

Barry hits the big time

By **DAVID BRASCH**

BY his own admission, until now Barry Hall has been quite happy to potter along with a winner or two every now and then in his greyhound training career.

Barry's been at it since he was 14 when given a pup by his aunt.

His dad Wally also had dogs, 25 years ago in Rockhampton but had to race them in Mackay and Bundaberg before racing started in his home town.

"I pottered along with a dog or two, winning a race every now and then, just enough winners to keep me interested," said Barry.

But how things change.

Barry and partner Tracey Pike have been together for 10 years. They now have two children, Dylan, 5, and Caelan who is almost five months.

It was a break from greyhound training while the pair were waiting for Caelan to be born that got Barry interested again.

Brisbane identities Charlie and Mary Mifsud rang out of the blue with a greyhound for Barry to buy. It was a bitch called Sugar State (Deep North-Sugar Beauty).

But Tracey was expecting Caelan at the time and there was not much room in the household for a greyhound.

But the Mifsuds reckoned the bitch would suit Rockhampton racing and Barry and Tracey bought her ... even though she had to wait a little while to be sent north.

A maiden at the time, she finished second in a rich Maiden series at Rockhampton and then downed a top grade field of sprinters to win a Young Guns over 407m.

All of a sudden Barry Hall had gone from "pottering about with a dog or two" to one of the leading lights of racing in town.

Sugar State has become virtually unbeatable winning six of her first seven starts.

An operator for Queensland Magnesia in Rockhampton for 13 years, Barry's shift work makes it tough to have many dogs in work.

"There is always plenty of family to help with the dogs but we wanted that break before Caelan

was born," said Barry.

Barry admits Sugar State is easily the best dog he has trained. "I do nothing special with her but we do look after her pretty well," he said.

Sugar State is certainly something special for Barry and Tracey and the entire Pike family.



Tracey, Caelan, Dylan and Barry with their Rocky star Sugar State.

Young Guns (407m) Rockhampton

1 **SUGAR STATE** \$2.50
(Deep North-Sugar Beauty)
Owner-trainer: Barry Hall

2 **AMBY'S LOVE** \$3.50
(Nujooloo-Hope's Love)

3 **YO YO'S ESCAPEE** \$6
(Yo Yo's Boy-With Attitude)

Others: 4 Just Like Tammy \$2.25,

5 Bluefire Diamond \$7,

6 Tinka Taylor \$4.60,

7 Magani \$5,

8 Vintage Charger \$10.

Time: 23.86.