

# SPORT with Chris de Kretser and Daryl Timms

# CONFIDENTIAL

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## Duo earns ride of way

IF YOU'RE thinking about backing a winner in the Greatest Cup Never Run, for which the TAB has framed a market, it's worth noting what jockeys Roy Higgins and Glen Boss have to say.

The champion hoops were speaking last week about their mounts in the fictional race, announced as part of this year's 150th Melbourne Cup celebration.

Higgins will ride Light Fingers, a \$21 chance on TAB Sportsbet, which he described as "an absolute jockey's dream".

"She's just too good. She was the horse that could make

a jockey," Higgins said of the great mare who won the first of Bart Cummings dozen Cups.

"When she ran she passed on that much confidence to you."

Boss has a similar view of Makybe Diva, who he rode to a record three successive wins, 2003-05.

"You get on one horse and everything just fits absolutely perfect," Boss said of the Diva, who has been quoted as second favourite at \$6.50.

"Everything you try to do, they do it for you."

Phar Lap is favourite at \$5 in the simulated race, which will be shown on Cup day with Rising Fast at \$8.50 and Carbine and Peter Pan at \$11.

THE two jockeys also had interesting choices of the men

they rated highest in the saddle.

Higgins said it was Bill Williamson — "he was the best rider I rode against".

He said that even the great Lester Piggott rated Williamson as the best.

He said that after Piggott was beaten in the Arc de Triomphe by Williamson's mount, he was quoted as saying: "I just got beaten by the best horse in the land and the best jockey in the land."

"Piggott later confirmed it to me," Higgins said.

Boss gave Michael Kinane, who rode Vintage Crop to victory in 1993, high praise.

"He was one of the best riders in the world and he got better as he got older," Boss said.

### LATEST MARKET

#### Greatest Cup Never Run

- \$5 PHAR LAP
- \$6.50 Makybe Diva
- \$8.50 Rising Fast
- \$11 Carbine, Peter Pan
- \$13 Galilee
- \$17 Might And Power
- \$21 Rain Lover, Dalray, Light Fingers
- \$26 Poseidon, Grand Flaneur, Poitrel, Sainly
- \$34 Comic Court, Nightmarch
- \$41 Delta, The Barb
- \$51 Hall Mark, Doriemus
- \$67 Vintage Crop
- \$101 Archer, Malua, Think Big

UNOFFICIAL ODDS



Tatt's daring: the streaker.

### Bare on the run

IT WAS shades of Helen D'Amico at the 1982 Grand Final.

A streaker ran on to the ground in Hobart yesterday during the Tasmanian women's league grand final between Launceston and Clarence.

Clad only in a pair of green and gold shorts and sporting tats that would have done Dane Swan proud, she caused quite a few blushes among the largely female crowd.

### Baring their claws

THE Tigers continue to fly the flag for Victorian footy.

Richmond completed a full set of wins against interstate clubs this season when it downed Adelaide yesterday.

The problem for Damien Hardwick is that all his team's six wins have come against non-Victorian clubs.

### Hird and seen

HIS interest could stem from his childhood in Canberra, but James Hird was a keen spectator at Saturday night's Bledisloe Cup Test.

And he wasn't the only AFL person to attend the rugby. We also spotted Adelaide coach Neil Craig in the crowd.



Big swim: John Van Wisse

### Going the distance

AS Jackson Fletcher-Coon returned to Melbourne after winning the gold medal in the Alcatraz Prison Swim in San Francisco, his coach and mentor, John Van Wisse, was leaving for England to attempt a triple crossing of the English Channel.

Both men have been raising money for homeless and disadvantaged young people in Melbourne.

Fletcher-Coon was one of 700 swimmers taking part in the 2.4km race to the mainland in waters containing sharks, sea lions and treacherous currents.

Van Wisse has to swim 102km through one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. John's sister, Tammy, a champion distance swimmer herself, will accompany him on the support boat.



Good cause: Hamish and Andy with Joshua, Katherine and Kristopher, kids helped by the foundation. Picture: MATT DELLER

## Warnie and friends kick in for kids

DESPITE their slump, Shane Warnie is confident his beloved Saints can win that elusive flag this year and he plans to get the finals started with a bang.

The Shane Warnie Foundation Footy Finals Lunch is for a good cause.

"It's going to be a great day so come and join us and help raise money for children's charities,"

Warnie said from England, where he's getting the lowdown on the Poms before the Ashes battle.

The lunch, hosted by radio duo Hamish Blake and Andy Lee on Sunday, August 29, will be the foundation's biggest.

Sam Newman, Garry Lyon, Glenn Archer and Aaron Hamill will talk football and Strauchanie,

Mick Molloy, Russell Gilbert, Glenn Robbins and Fifi Box will entertain with a humorous take on the season.

"We have an all-star line-up looking forward to providing you with our own blend of football insight and comic relief," foundation general manager Jason Warnie said.

The foundation raises funds to help seriously ill and underprivileged children and teenagers in Australia.

It raised \$530,000 last year for 28 charities and has handed out more than \$3 million since its inception.

Tickets for the Crown Palladium lunch are \$250 or \$2000 for a table of 10. Book at [www.tswf.com.au](http://www.tswf.com.au)

### Dons flying light

THOSE fair-weather Essendon fans seem to be still staying away in their droves.

Only 37,185 attended the Bombers' great upset win against St Kilda on Friday night, a very poor crowd for an Essendon home game under the roof at Etihad against a Melbourne team.

Those who stayed away must be kicking themselves for not attending and just may be ready to jump on the Bombers bandwagon again.

### H-eck of line-up

THE Essendon team set a record for the number of players with surnames starting with H in the game against St Kilda.

Seven Bombers with H surnames took the field — Bachar Houli, David Hille, Cale Hooker, Heath Hocking, Michael Hurley, Kyle Hardingham and Ben Howlett.

### As sharp as ever

THE doyen of the footy one-liner, Dennis Cometti, had his fellow Channel 7 commentators in awe on Friday night with his description of a pass from Essendon's Brent Stanton to Jay Neagle through traffic in the last quarter against St Kilda.

"Stanton has found a Neagle in a haystack," Cometti said.

Neagle then promptly threaded the needle to goal from an acute angle on the boundary.

### Boost for clubs

FIVE junior teams in the Dandenong area received a surprise boost last week from the Text A Star message business.

The service has 40 AFL players on its books who send out two text messages a week to subscribers who pay \$2 for each text.

But the business, founded by former North and Fremantle player Peter Mann, plans to give something back to local footy.

Mann distributed first-aid kits to the junior sides.

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