



NEW SOUTH WALES HARNESS RACING CLUB LTD.

MEDIA RELEASE

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THURSDAY 4TH MARCH 2010



ALL-THE-WAY WASHAKI

JOHN MCCARTHY WILL TRY FOR AN ALL-THE-WAY WIN ON POLEMARKER WASHAKIE IN SUNDAY'S \$1 MILLION WATPAC ID10 FINAL (2300M) AT MENANGLE.

McCarthy today dismissed all the speculation he would be better suited leading early then taking a sit on three-time Inter Dominion winner Blacks A Fake.

"I disagree," he boomed. "I've raced Blacks A Fake too many times with Be Good Johnny and Washakie now to know you can't afford to give him any advantage.

"Sure it might sound good to sit on him and try and outsprint him, but if Blacks A Fake leads I can't see how any horse will beat him.

"It's selling my horse short. Washakie has really responded to being driven tough in his races, I'm not about to change what's been working so well.

"It's rare you get great draws like this in a big race. I'm going to use it.

"The owners are like me. They want me to hold the lead and if he can't win doing that then so be it."

Washakie opened \$31 for the final with TAB Sportsbet two months ago, but has continued to firm. He's now into \$4 third favourite from the pole.

Some form students say Washakie is not a certain leader from the pole, but McCarthy will be stunned if any rival heads him off in the dash to the first turn.

"They start the race well into the straight so the horses will be at speed, it makes it hard for anything out wide to accelerate quickly enough," he said.

"Have a look at the replay of last year's Inter final (Gold Coast). Washakie got at least a half-length, maybe even three-quarters, in front of Blacks A Fake, but the first turn came up in just enough time for 'Blacky' to drive through and hold the front.

"That means Blacks A Fake won't be able to cross him and we've held out Atomic Ark in races back home, too."

McCarthy said Washakie could head straight to Auckland if he pleases connections on Sunday.

"The Auckland Cup is worth big money on Friday week," he said. "I know it's a quick turnaround, but it'll be the same for most of the Kiwis in the Inter final.

"It's the end of the campaign for him, he's going for a spell soon so I reckon it's worth giving Auckland a go.

"The bonus with Washakie is that he started his career racing at Alexandra Park and he's won a heap of races there."



Tabcorp Park Menangle Sunday 7th March



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