



THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS WA

Ascot Stage

SUITS PATRONIZE

Patronize sired his fifth Ascot winner in less than a month when Lancelin mare Skinnen Tins landed the Vale John McNair Hcp (1400m) in April.

She arrived right on the line for part-owner and trainer Ash Maley who admitted he had been bullish about the mare despite a \$21 pre-post quote. "She ran a mighty race here first-up over 1600m last month," he recalled. "I could see she was winning at the 300m and roared myself hoarse."

Skinnen Tins (4m Patronize – Flaming Magic by Brief Truce) won a 3yo winter maiden over a mile at Kalgoorlie in June last year and signed off with wins at Northam and York earlier this

season. She's from a half-sister to G2 Perth Cup winner Real Love and G3 Asian Beau Stakes winners Suspicion and Heart Starter.

"This could be her prep," Maley declared. "And she's going to be better over more ground."

Patronize (Redoute's Choice) maintains a top-class 66% winning strike-rate at Darling View Thoroughbreds. He's a three-quarter brother to Exceed And Excel and stands alongside G2 Karrakatta Plate winner Lucky Street in Mundijong.

Skinnen Tins joins Sunsilkin, San Toy Rapido, Fearhildi & Little Fish on the Ascot stage while Bedouin Belle and

Cristal Dane completed a same-day double for their sire at Bunbury in March.

Patronize has a very promising sprinter named Nimble in Singapore.

Nimble is unbeaten in four starts and his latest victory in a Kranji Stakes (1200m) was accomplished against the odds. He was asked to shoulder 59.5kgs and jump from the outside barrier of the 14-horse field.

Trainer Leticia Dragon and jockey John Powell doubted whether he could pull it off again in the red-hot turf contest. But no-one told Nimble.

Half the battle was won shortly after dispatch when Powell nestled Nimble into the running line just worse than midfield. Seeing daylight at the 400m, he exploded down the outside to quickly cover the leaders Flak Jacket and My Dreamliner.

"It was by far his toughest test, but what a great ride from J.P. I'm over the moon!" Dragon said. "It's not easy to get four wins in a row nowadays and he sure proved he was a very good horse today."

Nimble won on debut as 'The Shoe' at Pinjarra before transferring to Singapore where he has earned AUD 164,500 for MMW Stable. His dam Grand Oscar (Grandera) won at Ascot and her older half-brother Cation won a LR Crawford Stakes at Belmont. ■





Winning Play

BY WEBSTER

Veteran trainer Colin Webster reckons he's got the key to the Playing Gods and it worked with Divine Quest at Ascot last month.

Divine Quest (Playing God) was last of a dozen well into the straight before jockey Jordan Turner let her loose with a shake of the reins and a couple of clips with the stick. She won racing away by a couple of lengths from Magic Empire (Proart) and Kendel's Mee Dad (Kendel Star).

"The further back they're ridden, the better they go," Webster replied when queried about the best way to handle Playing God's progeny. "This filly was ridden too close last start but it wasn't anyone's fault – they just went too slow in the lead."

Liberty Magic ensured a quick tempo in the Amelia Park Lodge Maiden (1400m) and that suited Divine Quest who was turning out for the third time this prep. "She's had a few mishaps along the way and it hasn't always been smooth sailing," Webster revealed. We were going to spell her after today but we might have to have a rethink after that win."

Playing God (Blackfriars) heads the WA second-season table with 12 individual winners from his base at Mungrup Stud.

"She's got ability and I was confident going on her work this week," Turner said while returning to scale. "I rode conservatively and saved her for one last run because she's got such a good kick."

Divine Quest races in the same interests as her older half-brother Properantes who won has won 9 races up to Group 3 level in the R J Peters Stakes. A 7yo gelding by Danehill Express, he's still in harness

and was runner-up in the LR Old Comrade Stakes at Ascot last month for Webster and part-owners Pete Dinnison, Paz Princi & Anthony Torre.

Their dam Scala's Quest (Marooned) is a remarkable producer. She has only missed foaling once in the last 12 years – her latest are a yearling colt by Vert De Grece and a weanling filly by I'm All The Talk. ■

