



**Media Release
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**GCA GREYHOUND OF THE MONTH AWARD
DECEMBER 2019**

“WEBLEC EAGLE”

The GCA Greyhound of the Month for December 2019 has been awarded to Weblec Eagle after his top performance to win in the Group 1 Sale Cup on Boxing day December 26.



Weblec Eagle powers home to win the Sale Cup Final (All pics Clint Anderson)

Young Victorian trainer Matt Lanigan made a triumphant return to Gippsland on Boxing Day when Weblec Eagle gunned down favourite Waging War to take out the Group 1 Gold FM Sale Cup Final (650m).

While Lanigan is now based in Anakie, where he works for leading trainers Jeff Britton and Angela Langton, who bred and part-owns Weblec Eagle, his family is synonymous with greyhound racing in the region.

“I’ve got a family connection here at Sale,” Lanigan told GRV’s Molly Haines.

“My grandfather is a life member and dad likes to tell me that he was the Trainer of the Year here as well, so this is a race that I’ve always aspired to win and I just can’t believe it’s actually happened. It’s crazy.

“Both dad and my grandfather made the Sale Cup Final but never actually won, so it’s nice to get one up on them, that’s for sure.”

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A son of Barcia Bale and Weblec Belle, Weblec Eagle was having his fourth start in succession at Sale, having finished third to Kraken Dust in the Distance Championship and then runner-up to the same dog in his Cup heat.

The complexion of the Cup Final changed dramatically with the race morning scratching of fastest qualifier and favourite Roper River Jake.

In Roper River Jake's absence, Waging War, trained by Glenn Rounds, started \$2.90 favourite from box five, ahead of rails runner Tauwitchere, prepared by Steve White, at \$3.90.

Drawn in box two, Weblec Eagle was a \$9 chance.

Tauwitchere and Waging War duelled for the lead going into the first turn with Waging War gaining the ascendancy and forging clear in the back straight, as Weblec Eagle moved into second place.

Weblec Eagle set out after Waging War entering the home straight and finished the better, scoring by 1.51 lengths in 37.19s, his seventh win from 23 starts.

"Just gobsmacked, to be honest," Lanigan said.

"He's just chasing so hard at the moment and I was praying he was going to get there.

"I could hear the caller say he'd won but I just wanted to wait until his number came up and once it came up I was absolutely over the moon. It's certainly a special feeling."

It capped off a solid month for the middle-distance star with two wins a second and a third all at Sale.



Weblec Eagle is a Black Dog whelped November 2017 by Barcia Bale from Weblec Belle (Dyna Tron x Snow Excuse). He is raced by the Weblang Syndicate and trained by Matt Lanigan at Anakie in Victoria. He has now won seven races and been placed on nine occasions from his 23 starts. Weblec Eagle's overall prizemoney stands at \$98,940.

GCA congratulates the owners, the Weblang Syndicate, trainer Matt Lanigan and Weblec Eagle on being awarded the GCA Greyhound of the Month for December. He joins the November winner Whiskey Riot, September – October winner Hooked On Scotch, August winner Premium Share, July winner

Sennachie, June winner Bago Bye Bye, May & March winner Orson Allen, April winner Zipping Bailey, Pindari Express and Buck's Future as the GCA Greyhound of the Month winners for 2019.

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