



MEDIA RELEASE

19th May 2006

“Sargent scores Major win”

Sargent Major salutes in staying classic

Lauren Gorman’s rising staying star Sargent Major secured his first group race success with a stirring all-the-way win in the \$73,000 G1 Radio Sport 927 Sandown Cup at Sandown Park last night.

Sargent Major (\$3.70), who started favourite for the eleventh consecutive time following the shock scratching of injured National Champion Texas Gold, won an early speed battle to hold out the well supported Turbo Uno (\$10.80) and soon established a solid lead over his rivals.

On entering the back straight, the pair opened an eight length lead over the chasing pack ensuring the front running duo were left to battle out an epic conclusion to Australia’s richest staying event.

Sargent Major appeared to have finally broken Turbo Uno approaching the final turn, however his younger rival refused to give in, switching back to the rails and closing within a length upon straightening for home.

However Sargent Major was to prove too strong in the finish, holding on to deny Turbo Uno and young trainer Chris King success in his first Group race final.



The “Sarge” holds on to win Cup (All Pics Paul Munt)

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

Veteran Springvale Jinx (\$11.20) flashed home for third a further 2.25 lengths adrift. In what may have been her swansong appearance, Springvale Jinx has now contested 16 Group finals without success. The tiny Len Ketelaar trained stayer finished second in the 2004 Radio Sport 927 Sandown Cup, and was a reserve for the 2005 event.

Time for the final was 42.50 with sections of 6.33, 16.06 and 30.97 all accredited to the winner.

After the shock of losing kennel star Texas Gold to injury, the night got worse for Darren McDonald with his second runner Valley Girl (\$5.30) falling after encountering early trouble.

But the night belonged to Sargent Major and trainer Lauren Gorman. "It was a very solid performance, I was worried when Turbo Uno really came at him in the straight but he did a great job he is hard to beat if he can dictate terms out in front which is what he did tonight."

"We'll set him for the Albion Park Gold Cup in Brisbane next, the heats are on in a couple of weeks and I hope he can continue with his good form" Gorman said.

It was a night of tremendous excitement for owner Charlie Magrin. "It a great thrill to win a group one race we flew in this afternoon from Sydney and gave him an excellent chance. Lauren has done a mighty job with the dog he has raced very well down here in Victoria and particularly here at Sandown Park." Magrin said.

Magrin told me he as been going to the greyhounds since the late 60's and recalled watching the immortal Zoom Top race at Harold Park and Wentworth Park. He has enjoyed a wonderful relationship with Lauren Gorman and Lauren's father Peter Giles.

"They have trained a number of my dogs starting way back with Nowhere To Go who won the Gleeson and Tonta final (1997). Peter also trained Crystal Light when she won the Group One Futurity (1999) in Sydney and he also had Foreign Legion who won a Horsham Cup (2005) for us." Magrin said.

Sargent Major has proved an astute purchase for Magrin after he paid \$15,000 for him late last year with his major success occurring after being transferred to Gorman's kennel at Moe in February.

The win was particularly enjoyable for Radio Sport 927 Prime Time Sports team Michael Christian and Anthony Mithen after the pair shared a winning quadrella ticket, the quaddie paying in excess of \$15,000.

After the placings the field finished in the following order 4th Spalding (\$4.40), 5th Elektra (\$11.30), 6th Bentley Jane (\$6.30) 7th Odnoc Alorac (\$15.90) and Valley Girl (\$5.30) who fell.

Sargent Major is a White & Red Brindle dog whelped October 2003 by Stately Bird from Triumphant Tears (Bobniak x Terror Tears) he has raced 31 times for 15 wins and eight placings, adding the Cup's first prize of \$50,000 to his over all stake earnings took that amount to \$94,655.

Earlier in the night, under rated sprinter Amarillo (\$15.10) claimed an upset victory in the \$15,000 Dave Hodgson Memorial after proving too strong for \$2.30 favourite Vapour Whirl.

After the placings the field finished in the following order 4th Spalding (\$4.40), 5th Elektra (\$11.30), 6th Bentley Jane (\$6.30) 7th Odnoc Alorac (\$15.90) and Valley Girl (\$5.30) who fell.

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION



Listed below is the honour roll for the Sandown Cup the race has been won by many of the champion stayers of the past including AGRA Hall Of Famers Lizrene and Bold Trease.

1957 Orialta, **1959** Woodford Chief, **1961** Plunkett's Present, **1963** Briar View, **1964** Haleka Jewel, **1965** Venetian Court **1966** Fawn Scout **1967** Charlie Lee **1968** Sprite of Egypt **1969** Local Blend, **1970** Paul's Thunder, **1971** Paul's Thunder, **1972** Lizrene, **1973** Lizrene, **1974** Corcoran **1975** Tammy Shanta, **1976** Brindle Norma, **1977** Rani's Copy, **1978** Kawati Boy, **1979** Miss Tema, **1980** Wynlee Wonder, **1981** Bianca Lee, **1982** Status Supreme, **1983** Lead Role, **1984** Raurimu, **1985** Tashla, **1986** Bold Trease, **1987** Bold Trease, **1988** Bold Trease, **1989** Bold Trease, **1990** Western Creole, **1991** Pixie Eyes, **1992** Village Stomper, **1993** Eliza Dylan, **1994** Top Sovereign, **1995** Keon Star, **1996** Boronia Blossom, **1997** Tonight's Wish, **1998** Red Mystique, **1999** Smart Attitude, **2000** Osti's Joker, **2001** Bentley Babe, **2002** Jennev, **2003** Arvo's Junior, **2004** Proven Lethal, **2005** Best Quoted.

Thanks for information supplied by Michael Floyd Sandown Administration.



For more information please contact:

Neil Brown
AGRA Publicity Officer
Tel: 03 97691234
Mob: 0423 129 950

Donna Summers
AGRA Executive Officer
Tel: 02 96465711
Mob: 0414 524 907