

Media Release

Thompson aims for fourth Bendigo Cup in ten years

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Outstanding sprinter Aston Bolero has been installed a \$2.90 favourite by tab.com.au for next week's 3BO FM 93.5 Bendigo Cup final after a scintillating display in his all the way heat victory to make yet another big race final.

Prepared by Jason Thompson, who has won three of the past nine Bendigo Cups (El Galo 2008, Peggy May 2012 and Ronan Izmir 2013), scored his 27th career win from start 45 when he carved out sections of 6.50 and 11.19 en route to an overall 23.681 – just 0.001 slower than the fastest heat time posted by Unlawful Entry at 23.680.

The Bendigo Cup will be Aston Bolero's eighth black type contest to date of which he has been twice runner up in the Maitland and Warrnambool Cups. His consistent box manners and sizzling mid section will see him as the runner to beat in the \$47,000 group 2 event especially after drawing nicely in box two.

If Aston Bolero is to place his first trophy in the cabinet he is going to have to overcome an outstanding field of sprinters that between them have saluted at 139 of their combined 282 outings and banked more than \$675,000 in stake money.

Traralgon Cup winner Pantera Nera, despite dropping back 100m in distance in just eight days impressed with a 23.787 victory including a breathtaking first section of 6.48. Although awkwardly drawn in box five in the final his terrific early pace will hold him in good stead to overcome the alley and he will looking for back to back country cups in the space of thirteen days.

The finalist with the least experience, Ultimate Magic, sits on the second line of early betting after drawing box eight. Prepared by Anthony Azzopardi, the son of group 1 National Futurity winner Daydream missed the start slightly before driving through to find the front after 50m and raced

away for a 23.741 win, scoring his thirteenth win from just nineteen starts. Ultimate Magic has drawn box eight in the final – a box where he has won three times from four attempts.

The lone group 1 winner in the series Unlawful Entry was arguably the most impressive winner – not just by clocking the fastest heat win of 23.680 but by how he did it, coming from mid field at the first turn and third approaching the home turn. Despite lacking in early speed at this stage of his career Unlawful Entry still possesses an enormous finish and is capable of matching with the best in the land and he will no doubt give a great sight once again.

Gotta Get Back from box one will be looking to add the Bendigo Cup to his Shepparton Cup victory earlier in the year and impressed in his 23.841 heat win. Track specialist and last year's Gold Rush Maiden winner Zoltina's Legacy made it six out of six at Bendigo and he has drawn box three in the final.

In an improved effort from the boxes Proven Kodiak was far too strong for Folio Bale and after having no luck in the Shepparton and Northern Districts Cups he will be looking for better luck next week but has drawn box four.

The bolter of the field will be the Jeff Britton trained Mumma Josie who saluted in the slowest heat time of 23.980 and has drawn box six.

While the 3BO FM 93.5 Bendigo Cup is the highlight of next Friday night's card a mouth watering clash is likely in the Diamond Vision Photography Winter Cup after Burn One Down and Jaycee posted similar times in effortless heat wins.

Burn One Down recorded what is reported to be the fastest ever run home time over the 660m trip en route to a 37.805 win while Jaycee clocked 37.850. The other heat was taken out by Ok Jake in 38.16.

