



NEW SOUTH WALES HARNESS RACING CLUB LTD.

MEDIA RELEASE

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KIWIS PREPARE FOR WATPAC ID10 www.watpac.com.au

WHILE THE BIG6 HUNTER CUP WILL BE THE PIVOTAL LEAD-UP TO WATPAC ID10 THIS WEEKEND, TWO FORGOTTEN RACES IN NEW ZEALAND COULD HAVE JUST AS BIG AN IMPACT ON THE NEW SOUTH WALES SERIES.

Because two of the favourites and one of the fairytale stories of the Inter Dominion will undertake their final lead-up races on the other side of the Tasman.

Series favourite and SEW Eurodrive Miracle Mile winner Monkey King returns to racing at a rare Saturday day meeting at Addington and faces a tough challenge in the \$75,000 Summer Cup.

While the New Zealand Cup winner will still start favourite he will have to overcome barrier one on the second line while outstanding mare Kiwi Ingenuity has drawn perfectly at barrier three and should try for an all the way win.

Trainer Brendon Hill is thrilled with Monkey King going into the 2600m mobile event but is very aware the real aim is still a month away at Menangle.

"He has only had one trial since his short break after the Victoria Cup," said Hill.

"He is well and obviously he can win but it won't be easy to catch the mare if she leads, which looks likely.

"But we are right where we need to be for the Inters, which are the big aim."

But Saturday's race won't just be about Monkey King for Hill, as his other Watpac ID10 contender Baileys Dream

returns to the track after a year-long absence because of injury.

The one-time New Zealand Cup runner-up looked awesome at the Rangiora trials last Saturday, pacing a 54.8 second last 800m to beat Kiwi Ingenuity, even after sitting parked.

"I am really happy with him but he has got a bad draw this week.

"Still, the way he trialed last Saturday and also last Wednesday I can see him running in three this week."

More importantly, Baileys Dream is completely sound at this stage and Hill says he is certain, barring any further setbacks, to be on the plane to Sydney with Monkey King.

"We can't wait, we are really looking forward to the series."

While Saturday's race will be under the radar of many Australian punters looking toward the Inter Dominion, series third favourite Changeover has an even stranger preparation.

Instead of heading to Melbourne for the Hunter Cup he instead races off a 30m backmark in a \$12,000 race at Alexandra Park.

"I was looking around for a race and this one fits in perfectly," said trainer Geoff Small.

"To be honest he should be able to win it and that means he will head into the series in good form and feeling confident."

For results of the New Zealand races log on to: hrnz.co.nz.



Harold Park Friday 19th February
Newcastle Saturday 27th February
Tabcorp Park Sunday 7th March
Menangle

