

Another Fool, and another star

By
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ABOUT 15 years ago, I compiled a magazine "Personality Profile" on trainer Reg Kay.

You've all seen such writings. "Where born, where was your first winner, what's your favourite food?" and so the questions roll on. I vividly recall Reg's answer to the question - "do you have one particular ambition in greyhound racing?"

His reply was: "To breed a Group 1 winner from our Fool line of bitches."

At the time, it would be fair to say not a lot of people knew of Reg. Nor of his Fool line, which started with a giveaway bitch named Another Fool.

Elite State realized Reg's Group 1 aspirations last year, in Albion Park's Winter Carnival Cup. The Group 1 National Sprint followed with the same dog.



Group 2 Qld Futurity (520m) Albion Park

1 **FOOLS STATE** \$2.40

(Elle's Commando-Spark Again)

Owner: Jim Osborn. Trainer: Reg Kay.

2 **TWIN CAM ANNIE** \$17

(Prince Of Tigers-Plunky's Girl)

3 **IRINKA BARBIE** \$4

(History Lesson-Jackie Rooster)

Others: 4 Universal Glow \$8, 5 Khalia Keroma \$4, 6 Bazwill \$9, 7 Sweet Georgia \$41, 8 Awesome Design \$26. **Time: 29.94** (race record).

From that same "Fool line" comes Fools State, owned by Jim Osborn, trained by Reg Kay, and brilliant winner of the Queensland Futurity at Albion Park for a first prize of \$20,000.

The Futurity is a Group 2 event. Fools State (by Elle's Commando) ran a race record of 29.94

seconds. From box four, she romped home by three lengths from Jim Gallaway's Twin Cam Annie, with the same margin to John Finn's interstate visitor, Irinka Barbie, in third spot.

Fools State gives every indication a Group 1 victory, or perhaps more than one, is a possibility this year. "I can only find one fault with her," Kay said. "She won't crouch down in the starting boxes. She's usually got her head well up, and can therefore miss the kick. But when she pings, I reckon she can run as good a first sectional as anything going around.

"Jim Osborn's dad, Jim Snr, gave me Another Fool," said Reg. "She had raced well when trained by Dave Palmer. I didn't really want her at the time, but Jim Snr. convinced me I should breed with the bitch. She was by Classy Dreamer who was by Tivoli Dreamer.

A lot of people used to give the credit to Tivoli Chief, but she was by Tivoli Dreamer."

Another Fool produced litter sisters, Flaming Fool and First To Fire. Flaming Fool produced the likes of Nobody's Fool, Incredible Fool, Alby Two Shoes, Heart Spark and Vesuvius. First To Fire threw Spark Again, the dam of Elite State and Fools State. It's been well documented that Reg Kay and Helen Lamberton shared in a million dollars win, via an instant scratch-it ticket with the Attard brothers, some 18 months ago.

"A lot of people say, gee Reg, your luck has changed since you won that half a million.

But that's not quite right," said Kay. "The situation

is that we've always bred good greyhounds from our Fool line, but have had to sell some of them to keep going.

"We sold Nobody's Fool and Heart Spark, for example. We're still breeding the good quality stock, but thanks to the good fortune of the past 18 months, we're in a position to hold onto our pups.

"It's a bit embarrassing that I keep getting plenty of praise. Look at what Helen has achieved lately. She's got a far better strike rate than me."

Jim Osborn believes Kay doesn't get the credit he deserves for his training ability. "A lot of Reg's quality pups have been sold, and trained by people who have not enjoyed anywhere near the success of Reg with the same breed."

Osborn's wife, Judy, loves the greyhounds. "I certainly like the winning part," she said. "I regret that the Elite State thrills went too quickly - it was like being on a big dipper, and being over before you knew it," she said.

Was Fools State always going to be one "out of the box?"

"Reg and Helen broke her in," Jim Osborn said.

"After her last trial at aged 13 months, Reg rang me up and said, 'she's not a top grader, she's a Group bitch'."

Spot on again, Reg!