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Aston Dee Bee a Warragul Cup Wonder

By Gerald Guthrie & Andrew Copley GRV Website



Melbourne Cup hero Aston Dee Bee extended his sensational winning streak to nine with another brilliant display in Saturday night's Group 2 TAB Warragul Cup Final. Remarkably, the Seona Thompson-trained and Ray Borda-owned-and-bred superstar hadn't been able to claim a Group trophy in 45 starts prior to his overdue breakthrough on the greatest stage of all, the Melbourne Cup.



Aston Dee Bee proves too strong in the Warragul Cup (All Pics Clint Anderson)

But Aston Dee Bee's Melbourne Cup triumph opened the feature race floodgates, with the superbly-bred son of Barcia Bale and Aston Elle subsequently adding the Group 2 Ballarat Cup, Group 3 Sandown Shootout and now the Warragul Cup to his resume.

"Forty-five years ago someone told me greyhound racing is a game of fluctuating emotions and at the time I said to myself 'what are you talking about', but I now know he was right," said proud owner Ray Borda.

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“One day you might feel like going out and buying 10 dogs, and two days later you can be asking yourself what am I doing? “I own a lot of dogs and when you’re in that situation you need one dog to keep your spirits up.

“For instance, on Thursday I had 10 greyhounds racing on different tracks all over Australia, six of which were favourites, but I didn’t have one winner.

“It used to be Aston Bolero that kept my spirits up, but now it’s Aston Dee Bee.”

The winner of five of his eight appearances over 460m at Warragul, including a track record 25.34sec at just his fifth career start, Aston Dee Bee was the fastest qualifier for the \$47,000 to-the-winner Cup after a 25.49sec heat victory.

After drawing awkwardly in five, Aston Dee Bee started \$2.30 favourite, ahead of his locally-trained litter sister, Aston Miley, prepared by Eddie Lieshout, the \$4.30 second elect from box eight.

Aston Dee Bee settled in third position behind fellow Melbourne Cup finalists Aston Miley and Kouta Mayhem and after storming to the front turning for home, he sprinted clear to defeat the strong-finishing Jimmy Newob (\$9.10) by 2.36 lengths in 25.53sec.

“I’m so happy he has won a big race like this from a bad box,” Borda said.

“Some people have been saying that he keeps drawing the good boxes and that’s why he keeps winning, but he silenced his critics tonight.” Aston Dee Bee has now won 33 of his 54 starts, including 13 of his last 15, with the two defeats being Group 1 seconds in the Topgun and Adelaide Cup, with earnings in excess of \$760,000.

“We’ve got interest from breeders, but I want to win a million dollars prize money with him,” Borda said.

“We’ve got the Temlee coming up, then the Australian Cup and then the Golden Easter Egg. They are very hard races to win but right now he thinks he’s unbreakable and he believes no one can beat him.

“A very successful former trainer once told me that if a greyhound believes it is unbreakable they are very, very hard to beat, and that’s exactly where Aston Dee Bee is right now.”

Earlier in the night, former NSW middle distance and staying performer Where Art Thou, trained by Steve White, stormed home to claim the \$10,000 to-the-winner Endeavour Locksmith Distance Challenge over 680m.

Aston Dee Bee is raced by Ray Borda and trained by Seona Thompson of Pearcedale in Victoria. Aston Dee Bee is a Black dog whelped April 2015 by Barcia Bale from Aston Elle (Bombastic Shiraz x Elite Oriental). He has won 33 of his 54 starts and has been placed on ten occasions and with the \$47,000 first prize for the Warragul Cup it took his current stake earnings to \$761,675.

After the first two placed runners, the field finished in the following order Kouta Mayhem (\$5.30), Aston Miley (\$4.30), Black Mumbo (\$11.20), Tiempo Dinero (\$25.40), Shadale (\$15.60) and Northern Nangar (\$42.40).

Records of past Warragul Cup winners are bit sketchy; however, we do know the first cup run under non-propriety racing was won by Melbourne Cup winner Rocketeer and again in 1958 as a lead up race to the Melbourne Cup Marine Jet completed the double. In the 50’s Warragul was a very popular Saturday afternoon meeting that later moving to Friday night racing for many years. The race has been won by some of the sports finest sprinters and listed below is the honour roll as we currently know it.

1956 Rocketeer, 1957 Orialta, 1958 Marine Jet, 1960 Flash Dasher, 1962 Coma's Pride, 1967 Barratta Boy, 1968 Lufra Boy, 1969 Sunday Punch, 1970 White Post, 1971 Red Velore, 1972 Make The Scene, 1973 Half Your Luck, 1974 Sylvan Prince, 1975 Plain Stage, 1976 Golden Spur, 1977 Simon's Twin, 1978 Newmore Glenn, 1979 Glen's Elect, 1980 Tempix, 1981 Shamrock Flight, 1982 Sartorius, 1983 Salem's Pride, 1984 Chariot Supreme, 1985 Broken Cup, 1986 Chariot Of Gods, 1987 Peppalooa, 1988 Trumbry Ace, 1989 Hua, 1990 Pure Talent, 1991 Sheedy, 1992 Brudge, 1993 Indoor Boy, 1994 Gipsy General, 1995 Bonjase, 1996 Best Of Bev, 1997 Applaud, 1998 Hotshot, 1999 Fibba, 2000 Labyrinth, 2001 Big Smig, 2002 Carlisle Jack, 2003 Knockabout Wok, 2004 Puzzle Prize, 2005 Sun Hero, 2006 Vapour Whirl, 2007 Magnificent Love, 2008 North Sea, 2009 Major Mission, 2010 Race Not Held, 2011 El Grand Senor, 2012 Stagger and 2013 Nitro Cee, 2014 Walk Hard, 2015 Ronray Spirit, 2016 To The Galo’s and 2017 Ando’s Mac.

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