



Victorian News

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Tweed target for Cup victor

WARRNAMBOOL Cup winner Harvey Bale is heading for the Galaxy at Tweed Heads. Trainer Michael Gibbons said the two and a half-year-old dog would improve with age after claiming the \$28,000 final over 450m at Wannon Park in early May.

Harvey Bale's task was assisted in the Warrnambool Cup when shortpriced favourite Brumby Lad missed the start hopelessly from box two.

It left Harvey Bale and Lethal Weapon to fight out the finish, with the Gibbons-trained sprinter triumphing by three-quarters of a length.

Orochi filled third place.

Gibbons was ecstatic with the 25.26- sec victory, which took Harvey Bale's record to 19 wins and 17 minor placings from 46 starts.

"As soon as I saw him get out of the box I thought 'they're not going to catch him'," Gibbons said.

"I think the best is ahead of him. It's his third or fourth race racing against the best in Victoria. It's going to be a long drive home."

The trainer heaped praise on the Warrnambool track and crowd.

"At any other track in Victoria all you get is owners and trainers. The people here are absolutely terrific.

"I'd like to thank the club because this is the best club,



Handler Shaun Coulson and Warrnambool Cup winner Harvey Bale.

Picture courtesy Warrnambool Standard

no doubt, around Victoria."

Handler Shaun Coulson said he could not be much happier with the dog's run. The win continued owner Paul Wheeler's outstanding record in the cup.

On the same program, Koroittrained speedster That's Critical scored a slashing win in the \$73,000 Macey's Bistro Classic final (450m).

After finishing unplaced in the Silver Chief final and having to be scratched from the South Australian Derby final when equal favourite, the dog finally got

all the breaks from box six in the classic final. Deadly Bob and Dixie Dunbar were the quickest to begin in the \$50,000-to-the-winner race but That's Critical got away cleanly and quickly rounded up the leaders on the first turn.

He scored by four and a half lengths from Cooga Star with one and a half lengths to third placegetter Dixie Dunbar providing trainer Pat Madden and Warrnambool owner Phillip Mitchem with their biggest thrill in greyhound racing.

"It's fantastic," Mitchem said. "It's an event we've always dreamed about winning and we've won it." Mitchem said That's Critical had run faster than his

25.31-sec time but he knew the dog would have to perform close to his best to have a chance.

There was an immense sense of satisfaction for the Warrnambool owner who said it was his greatest win in 30 years racing greyhounds.

It was also a popular result with the big crowd, although favourite punters were left lamenting the performance of Prince Assassin which finished unplaced. That's Critical took his race record to 10 wins and three minor placings from 14 starts. He is unbeaten in four starts over 450m at Wannan Park, with a best time of 25.15.