

Harvey lands Tweed Galaxy

By DAVID BRASCH

HARVEY Bale, the 2004 Tweed Galaxy winner, is lucky to be racing at all. He was pushed into the running rail after winning a race at Traralgon back in September last year and ripped a hind leg open. But that's not the half of it. His own dam, Sharmon Bale, at her second race start fell heavily at Goulburn and smashed both front legs. The track vet wanted to put her down immediately such was the extent of the injuries. But Paul Wheeler would have none of it. "My sons Scott and Brendan decided to race her when she was a youngster and had broken in really well," said Wheeler. "But at her second start this happened. They contacted me and I told the boys to sedate the bitch, get her home and we would get the legs operated on." Wheeler's local vet had to operate on the legs individually over a couple of days they were that badly broken.



Brad Keel and Harvey Bale after their Galaxy success.

The family had to make a walking frame to strap Sharmon Bale into for six to eight weeks while she recovered. They still have the frame ... just in case Harvey Bale is from her first litter, to Awesome Assassin, and she has proved to be a goldmine as a broodbitch for the kennel.

The victory in the Galaxy followed the Warrnambool Cup win by Harvey Bale and also added to his Ballarat Young Star Classic success in July last year. He was also second to Big Daddy Cool in track record time in the Silver Chief earlier this year.

Ironically, a litter sister to Harvey Bale broke a leg when she was six weeks old.

Wheeler brought her up to their house and cared for her. "When it healed, the leg was bent, so there was no chance we could race her," he said.

"But we have since got a now six month old litter out of her by Riverlee Bale.

"That bitch still lives today on the front porch of our house. We like to think she is our guard dog."

	Light Of Fire	New Tears
		Centrefire
Awesome Assassin		Acacia Ablaze
	Tranquil Flame	Placid Dove
HARVEY BALE		Perceive
	Braddy (US)	Buzz Off
Sharmon Bale		Amerigo Man
	Burgundy Bale	Lady McBale