

Thin Line Between *Victory* and Virus

Black Felix won the LR Placid Ark Stakes in 2010 and a decade later his full-brother Last Of The Line has shown black-type potential in a stunning debut at Ascot.

Last Of The Line powered home to win eased down in the Westspeed Platinum Maiden (1400m) last month. The Stephen Miller-trained 3yo put panels on Outlaw King (War Chant) and his stablemate Miss Margaux (Playing God) who went out a \$1.80 favourite.

Miller recalls Black Felix required beach work to alleviate ongoing issues.

"We had to be patient with him and I guess we may have to be patient with Last Of The Line even though he pulled up perfect after that win," Miller said.

"It's day-to-day with the coronavirus lockdown but I would like to get another run into him this prep."

If racing does go ahead into the winter season, obvious targets would be the LR Raconteur Stakes (1500m) and LR Belmont Guineas (1600m) in June.

Managing part-owner Lindsay Rogers bred both gallopers by using Scenic Lodge champion Blackfriars over Catch The Cat (Royal Abjar) who is a direct descendant of G3 Sir Ernest Lee Steere Classic winner Edge Of Darkness.

Blackfriars is going further ahead of his rivals at the top of the WA sires' premiership for 2019-20. Last Of The Line was his 11th individual winner in March and his current-season stats stand at 69 winners for prizemoney of \$4.80 million.



PHOTO: BLACKFRIARS

War Chant Starts Second Century

War Chant (USA) sired his 100th individual winner in Australia last month and then started a second century with three new winners at Albany and Kalgoorlie.

The Yarradale Stud champion opened the Great Southern meeting on March 27 with longshot Throttle in the TABtouch Maiden (1500m) and he made it a running double with odds-on favourite Sea War in the Wellington & Reeves Maiden (1100m).

His Goldfields filly Blooms was a front-running winners of the Kalgoorlie Refrigeration Maiden (1100m) a day later at her first outing for local trainer Trevor Tasker. Her dam Heptonstall (Octagonal) won a G3 Winter Stakes in Queensland and her final foal was another War Chant filly purchased by Impressive Racing at last month's Perth Magic Millions Yearling Sale.

War Chant has now sired 103 individual winners in Australia and among them are 20 stakes performers.

Dawson Stud homebred Chanzig opened his local account in the Crown 2yo Plate at Ascot in November 2014. Forgotten Jewel notched No.100 in Australia at Ascot on February 15. He was winning on debut for Balmoral Park owner Neil Irvine and trainer Lindsey Smith.

Worldwide, War Chant (Danzig) has sired 528 individual winners with his USA-based stock accounting for 266. After initially shuttling from Kentucky for three years, he was purchased outright to stand permanently out here by Yarradale owner Ron Sayers in 2014.

Yarradale manager Bernie Hamill has overseen all nine of his southern books and the numbers are now limited to an average of 45 mares. She's currently halter-breaking and microchipping the current crop of foals and among them are War Chant's full-sister to Dainty Tess and half-brother to Mizlecki.



PHOTO: THROTTLE

Elusive International Mission For Millard

Tony Millard's All American expat Elusive State has been denied a second opportunity at international level in as many months after the Dubai World Cup meeting was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Elusive State had already arrived from Hong Kong and was in quarantine for the G2 Godolphin Mile at Meydan that was originally scheduled for March 28.

"We're absolutely gutted after all the hard work and dedication to get the horse here," Millard's daughter Dominique said.

"His preparation had gone so well and we were looking forward to his first overseas foray.

"But obviously the health and safety of the population is the first priority."

Elusive State was last seen running a half-length second to Glorious Artist (Ire) in the Chek Keng Hcp (1650m) at Sha Tin on December 29. Millard and owner Eden Wong were hoping he would qualify for the Saudi Cup meeting in February but the HKJC didn't program enough suitable all-weather races to help bump up his rating for Riyadh.

Elusive State (6g All American – Jarada by Redoute's Choice) has won 8 times in 34 starts for earnings of HK 7.69 million (AUD 1.70 million). He's a half-brother to Fasika (So You Think) who won the G3 Wenona Girl Hcp at Randwick on March 7.

All American sired three individual juvenile winners from his first crop at Geisel Park before Christmas and then added trial winners All Metal (Lark Hill) and Lincoln's Law (Bunbury) in January.



PHOTO: ELUSIVE STATE & TONY MILLARD

Universal Ruler

Leads Stallion Covers in WA

Universal Ruler topped the Western Australian serving season for the second season in a row at Scenic Lodge in 2019.

Australian Stud Book figures show he covered 117 mares at a \$6,600 fee in 2019. He had served 93 mares in 2018 at \$4,950.

Universal Ruler (Scenic) has built his popularity with local breeders off books as low as 28 (2012) and 29 (2013). His current stats stand at 8 stakes winners among 89 individual winners for earnings over \$10.83 million.

His former Perth filly Bam's On Fire is due to break through in black-type company for trainers Ciaron Maher & David Eustace in Melbourne. In her latest campaign, she has been runner-up in the G3 Mannerism Stakes at Caulfield, G3 Matron Stakes at Flemington and G2 Sunline Stakes at Moonee Valley.

Darren McAuliffe, who prepared Universal Ruler to a LR Perth Stakes victory over Australian Horse of the Year Scenic

Blast, has trained his stakes winners The Velvet King (G3 Northerly Stakes), Rebel King (LR Bolton Sprint), Abdicator (LR Rangeview Stud Classic) & Military Reign (LR Beaufine Stakes).

He unveiled another galloper with black-type potential at Ascot when No Surrender finished fourth on debut in the latest edition of the LR Perth Stakes.

WA stallions in 2019

- 117 Universal Ruler (Scenic Lodge)
- 88 Playing God (Mungrup Stud)
- 68 Sessions (Oakland Park)
- 65 Maschino (Alwyn Park)
- 65 Snippetson (Scenic Lodge)
- 64 Ducimus (Rivercrest Park)

Coolmore Stud sire Rubick topped the Australia-wide matings with a book of 262.



PHOTO: BAM'S ON FIRE



Mogumber Park farewells *Natural Blitz*

Mogumber Park reported its resident sire Natural Blitz died a day before his born-again gelding King Blitz won at Ascot last month.

King Blitz is a homebred for Geraldton owner-trainer Barry Newnham and was winning for the first time since a hat-trick during the 2018 winter season at Belmont. An injury-enforced spell stretched to 18 months before his return to racing in February.

"It was so fitting for King Blitz to win as we've just lost Natural Blitz on what was a very sad day for all of us," Mogumber owner Colin Brown said.

"I am sure 'Blitz' was barracking hard from his big paddock in the sky."

Natural Blitz (Dehere) was rising 21 and stood alongside Safeguard (Exceed And Excel) and Rommel (Commands) in Bullsbrook. He was a Group 2 winner at Caulfield, Moonee Valley, Rosehill and Eagle Farm for Victorian trainer Doug Harrison. It took an all-time champion like Northerly to deny him a Group 1 in the 2003 Australian Cup at Flemington.

Initially retiring to Rangeview Stud in 2007, he made subsequent moves to Cromarty Park and Touchstone Farm before settling at Mogumber Park in 2012.

His first winner Classic Blitz saluted at Ascot in December 2010 for owner-trainer Mike Santich and there were numerous city winners including Destroy (LR Bunbury Cup), Ningaloo Blitz (Albany Cup) & Bollywood Blitz (Coolgardie Cup).



PHOTO: KING BLITZ

Free Trade Books Ticket to *Railway Stakes*

Trainer Michael Lane will give Free Trade a chance to make the grade in Group 1 company following a running double in WA's premier provincial sprints this campaign.

Free Trade won the LR Pinjarra Classic (1300m) by three lengths and he was just as impressive in the LR Bunbury Stakes (1400m) when stable jockey Chris Parnham settled him outside the leader Flower Of War (War Chant) before cutting the ribbons rounding the home turn.

It improved his record to 8 wins in 15 starts while clocking 1:22.69s to get within 0.08s of the race record held by Black Heart Bart.

"We will put him away now and get him ready for the (G1) Railway Stakes," Lane said at Bunbury.

"He's an amazing animal but the pressure was on today as a \$1.65 favourite.

"I didn't gallop him after Pinjarra and all credit to the horse. He's a natural but didn't start racing until he was a 4yo so he's still a bit raw."

Lane won the 2009 Bunbury Stakes with Keytomoney (Key Business) who led them up in that year's Railway only to get a stitch when Sydney raider Sniper's Bullet let loose in the straight.

Free Trade is the 14th stakes winner by Trade Fair (GB) who died Alwyn Park in March 2018. He was bred by the late Harry Capararo and is raced by his son Peter under Canal Enterprises.

His dam Lady Xena (Dr Johnson) descends from a celebrated English family that includes Royal Ascot Group 1 winners Matatina (King George & Queen Elizabeth Stakes) and her half-brother Showdown (Queen Anne Stakes) who later reigned as Australia's champion sire at Stockwell Stud in Victoria.

Heytesbury Stud owner Robert Holmes a Court imported Matatina's daughter Kallissima (Tudor Melody) to Western Australia and among her foals was successful Mungrup Stud sire Steel Glow (Pago Pago).



PHOTO: FREE TRADE