



MEDIA RELEASE
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**“Lu” scores impressive win when he had
the field at his Mercy in the SA Derby
Final**

Victorian youngster Merciless Lu overcame some early trouble to storm home with a most impressive win in the Group 2 Coca Cola SA Derby last Thursday night. Sent to the boxes a \$7.10 chance from box two he was able to turn the tables on fellow Victorian El Masri Bale (\$2.50 fav) the dog he finished second behind in the semi –final.

In an even series, prior to the final we had seen six different winners with none of the heat winners able to also win their respective semi-finals. So there appeared to be a case in the final in which all eight runners had some sort of chance, including a couple of local hopes. The locals White Admiral and Cool As both had performed extremely well in the series and deserve their places. However the other six finalists were Victorians who have provided the winner of the Derby on many occasions over the years.

El Masri Bale was best to begin and after some slight interference lead the field into the back straight. Merciless Lu had to overcome some early drama but settled in third racing up behind the leader and looked the danger with General Magoo thereabouts. The well fancied Bartrim Bale got into all sorts of bother back in the ruck and fell as a result. In the home straight Merciless Lu kept grinding away at the leader and just got there on the post by the narrowest of margins. El Masri Bale was gallant in defeat while local chaser Cool As came home well for third after travelling mid field for most of the trip. Sections were 4.54 and 16.79 for the leader and an overall time of 29.92 was a smart run for the winner.

Raced by the Marong Syndicate, Merciless Lu is trained in partnership by Derryn Harrison and Melissa Spangler. The couple train professionally from their property at Marong in central Victorian 14 kilometers from Bendigo, they have six race dogs in work and lots of pups coming through. The pups are reared down the road at a property operated by Derryn's brother. Merciless Lu was bred in New South Wales and went through the Dapto Auction, the couple also race his sister Beautiful Pearl the winner of race nine at Angle Park on Thursday night it certainly topped off a very successful night. Another pup from the litter General Magoo raced in different interests finished unplaced in the final.

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

Sky Channel's Hilton Donaldson was at his best as live host for Sky Channel from the track it was an added bonus to those that couldn't make it to Angle Park. He caught up with an excited Melissa Spangler after the win.

"It is our biggest thrill so far in greyhound racing we have been training for about five to six years and it's great to have a group winner. He was the most experienced dog in the final and a good draw gave him a chance if he had some luck. Both dogs are eligible for the Dapto Auction Series in November so we will set them for that race." Spangler said.

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4th Trew Millions (\$3.80), 5th White Admiral (\$10.00), 6th Trew Sensation (\$23.20) 7th General Magoo (\$49.00) and Bartrim Bale fell (\$5.30)

Merciless Lu is raced and trained by the Marong Syndicate he is a White & Black dog whelped July 2005 by Carnage from Lulu Magoo (Placard x Alight). Merciless Lu has won 10 of his 24 starts and has been placed on nine occasions and with the \$20,000 first prize for the Derby it took his current stake earnings to \$36,690.

Listed below are the past winners of South Australian Derby, when it was first run in 1971 the race was called the South Australian Willows and it remained as such until it was changed to be named the Derby in 1977. The race has produced some great dogs including Adelaide Cup winner Thundering Two, Melbourne Cup winner Speedy Mick, Top Gun dead heater Golden Currency, leading Irish sire Top Honcho, Silver Chief winner Jamella Prince, Shoot-Out victor Great Wish and National Sprint Championship runner – up Lion Hearted.

1971 North Kinta, 1972 Star Hold 1973 Special Draw, 1974 Redleg's Review, 1975 Call Me Satan, 1976 Bacoran, 1977 Sunny Credo, 1978 White Panther, 1979 Terra Power, 1980 Zanelli, 1981 Turul, 1982 Super Dingaan 1983 Tempix Flame, 1984 Thundering Two, 1985 Taj Rossi, 1986 Speedy Mick, 1987 Title Blazer, 1988 Speed Row, 1989 Welcome Stranger, 1990 Gold Raider, 1991 Vintage McLaren, 1992 Tara Tivoli, 1993 Golden Currency, 1994 Benchimes, 1995 Top Honcho, 1996 Tribute To Dad, 1997 Awesome McLaren, 1998 Jamella Prince, 1999 Great Wish, 2000 Sam's Assistant, 2001 Come On Lleyton, 2002 Wizard's Chess, 2003 Lion Hearted, 2004 Our Spence, 2005 Manley Street and 2006 Big Time Max.

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