



NEW SOUTH WALES HARNESS RACING CLUB LTD.

MEDIA RELEASE

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SMOKEN DOWN

SMOKEN UP IS DOWN BUT NOT OUT.

That's the word from trainer-driver Lance Justice, who was disappointed with a horror barrier draw (gate 10) for Sunday's \$1 million Watpac ID10 Grand Final at Menangle.

But the always competitive Justice still believes Smoken Up can still be a major factor in the 2300m Barastoc Grand Circuit event.

That's despite TAB Sportsbet pushing the one-time favourite out to \$23.

"Sure I'd love to drawn much better, but it wouldn't be the first time a horse has overcome a bad draw to win an Inter final," Justice said.

When the Inter Dominion was last held in Sydney, Bathurst hero Smooth Satin came from outside the back row around Harold Park to win.

"You have to stay positive and I'm doing that," he said. "It's hard to see where I'm going to get if I push forward at the start, so I might have to go back and assess things from there.

"I certainly wouldn't be afraid to drive him tough. He loves it and I'll make a move on him if the leaders want to slow up.

"I'm hoping that won't be the case. There's enough good horses, strong horses in the race to think the pressure should be on from start to finish. They are racing for \$1 million."

Justice using every available option to aid Smoken Up's cause.

He confirmed Smoken Up would race for the first time in an American-designed "super sully."

That means half the 10-horse field will be using them. The others are: stablemates Monkey King and Baileys Dream; Washakie and Mr Feelgood.

"Smoken Up's owners ordered one of the them from the States a while back, but it's been delayed so we had to go elsewhere," Justice said.

"Darrel Graham has two of them and he's been kind enough to let me borrow his yellow one for the final.

"It's been down in Melbourne and Kerryn Manning brought it up to Sydney for me yesterday (Monday).

"I'm going to fast-work Smoken Up in it to get a feel for it on Thursday morning at the Breakfast with the Stars."



Tabcorp Park Menangle Sunday 7th March



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