



***MEDIA RELEASE – 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023***



## **Lucy Lights Up Black Top, Draws Red In Final** **By Adam Dobbin - The Greyhound Recorder**

A dashing all-the-way 29.31 heat victory has seen National Futurity winner Nangar Lucy qualify fastest for next Friday night's Group 2 Black Top (515m) at The Gardens.

The group 1 winning daughter of Fernando Bale produced a stunning performance at her The Gardens debut for trainer Dennis Barnes, carving out slick sectionals to score over runner-up Pink Tickle by 8 ¼ lengths.

And her claims for the \$40,000-to-the-winner finale were only enhanced at the box draw, landing the prized rails alley.

But there will be no shortage of opposition in next Friday night's decider after Victorian stars Head The Charge and Umberto raced away for impressive heat wins in 29.34 and 29.35, respectively.

Head The Charge – trained by Anthony Azzopardi who is chasing a second Black Top following the win of Uno Suzie back in 2015 – was simply brilliant, getting the job done by 4 ¾ lengths to progress through to the finale.

And the Victorian contingent was strengthened in the final qualifier when Umberto, fresh off his Group 1 Megastar triumph last Thursday, posted a dashing 29.35 win, set up with low-flying early sections of 4.87 and 17.10.



**2023 Black Top fastest heat winner – Nangar Lucy with trainer Dennis Barnes**

Trained by Jason Thompson, the champion Victorian mentor will also be eyeing a second Black Top success, having won the race with Penthouse back in 2011.

Rounding out the heat performances was a memorable double for top local trainer Mark Davidson.

The Brandy Hill conditioner landed the opening qualifier with Fat Boy's Dream in determined fashion in 29.54 before Frisky Felon put on a clinic in heat four, running flying sections on route to a 29.51 heat win.

If successful in next Friday night's Group 2 decider, Frisky Felon will go one better than her dam Left Unsaid, which ran a gallant second to Flying Ricciardo in the 2020 Black Top.

**GROUP TWO – SIRES ON ICE BLACK TOP - \$40,000 to the winner**

**Box Draw and TAB.COM.AU Fixed Odds Market for the Black Top 515m:**

<b>\$40,000 to the winner Group 2 SIRES ON ICE Black Top 515m</b>				
<b>Box</b>	<b>Greyhound</b>	<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>B/T</b>
	<b>Nangar Lucy</b>	<b>Dennis Barnes</b>	<b>\$2.70</b>	<b>29.31</b>
	<b>Frisy Felon</b>	<b>Mark Davidson</b>	<b>\$19</b>	<b>29.51</b>
	<b>Umberto</b>	<b>Jason Thompson</b>	<b>\$2.70</b>	<b>29.35</b>
	<b>Hurricane's Fury</b>	<b>Joseph McFadyen</b>	<b>\$15</b>	<b>29.51</b>
	<b>Head The Charge</b>	<b>Anthony Azzopardi</b>	<b>\$3.70</b>	<b>29.34</b>
	<b>Fat Boy's Dream</b>	<b>Mark Davidson</b>	<b>\$12</b>	<b>29.28</b>
	<b>Big Boy Wilson</b>	<b>Martin Bowe</b>	<b>\$34</b>	<b>29.57</b>
	<b>Double Polka</b>	<b>Allan Woods</b>	<b>\$21</b>	<b>29.68</b>
	<b>Shot Of Red</b>	<b>Anthony Azzopardi</b>	<b>\$15</b>	<b>29.81</b>
	<b>Pink Tickle</b>	<b>Sharon Grey</b>	<b>\$51</b>	<b>29.65</b>

Local expert's selections for the final are as follows:

Tim Newbold

1<sup>st</sup> Umberto  
2<sup>nd</sup> Head The Charge  
3<sup>rd</sup> Nangar Lucy

Adam Dobbin

1<sup>st</sup> Umberto  
2<sup>nd</sup> Head The Charge  
3<sup>rd</sup> Nangar Lucy

Mark Duclos

1<sup>st</sup> Nangar Lucy  
2<sup>nd</sup> Head The Charge  
3<sup>rd</sup> Umberto

## Honour Roll

### Previous Group 2 Sires On Ice Black Top Winners

2005	Buddy Rich	29.41	2014	Rose Of Galo	29.52
2006	Mojestic	29.87	2015	Uno Suzie	29.44
2007	One Tree Hill	29.44	2016	Pantera Nera	29.72
2008	Lochinvar Prada	29.65	2017	Mister Twister	29.44
2009	Cindeen Shelby	29.64	2018	Caitlyn Keeping	29.35
2010	Snazz	29.34	2019	Aston Duke	29.65
2011	Penthouse	29.53	2020	Flying Ricciardo	29.28
2012	Bye Bye Bucks	29.71	2021	Ziping Kyrgios	29.28
2013	Billy Buzzard	29.65	2022	French Martini	29.40



AGRA/GCA Hall of Famer and Immortal Sire – Black Top

Bred by Mrs. Edna Hanson and trained by Frank Holmes, the son of Top Linen out of Classy Jane raced during the 60's contesting 20 starts and winning 17 races with 2 minor placings.

He retired to stud as Australia's highest stakes earner of 5352 pounds (\$94,659.50 in 2023).

During his iconic breeding career Black Top covered 1,326 bitches and sired 6,000 puppies.

Amongst his progeny the likes of Rose Moss, Zoom Top and Zero Ten stood out as the best.

In 2005 the NSW NCA introduced a new feature race in honour of iconic sprinter Black Top.

Black Top was inducted to the AGRA Hall of Fame at the awards night at Sandown Park in March 2008 and again in March 2009 in Perth (WA) when he went into the Sires category.



***Last year's Group 2 Sires On Ice Black Top winner – French Martini***

***For further information:*** General Manager Michael Brady Ph: (02) 4951 5842 or email [thegardens@grnsw.com.au](mailto:thegardens@grnsw.com.au) for Function bookings, sponsorship, racing matters, Feature races, close of nominations, trial times and bookings.

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