



NEW SOUTH WALES HARNESS RACING CLUB LTD.

MEDIA RELEASE

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THURSDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2010

CHANGEOVER HOODOO TO BE BROKEN IN WATPAC INTER DOMINION

TRAINER GEOFF SMALL IS QUIETLY CONFIDENT CHANGEOVER CAN BREAK HIS HAROLD PARK HOODOO WHEN THE WATPAC INTER DOMINION KICKS OFF TOMORROW NIGHT.

Small prepares the second favourite for the series, who will contest the opening heat from barrier six.

After a string of impressive performances in New Zealand in the last six weeks, Small is adamant he has the \$2.2million stallion back to something like his best form.

But he also knows the last time he took him to Harold Park, for the SEW Eurodrive Miracle Mile 14 months ago, Changeover produced a career worst performance.

"I have had a few of my horses do that over the years," admits Small.

"Even Elsu went a shocker in the Miracle Mile here.

"But I have been working on getting this horse comfortable on the smaller tracks and I think he will be all right."

"I have pulled Changeover's hobbles up a couple of notches and hopefully that will help him handle the track better," said Small.

"I worked him that way today (Wednesday) and he was pretty good on a tight track."

Changeover has returned to something just below his best in the last two months after looking a spent force pre-Christmas.

"He feels good and looks good so we have our chance in the series.

"He has a wide draw and I think David (Butcher) will drive him how he feels early."

Small also trains the enigmatic Our Awesome Ambro, who has a good barrier draw in heat two and will wear hobbles shorteners in an effort to keep him handy in a race which suits his stamina limitations.

"He is working well but how he might handle that first bend at Harold Park at full speed is another matter.

"It looks a race where Blacks A Fake will want to lead or trail and if that happens you will need to be close to the speed to get decent points."

While Small is going into the series with a degree of confidence, fellow Kiwi trainer David Butt couldn't be happier with Bondy, who is set to start favourite in the last heat on Friday.

Bondy is unbeaten in Australia and was brilliant winning the Big6 Hunter Cup last start.

While he is known for his standing start manners, Butt says the veteran pacer has the mobile gate speed to lead and take luck out of the equation on Friday.

"He is holding his form well and he can really run the gate so he will get his chance this week.

"At this stage I couldn't be happier."

The four heats of the Watpac Interdominion will run consecutively from race four at 8pm on Friday night.



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



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