Zealand has a very proud racing heritage, but for a number of years the industry and has been underfunded and losing ground. As we have seen with the recent increases in stakes money, as a result of the new strategic agreement with Entain, we are ready to kick back in a big way."



Here at Waikato Stud we are incredibly proud to be a part of this opportunity with such a special horse, thanks to Entain & Trackside NZ.

See you at Randwick! 99 days to go.

[Click here to watch the hype video!](#)

We've got a mountain to climb and we will have a dam good crack at it.



This is a supplementary Corner, and why not? The Waikato Stud horse I Wish I Win is confirmed as a runner in the \$20m The Everest. Mark has had an interesting time with more than one slot holder seeking to partner with the horse, and why not? There are twelve starting spots in the race, some controlled by those who race their own prospects, others who scan the available sprinters, of which Australia has plenty.

With Entain's new and exciting involvement in our future, it seems a good fit for all. They are not the owners of a slot but were clearly excited about the prospect of being part of NSW's iconic day. To wrap it up with an NZ-owned and -bred starter has to be exciting news for NZ racing and breeding.

I Wish I Win's win in the TJ Smith over 1200 metres had to be seen to appreciate his talent. His Longines (international) Ranking as the highest-ranked sprinter in the world may or may not be flattering, but we do know it's independent. Winning would be amazing, participating is, from our point of view, a result of years of input.

I said after our amazing TJ Smith-ATC Derby double that there are many mysteries in the genetic makeup of our athletes. We have been breeding from the descendants of the Sir Tristram mare I purchased over 30 years ago; Star of the Night had won the Queensland Guineas and with Centaine hitting his straps I believed we needed to upgrade our mares. It was not a good start, \$250k is a lot of money now, but was a great deal more then. The foal presented as a dog sitter and had to be surgically removed. This led to a year off before we got back on track with numerous stakes winners bred from descendants since, most over middle distance. I Wish I Win's full brother was a gem making \$1.4m as a yearling. The birth of his full brother was anxiously awaited and we all know he was far from perfect - yet now, defying pedigree and conformation, he is a runner for a share of \$20m.

I Wish I Win as a foal...



Major Beel is from a family Mark recently purchased, medium-sized but attractive. The family has produced stakes winners but nothing beyond 1200 metres. If you had been looking for a potential sprinter, it may have been him. But, both are by Savabeel - what a remarkable achievement in another great year for our favourite son.

The Everest is to be run on the day of our General Election. I know where we will be, and whom we will be cheering for.

Good luck
Garry

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