

Singo aims his top mare at Cox Plate



Extended break: More Joyous at Rosehill yesterday
Picture: Mark Evans



Ray Thomas

OWNER John Singleton is so confident super mare More Joyous can return to her brilliant best, he is already planning her Cox Plate campaign later this year.

More Joyous, a rising six-year-old, struggled to find top form during an aborted spring carnival campaign but Singleton said the mare has thrived during an extended break.

More Joyous, winner of 15 races including five at Group 1

level and more than \$2.3 million prizemoney, enjoyed her longest spell since her two-year-old season and showed her old spark in a barrier trial hitout at Rosehill Gardens yesterday.

She closed late to run dual Group 1 winner Sincero to a short-half head in an 1100m trial, pleasing Nash Rawiller and trainer Gai Waterhouse.

"More Joyous had a magnificent spell, the first really good break she has had," Singleton said. "You can see the difference in the mare, Gai's really happy with her, so we've got a bit to look forward to over the autumn."

More Joyous is being prepared for a return to racing in the Group 2 \$175,000 Canterbury Stakes (1300m) at Rosehill on March 24 — where she may meet Sincero again.

Singleton said More Joyous would then line up in the Group 1 \$400,000 Queen of the Turf Stakes (1500m) at the same track two weeks later before the Group 1 \$2 million Doncaster Mile (1600m) at Royal Randwick on April 21.

"She's got 57.5kg in the Doncaster and although I'd rather she had 50kg, it's hard to complain about her weight," he said.

"I just hope we don't get

another bog track in the autumn because her two worst runs were the Golden Slipper (2009) and Doncaster (last year) because it was too wet for her in both races.

"But we will go for Doncaster again and then the (Group 1 \$500,000) Queen Elizabeth Stakes (April 28) because we want to see over 2000m again.

"If she runs the trip, then we will train her just for the Cox Plate in the spring."

Although Singleton has to wait about three weeks for More Joyous' comeback, he's looking forward to the return to racing of another two of his top class mares, More Str-

awberries and Once Were Wild at Warwick Farm on Saturday.

More Strawberries and Once Were Wild are dual nominated for the Liverpool City Cup (1300m) and Wiggle Stakes (1400m) although Waterhouse has indicated she was likely to split the mares.

Singleton and Waterhouse also combine with exciting juvenile Later Gator in the Black Opal Stakes at Canberra on Sunday.

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X-ray after fall: Blake Shinn

Jockeys take a tumble

Ray Thomas

CHAMPION jockeys Blake Shinn and Kerrin McEvoy narrowly avoided serious injury when each was dislodged from their mounts during an incident-packed barrier trial session at Rosehill Gardens yesterday.

Although both riders declared they would be fit for Group 1 racing on Saturday, Shinn stood himself down from today's Australian Turf Club meeting at Wyong.

There were initial fears Shinn may have broken his left ankle after he was dumped from Calamba near the 600m in heat seven.

He was taken by ambulance to nearby Westmead Hospital, where X-rays cleared him of any breaks.

Shinn has had to forfeit a full book of seven rides at Wyong, including early favourite Margene (race 6).

However, Shinn is confident he will have no problems being fit to partner Cox Plate winner Pinker Pinker in the Group 1 \$350,000 Chipping Norton Stakes (1600m) at Warwick Farm on Saturday.

Similarly, Kerrin McEvoy declared he is right to ride brilliant mare Beaded in the \$1 million Newmarket Handicap (1200m) at Flemington after he was dislodged from juvenile Chiaramonte on the way to the start of a 900m trial.

Darley Australia's No.1 stable rider, McEvoy walked away from the incident but stood himself down from the rest of the trials.

"I'm just a bit sore," McEvoy said as he left the track. "The horse whipped around going to the barrier.

"He stopped before the fence but threw me into the fence. I'll have a quiet day today and see how I pull up."

McEvoy last night said he was breathing without difficulty and was hopeful of being fit for Wyong where he has seven rides.

TABform

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Portrait of a fast horse and a fasting jockey

Elizabeth Fortescue

THE Archibald Prize has long been dubbed the Melbourne Cup of the art world.

This year, it should be called the Newmarket Handicap or the T J Smith Stakes.

Black Caviar, on her way to becoming a turf legend, triumphed in both those races and now the undefeated sprinter is in the barrier for a run at the \$75,000 Archibald Prize for portraiture.



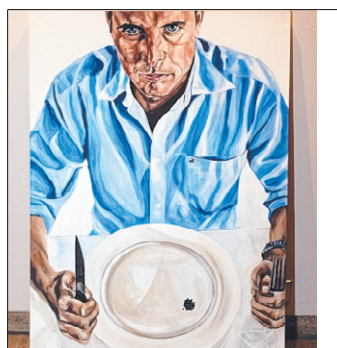
More correctly, her jockey Luke Nolen and his aunt Roslyn Nolen are starters.

Roslyn, of Perth, has entered this year's Archibald with an acrylic on linen portrait of Luke. He stares with determination from behind an empty dinner plate. Empty, that is, except for a small

mound of black caviar. The work, titled *Luke Nolen's Consuming Passion*, *Black Caviar* will be up against hundreds of portraits, some by Australia's top artists.

Roslyn is a trained artist and former art teacher, and *Consuming Passion* is her second tilt at the Archibald Prize.

She based the painting on sketches she did in early February when she visited Luke and his young family at their Melbourne home.



Duo impress ahead of Newmarket date

TOORAK Toff and Foxwedge tuned up for Saturday's \$1 million Newmarket Handicap with impressive wins in straight track trials at Flemington yesterday.

Damien Oliver rode Toorak Toff in a comfortable 800m heat win in a very fast 46.88s. The John O'Shea-trained Foxwedge, ridden by Craig Williams, also produced a first class trial when he won his 800m heat in 47.63s (last 400m in 21.57s). Hay List remains the \$2.70 Newmarket favourite with TAB Sportsbet fixed odds. Foxwedge is the best lightweight hope (\$7). Toorak Toff is at \$41.