



MEDIA RELEASE

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Greyhound-Data



Fantastic Spiral Upstages Dotty in Megastar Final

By Mitch Cohen Illawarra Mercury

With the attention on his record-breaking kennelmate, Fantastic Spiral (\$8.90) sprung the ultimate surprise to claim the Group 1 Dapto Megastar (520m) for trainer Jason Fletcher on Friday night.

The Appin-based sprinter was dominant in the \$67,500-to-the-winner final, leading all the way to run home in 29.51secs.

Group 1 winner Keybow (\$3.70), trained by Tony Brett, ran on well for second while kennelmate and track recorder holder Fantastic Dotty (\$2.90) got the nod for third.



Fantastic Dotty had been the more fancied of the Fletcher pair before the race as the \$2.90 fixed odds favourite with TAB Sportsbet.

But a tardy jump saw the promising pup blow her hopes and allowed Fantastic Spiral to give Fletcher his first Group 1 as a trainer.

"It has been a dream of mine since I was 16 to win a Group 1.

It has taken 36 years," Fletcher

said.

"It has been a lifelong dream and I am glad to have achieved.

"I would like to get a few more because it feels pretty good."

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While Fletcher was glad to notch his first major at his home track, he admitted the result had even come as a shock to him.

“[Fantastic Spiral] surprised me as well,” he said.

“I knew he had that run in him but I just thought Dotty in box one would punch up and hold him out.

“She missed it a fraction and he just came out running.

“He was off and gone.

“There was a few worrying moments up the back with a champion dog like Keybow right behind him.”

The win was made more satisfying for Fletcher, who bred and reared Fantastic Spiral with the help of Marty Hallinan.

The result took the son of Spiral Nikita and Light Fantastic’s record to an imposing 16 wins from 29 starts with more than \$120,000 earned.

Fletcher was yet to decide what was next for his top-level sprinters.

After the placed runners the rest of the field finished in the following order. Aphorism (\$12.40), Bessy Boo (\$6.10), Whittaker (\$13.00), Miss Sueko (\$30.90) and Flash Reality (\$10.00).

Fantastic Spiral is a Black dog whelped January 2013 by Spiral Nikita from Light Fantastic (El Galo x Dark Marne). He is raced and trained by Jason Fletcher from Appin in New South Wales. Fantastic Spiral has raced 29 times for 16 wins and ten placings with his win in the Megastar the \$67,500 first prize took his current stake earnings to \$126,921.

Listed below are the previous winners of the Megastar. The race has now been won by some very handy sprinters.

The first winner of the Megastar Dapto invitational in 2010 was Mr Metz and in 2011 it became a Group 3 event and was won by Oaks Road in 29.94. In 2012 the race was elevated to Group 2 status and was won by Bye Bye Bucks in 29.75, then in 2013 the race became a Group 1 event when won by Peter Rocket 29.81. Last year’s winner was Tommy Brislane in 29.82.

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