



Media Release
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GCA GREYHOUND OF THE MONTH AWARD **NOVEMBER 2021**

“KOBLENZ”

The GCA Greyhound of the Month for November 2021 has been awarded to Victorian’s super consistent sprint star Koblenz. He was unbeaten in November winning three from three including the Group 1 Melbourne Cup.



Koblenz winning the Melbourne Cup at Sandown Park

Superstar speedster Koblenz was born to win a Group 1 TAB Melbourne Cup and Australia’s – make that the world’s – best bred greyhound did just that with a sensational front-running exhibition at Sandown Park on Friday night.

Koblenz is a son of 2015 Melbourne Cup runner-up turned champion sire Fernando Bale and Up Hill Jill, a dual G1 winner and 2017 Melbourne Cup finalist, trained by David Geall and bred by wife Rose.

It was Lara-based Geall’s second Melbourne Cup triumph in four years, having won the world’s greatest race in 2018 with My Redeemer.

Koblenz’s memorable all-the-way victory was a Geall family celebration, with the blueblood raced by the Geall Gals syndicate, which also includes David’s brother Jeff and his wife Marie. “

Such a relief – really special because we bred this guy,” David Geall said to Jason Adams post-race.

“I’m just so happy. Jeff, my brother, part-owns him and I know at home Mum and Dad would’ve leapt off the couch, gone through the lounge room window and over to the racecourse!

“I’m very grateful – winning two Melbourne Cups in four years. It’s just unheard of from where I’ve come from.

“My dream was to try and win one Melbourne Cup, but to win two is just sensational. I’m over the moon.”

Koblenz had to survive a drama-charged and unprecedented dead heat as the \$1.30 favourite in his heat one week earlier to qualify for the 66th running of the Cup.

Drawn in Box 3 in the \$500,000 to-the-winner final, Koblenz was the \$4.30 second elect, with superstar Aston Rupee the \$2.10 favourite from Box 4.

Much interest centred on what Aussie Secret (\$10.40) would do from Box 1, but Koblenz took care of any potential trouble with a blistering start, leading easily with a 5.04sec first split.

Koblenz opened up what would be a decisive advantage in the back straight and while Lala Kiwi (\$7.10) emerged from the pursuing pack as a threat, he kept kicking to score by .96 of a length in 29.40sec.

“When he was still leading by a couple ... you’re never sure in this game,” said Geall.

“He is a front-runner but he’s a strong front-runner!

“Just the relief when he hit the line – sensational.”. Koblenz’s second Group victory, following the G2 Cranbourne Cup last month, improved his imposing record to 26 from 39, he’s won nine of his last 10, with his next appearance almost certain to come in the inaugural Phoenix at The Meadows on Saturday, December 18.

Geall reserved special praise for Koblenz’s mother Up Hill Jill, winner of the G1 Topgun in 2017 and G1 Golden Easter Egg in 2018, who has dispelled the theory of champion females rarely producing top class talent, on the sport’s greatest stage.

“I love her,” Geall said.

“What she has done for us. I thought of her as her son crossed the line.

“We owe her everything, she owes us nothing.”

Koblenz has raced so consistently in recent months winning nine of his last 10 starts after winning the Group 2 Cranbourne Cup on October 30 he then won a Melbourne Cup Prelude, dead heated in his heat with Jepara before leading all the way in the Cup final. His next mission appears to be a start in the Phoenix at the Meadows on December 18.

Koblenz is a White & Black Dog whelped May 2019 by Fernando Bale from Up Hill Jill (Premier Fantasy x Where’s Demonica). He is raced by the Geall Gals Syndicate and trained by David Geall at Lara in Victoria. He has now won 26 races and been placed nine times from 39 starts. Koblenz’s overall prizemoney stands at \$711,235.

GCA congratulates owners the Geall Gals Syndicate, trainer David Geall and Koblenz on being awarded the GCA Greyhound of the Month for November 2021. He joins Bandit Ned, Zipping Kyrgios, Aston Fastnet, Qwara Bale, Jungle Deuce, Tiggerlong Tonk, Zack Monelli, Ferdinand Boy, Tommy Shelby and Wow as the winners of the 2021 GCA Greyhound of the Monthly awards.

Thanks for information supplied by Greyhound Recorder Website

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