



MEDIA RELEASE

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Pedro Thunders Home

By David Brasch Queensland Greyhound Magazine

As top trainer Tom Tzouvelis stood behind the boxes and watched Pedro's Thunder (\$2.00) blitz his Group 2 Ipswich Auction final rivals last Wednesday night, he wondered just what could have been for the dog.

Pedro's Thunder (Where's Pedro-Miss Go Getta) scored by seven and a half lengths over Carbon Footprints (\$8.40) with two lengths to Voodoo Tewin (\$3.70) in third in a flying 30.64. It was his fifth win in 10 starts for the huge syndicate that races the dog. But there is a tale of woe surrounding the dogs career.

"Back in September last year he was ready to race but tore a back muscle in one of his final trials," said Tom. "He is certainly not the dog he could have been."

Tzouvelis said from the moment Pedro's Thunder was broken in and started trialling as a pup, he knew he was the best dog he had in his kennel for 15 years. "He broke in exceptionally," said Tom. "The best pup we've had for 15 years. The day he tore the back muscle he still ran 25.50 for 431m at Ipswich. We were getting him ready for a big maiden at The Gardens in September."



Pedro's Thunder charges to the line to win the Auction Series (Pic Rick O'Donnell)

Tzouvelis sent the dog to Brisbane surgeon Richard Eaton-Wells and the trainer is all praise for the job he did.

"Obviously he is a day to day proposition, but he's back racing and this has been a huge windfall for the syndicate that races him," said Tom.

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AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

Those owners include Michael Balderson, Blair Wedderell, Tony Valentic, Dave Scott, Dimi Caramalis, Craig Armstrong and Glenn Connor. "Tony and Dave flew over from Wellington this morning for the race," said Tom. "We were very confident if he began he could win."

That is exactly as the race panned out. Pedro's Thunder began brilliantly and by the first turn had opened up a huge winning break. He raced right away to win easily.

Tzouvelis is mindful always of the back muscle problem and has to think of that whenever mapping out any future races for Pedro's Thunder. "We'll look for a race for him, but something like that can't be set in stone. The back muscle could go at any time," he said. "I have to hand it to the syndicate that races him, some of who have never raced a dog before. When he broke down last year and things looked grim, all of them knew that was how racing goes."

Now they have all felt the satisfaction of a Group victory.

The first person to congratulate Tom on the victory was champion Victorian trainer Graeme Bate a great friend. The first person Tom thanked was his dad Nick.

Tom had won the Auction final in 2001 with Pacific Flash.

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4th Rip Beware (\$21.90), 5th Maywyn's Fancy (\$7.90), 6th Maywyn's Future (\$29.00), 7th Maywyn Or Ebay (\$19.00) and Elusive Flame (\$26.70).

Pedro's Thunder is a November 2008 Black dog by Where's Pedro from Miss Go Getta (Token Prince x Cheeky Sprite). He is raced by the Fgts Ptn Syndicate and trained by Tom Tzouvelis at Ormeau in Queensland. Pedro's Thunder has now raced on 10 occasions for five wins and one placings and the \$35,000 first prize for the Auction Series took his overall stake earnings to \$40,376.

It was the 23rd staging of the Auction Series for the Ipswich Club and another successful one, the race has consistently uncovered talented pups that are given the opportunity to race for big prizemoney at the start of their race careers.

The Ipswich Auction Series has had a number of different sponsors since it commenced in 1989 it was called the Sci-Fleet Ford Auction series for three years, then from 1992 until 1994 it was the Celcast Auction Series. In 1995 for one year it was the Roofshield Auction Series and then the race was taken over by the Rob Lowe Car Company from 1997 until 2001 when the current sponsor Highland Smash Repairs became the sponsor. Listed below is the full honour roll of the past winners.

1989 **Milluna Miss**, 1990 **Our Gold Coin**, 1991 **Slick Myth**, 1992 **Impulsive Gamble**, 1993 **Marry Me Mary**, 1994 **Perro Star**, 1995 **Pride Of Stef**, 1996 **Nobody's Fool**, 1997 **Blazing Honour**, 1998 **Travel Train**, 1999 **Hypnotic Trans**, 2000 **Stylish Bandit** 2001 **Pacific Flash**, 2002 **Happy Chappy**, 2003 **Awesome Design**, 2004 **Fool's State**, 2005 **Don Paco**, 2006 **Rylee's Revenge**, 2007 **Go Makatam**, 2008 **Elise Odette**, 2009 **Rail Raider** and 2010 **Iron Force**.

Thanks to David Brasch Queensland Greyhound Magazine for story material.

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