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Son of Pins gallops into Melbourne Cup contention



Photo: Breednet

New Zealand Champion sire Pins (Snippets-No Finer, by Kaoru Star) added further group success when 5YO gelding Gallopin (Pins-Carla Rossi, by Spectacular Love) snatched victory by a head in the final strides of the \$250,000 Gr2 Cathay Pacific Airways (2500m) for 4YOs & up at Moonee Valley. Gallopin who was ridden by James Winks for trainer Danny O'Brien defeated favoured 7YO gelding Baughurst & 6YO gelding Ice Chariot.



Photo: Getty Images

Gallopin was a NZ\$40,000 yearling purchase at the 2005 NZ Bloodstock Select Sale. The win took his impressive record to 8 wins including last season's Listed Bagot Handicap over 2500m at Flemington & 5 placings including April's Listed Auckland Racing Club Handicap over 1600m from 18 starts for \$523,868 earnings.

Executing part of a year-long plan, trainer Danny O'Brien was "very confident" heading into the Group 2 \$250,000 Cathay Pacific Airways Cup (2500m) that his five-year-old Karaka graduate, Gallopin, would perform well enough to keep the 2008 Melbourne Cup in his sights.

Following Gallopin's win O'Brien confirmed, "He's had the right prep for it so we will keep progressing to the Cup," said O'Brien. "I have a very good opinion of this horse as a stayer. Getting out to the distances that suit him you can really see what he can do."



Photo: John Donegan

Bred by M McKechnie from the Spectacular Love mare, Carla Rossi, Gallopin is by Waikato Stud sire Pins, sire of last year's Cox Plate winner El Segundo.

Raced by Len Phillips, Mr S Phillips and Mr B Whittaker, Gallopin's part-owner Len Phillips was jubilant after the win. "This is the first horse we have ever brought to Australia and it's a dream come true. We thought maybe next year's Melbourne Cup would be our aim but its come sooner than we thought."