



MEDIA RELEASE



15th December 2006

“A Pure Burst of speed wins the Sky Channel Brisbane Cup”

Wayne Vassallo once wanted to be a racecaller, but he’s happy he decided to switch to greyhound training. It landed him another Group 1 victory at Albion Park on Thursday night when Pure Burst (\$7.80) led throughout to take out the Group 1 Brisbane Cup final (520m).

She scored by three lengths in a flying 30.10 to beat home town hope Leica Ruby (\$19.70) with a half head to the luckless Suave Fella (\$15.70) in third.

Vassallo admitted after the victory he was supremely confident his bitch could win the final after the box draw last week despite being reserved at the time.

gave her a great chance because I thought she could lead and those on her outside were not quick early,” he said.

That’s just how the race turned out. Pure Burst had already won the Group 1 Laurels at Sandown and been a finalist in the Sapphire Crown and Melbourne Cup.

This is my biggest thrill in greyhound racing,” said Vassallo. “When she won the Laurels it was a race restricted to bitches and on her home track.

It’s something different to come away and beat all comers. It’s a big thrill.” Vassallo had worked for three years with famed Victorian trainer Jason Thompson learning his trade but has been on his own for the past eight years.

He has nine dogs in work of which Pure Burst is easily the best. The bitch is raced by Adam Cushkeri and Joe Yusi.

The boys bought two pups from the Token Prince-Hotburst litter and when they were broken in Jason got the dog to train and he did not have the room for this bitch so asked me to train her,” said Vassallo.



Pure Burst wins the Group 1 Brisbane Cup. (Corey Pearce pic.)

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

Unfortunately the dog broke down for Thompson and did not get to race.

Thompson prepared Suave Fella to finish third in the final and was amazed at the dog's performance after finding early trouble and then giving the leader 10 lengths start in the back straight before rushing home to be beaten three lengths.

Thompson is uncertain what to do with Suave Fella in the future.

"I'm not sure about stepping him up in distance," he said. "He might just be one of those dogs who is a strong 500m finisher.

"Runner-up Leica Ruby thrilled connections, owner Ruth Turner and trainer Tony Brett with her great second.

Ironically her dam Rose Of Shiraz had finished second in a Group 1 Brisbane Cup herself.

Pure Burst will go home to contest the Cranbourne Cup and then head to Wentworth Park in Sydney for the Group 1 National Futurity.

Vassallo said dam Hotburst had been a brilliant sprinter but unable to run further than 400 metres.

"But she's already produced some handy dogs from earlier litters." Owners Cushkeri and Yusi had refused talk of buying the bitch very early in her career. Neither decided to come to Albion Park for the Cup final.

"I don't know why they didn't come up for the race," said Vassallo.

He's certain they will regret that now. Amazingly 10-1 was bet on course about Pure Burst.

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4th Real MaCoy (\$20.10), 5th Cromlah Bale (\$2.90), 6th From A Distance (\$2.50 fav), 7th Gunnadoo Saint (\$9.50) and Winsome History (\$23.60).

Pure Burst is Fawn Bitch whelped August '04 she is by Token Prince from Hotburst (Hotshot x Outburst). The Group 1 Brisbane Cup her second this year after winning the Sandown Laurels in June took her career stats to 26 starts for 13 wins and 9 placings and prizemoney earnings of \$155,615.



Trainer Wayne Vassallo with Pure Burst at the Brisbane Cup presentation. (Corey Pearce pic.)

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

The Brisbane Cup has had a few name changes when it was first run in 1972 and won by Victorian Garron Court the race was known as the Gabba Sprint Championship. It remain that name until 1976. It was then called the Brisbane Cup from 1977 until 1981 changed in 1982 to be known as the Coca-Cola Cup until 1999 when it changed back to the Brisbane Cup. The race was conducted at the Gabba until the track closed in 1992 and since has been staged at Albion Park. Listed below is the Honour Roll containing some of the champion greyhounds among the past winners.

1972 **Garron Court**, 1973 **Top Simbi**, 1974 **Mister Oollee**, 1975 **Alpha Brava**, 1976 **Clover Duke**, 1977 **Rebel Attack**, 1978 **Young Breeze**, 1979 **Acclaim Star**, 1980 **General Jeff**, 1981 **Picture This**, 1982 **Peter Glider**, 1983 **Acacia Park**, 1984 **National Lass**, 1985 **Super Max**, 1986 **Pretty Fearless**, 1987 **Whip Tip**, 1988 **Dancing Gamble**, 1989 **Golden Fox**, 1990 **Whisky Bale**, 1991 **No It's Not**, 1992 **White Coonowrin**, 1993 **Star Title**, 1994 **Toss The Teddy**, 1995 **Flying Amy**, 1996 **Silver Pageant**, 1997 **Barrio Babe**, 1998 **Questions**, 1999 **Bob's One**, 2000 **Kantarn Bale**, 2001 **Tricky Creek**, 2002 **Tricky Creek**, 2003 **Bogie Leigh**, 2004 **Malfoy &** 2005 **PororoCa**.

(Story content courtesy of David Brasch Queensland GRA website.)



For more information please contact:

Neil Brown
AGRA Publicity Officer
Tel: 03 97691234
Mob: 0423 129 950

Donna Summers
AGRA Executive Officer
Tel: 02 96465711
Mob: 0414 524 907