



NEW SOUTH WALES HARNESS RACING CLUB LTD.

MEDIA RELEASE

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WATPAC
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ID10 Contenders go Coast to Coast

THE WATPAC INTER DOMINION CANDIDATES SPREAD THEIR INFLUENCE AUSTRALIAN-WIDE THIS WEEK, ENSURING RACING ON BOTH COASTS WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE MARKETS FOR THE GREAT SERIES.

With just four weeks until the series kicks off at Harold Park in Sydney, key contenders will star in feature races in Perth and Victoria this weekend.

The richest lead-up race of the weekend is the \$400,000 West Australian Cup at Gloucester Park in Perth and a confirmed Interdom contender in Washakie deserves to be the favourite.

He makes the trip back to his former home state in the care of John McCarthy, the father of trainer Luke McCarthy, with John to take the reins tonight.

Washakie has been in outstanding form this summer, being luckless on Miracle Mile day at Menangle in November before his career-best performance to down Karloo Mick in the Treuer Memorial at Bankstown a week later.

"He has never gone better for us and we are really looking forward to the next two months with him," said Luke McCarthy.

"We were a bit unlucky in the Interdom final last year and I think the series will really suit him this time."

Washakie has a handy draw tonight but does meet much-hyped four-year-old Bonavista Bay, who bounced back to his best form with a strong win in the four-year-old championship in Perth last Friday.

Tomorrow night the focus changes to Shepparton in Victoria for their \$50,000 Cup, a race won last season by Mr Feelgood on his way to Inter Dominion glory.

New South Wales country hero Karloo Mick faces a 20m backmark in the feature but has shown countless times his ability to work during a race and still fight out.

His shares the 20m backmark with last season's Interdom heat winner I Am Sam and the pair will have to give starts to some high-class opponents, including Power Of Tara, Tanabi Bromac and Ohoka Nevada.

Whoever wins tomorrow night is guaranteed a start in the Hunter Cup at Moonee Valley on February 6, the last major lead-up to the Inter Dominion.

Meanwhile, in New Zealand, Awesome Armbro confirmed his place at the Interdom table with a sharp win at Alexandra Park on Thursday night.

Last season's Inter Dominion consolation winner held out his exciting stablemate Tintin In America at the end of a \$15,000 mobile event over 2200m.

In doing so Awesome Armbro convinced trainer Geoff Small to put him on a plane for Victoria this week to contest the Ballarat Cup.

"He loves the mobiles and the Ballarat Cup fits in nicely to his Inter Dominion build-up."

His stablemate Changeover will have his final lead-up to the Inter Dominion at Alexandra Park on March 5 while another confirmed New Zealand Interdom rep, Pembroke Benny, is heading into the Hunter Cup without another start.

And the chances of former New Zealand Cup runner-up Baileys Dream returning to Sydney for the series increased with a brave return to the track last Saturday.

The injury-plagued pacer finished second to great mare Kiwi Ingenuity in a trial at Rangiora, pleasing trainer Brendon Hill, who says the Inters are still on for Baileys Dream.

If he makes the trip he will accompany Hill's Miracle Mile winner Monkey King, the early favourite for the series.



Harold Park Friday 19th February
Newcastle Saturday 27th February
Tabcorp Park Sunday 7th March
Menangle



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