

The Golden Slipper Fits Miss Finland Perfectly!



Trevor Jones, Thoroughbred Photography Ltd

When Miss Finland dominated this year's running of the Golden Slipper Stakes, staged in Australia, she topped a string of remarkable achievements for a revered Hunter Valley breeding farm and a South Australian racing dynasty.

Australia has a rich tradition of two-year-old Thoroughbred racing and features several lucrative stakes in its juvenile program. The jewel in this crown is the 1200-meter Group 1 AAMI Golden Slipper Stakes. Locally referred to as the "Golden Slipper" and held annually during Sydney's Autumn Racing Carnival, the 2006 edition marked the 50th anniversary of the event. Run at Rosehill Gardens and open only to two-year-old colts and fillies, the race was contested on April 8 for a purse of \$3 million.

This year Miss Finland left an unforgettable mark on the Australian racing scene by beating a class-packed field and finishing four and one-half lengths ahead of her closest rival. The victory cemented trainer David Hayes' reputation as a skilled conditioner of two-year-olds and brought the amazing run of success experienced by the powerful Lindsay Park Racing Stables this season to its crescendo. Hayes was tremendously excited after his first Golden Slipper win. "She was just so dominant today," he enthused. "I think we have a very exciting horse going

forward with this filly." Hayes was also responsible for training the third-place finisher, Churchill Downs.

The Golden Slipper is preceded by the 1200-meter Group 1 AAMI Blue Diamond Stakes, contested at Caulfield Racecourse in southeastern Melbourne. The "Blue Diamond" is Victoria's richest race for two-year-olds, worth \$1 million. In perfect preparation for the Golden Slipper, Hayes saddled both the winner and second-place finisher in this year's running of the Blue Diamond. Nadeem, positioned back in the field, came with a barnstorming run in the homestretch to beat Miss Finland by two and a quarter lengths. The win was Hayes' third Blue Diamond triumph.

Lindsay Park

Established by legendary trainer Colin S. Hayes in 1965, Lindsay Park is steeped in racing lore. Based in the South Australian Barossa Valley, Lindsay Park is situated in an area more famous for production of wine than racehorses. Indeed, when Lindsay Park was moved to its current location from

Semaphore Park in Adelaide, the general consensus among horsemen in the Thoroughbred industry reproved such a move and many people predicted failure for the now venerable institution. Years later, however, the notion of failure is laughable, for Lindsay Park possesses every possible convenience and extravagance for preparing racehorses as well as a most enviable racing record.

Colin's son David began running the operation in 1990 with great success. In the five years that David first trained at Lindsay Park, he won every premierships (leading training title) in Adelaide and Victoria and won countless Group 1 races (the most prestigious) including the Melbourne Cup. In 1996, David accepted a position to train in Hong Kong, where he continued his winning ways. While in Hong Kong, David was the country's leading trainer two years and never strayed from the top four. He saddled mounts that won over \$100 million.

With David in Hong Kong, brother Peter continued to win premierships for Lindsay Park until his tragic death in March, 2001. Despite his nearest rivals having over four months to surpass his tally of winners, Peter Hayes still managed to win the Melbourne trainer's premierships for the 2000/2001 season. Longtime assistant trainer Tony McEvoy, who had by that time worked for Lindsay Park for 26 years, took over the reins after Peter's death and continued the tradition of winning premierships, securing four in Adelaide and one in Melbourne until David returned from Hong Kong in August 2005. Together, Colin, Peter, Tony and David have won 66 Australian training premierships in Adelaide and Melbourne, a record that is unlikely to be beaten in Australia or any other country.

Lindsay Park's continued growth and expansion has underpinned its unrivaled track record. With the development of new racing stables at Flemington Racecourse in Melbourne and establishment of a second facility in Victoria, the Lindsay Park operation has continued to

evolve. The amazing foresight and innovation of Colin Hayes enabled him to create a racing and breeding empire that continues to make history. Few would argue that Colin Hayes lived by his motto, "The future belongs to those who plan for it."

Arrowfield Stud

To some, Miss Finland's success would almost come as no surprise. Indeed, she would seem to have an impeccable pedigree for two-year old contests. Her sire, Redoute's Choice, has a truly outstanding record. A 1996 bay stallion by the incomparable Danehill, Redoute's Choice proved a smashing success on the racetrack. He romped to victory in four Group I events during his racing career and was named 1999-2000 Champion Three-Year-Old Miler in Australasia. His winnings totaled more than \$1.5 million.

A winner of the 1999 Blue Diamond himself, Redoute's Choice has sired the winners of both the Golden Slipper and the Blue Diamond, for two years running! In 2005, Stratum won the Golden Slipper and Undoubtedly won the Blue Diamond. Even more remarkably, Redoute's Choice sired the first- and second-place finishers in both the 2005 Golden Slipper and the 2006 Blue Diamond. Setting a record, Redoute's Choice sired six of the sixteen runners in the 2005 Golden Slipper field. Rightly so, Redoute's Choice is considered the "hottest sire in Australia" and one of the world's top stallions.

Redoute's Choice stands at Arrowfield Stud and heads an impressive roster of nine stallions, including Danzero, Falbrav, Flying Spur, Hussonet and the exciting new sire Snitzel. The Arrowfield property is situated in the Segenhoe Valley, a highly fertile pocket of land near Scone in the Upper Hunter Valley of New South Wales, renowned for its production of class racehorses.

The breeding of Miss Finland was the result of a mating between Redoute's Choice and Forest Pearl, a daughter of Woodman. Though she never raced, royal blood courses through Forest Pearl's veins, as she is the daughter of the game race mare Moonshell (Ire), winner of the 1995 Group I English Oaks. Arrowfield cared for Forest Pearl throughout her pregnancy, and on August 16, 2003, Forest Pearl gave birth to a splendid filly. She remained under the care and supervision of Arrowfield through weaning and preparation for sale as a yearling.

Recognized as one of the premier Thoroughbred nurseries in the country, Arrowfield leaves little to chance. Because the farm is in the business of rearing top-quality racehorses, manner of growth is imperative for future soundness. As such, Arrowfield takes proper growth seri-

Miss Finland's connections celebrate the Golden Slipper victory. Jockey Craig Williams and trainer David Hayes are shown with the winner's trophy.




ously, extensively utilizing Gro-Trac®, growth-monitoring software developed by KER. Managers can ensure slow, steady growth by measuring a foal's height and weight and comparing the results against standard averages. If a foal is found to be growing too slowly, feeding management can be adjusted to accelerate growth. If, on the other hand, a foal is found to be growing too quickly, possibly heading towards growth-related problems, the feeding management can be altered to slow growth.

As is the case with all foals born at Arrowfield, Miss Finland was handled intensively. Included in her management was a monthly check of height and weight. Those data were entered into Gro-Trac, and her managers could ascertain how her growth curve compared to foals of similar age and sex. For more information on Gro-Trac and to

see Miss Finland's growth curve over an eighteen-month period, check out "Slow, Steady Growth Hallmark of Miss Finland's Rearing" below.

As a yearling, Miss Finland was sold at the prestigious Sydney Easter Yearling Sales for \$450,000. After she sold, John Messara, managing director of Arrowfield, commented that, in his opinion, she would be one of the country's best fillies in the next season. His prediction was spot-on.

Countless variables converge to determine the fate of equine athletes like Miss Finland. Through unwavering dedication to the horse and the sport, Lindsay Park Stud and Racing Stables and Arrowfield have achieved unparalleled success. Both farms use KER's expertise to develop feeding programs and KER Team Member Ridley AgriProducts to supply scientifically formulated feeds. 

Slow, Steady Growth Hallmark of Miss Finland's Rearing

Slow, steady gains in the weight and height of weanlings and yearlings help avoid growth-related problems such as epiphysitis and osteochondritis dissecans (OCD). Without proper tools, however, weight and height data might become a jumble of numbers with little meaning.

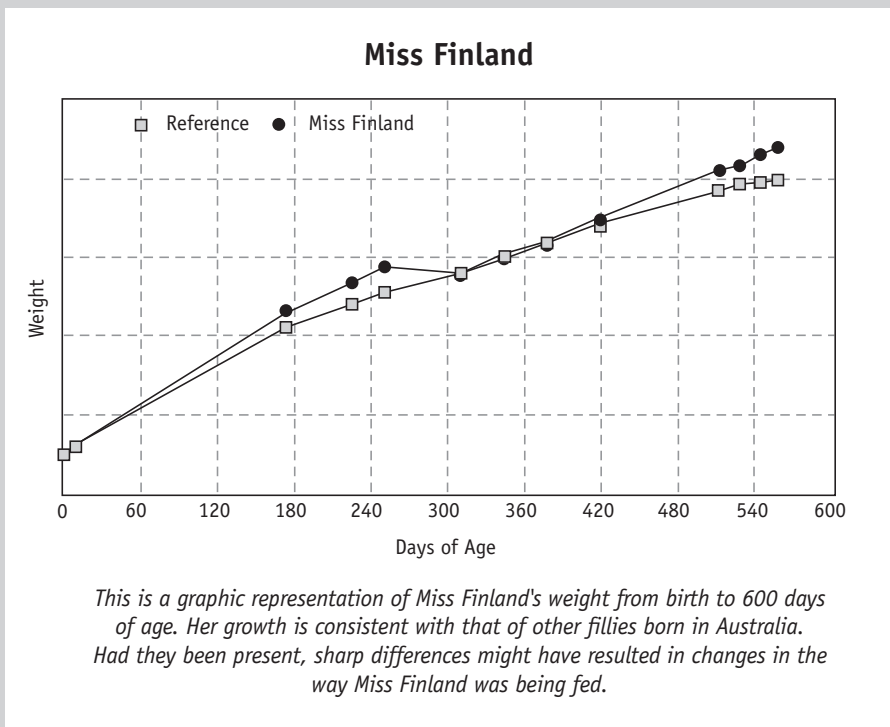
Evaluating height and weight of young horses is easy with Gro-Trac.® Created by KER, Gro-Trac is a software program that compares height and weight measurements of young horses with an enormous database of growth statistics accumulated over several years. The database can be set to specific parameters. In the case of Miss Finland, her height and weight were compared to that of other Thoroughbred fillies born in Australia.

This graph shows Miss Finland's weight gain in comparison to the reference data. The graph points indicating Miss Finland's weight create a fairly linear path with only a few elevations above reference, indicating her weight gains were completely within normal limits. Had Miss Finland come up too heavy at any point, her caretakers may have seen fit to adjust her diet to reduce calorie intake. Conversely, if she had come up significantly lighter than her contemporaries, an increase in caloric intake may have been warranted.

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Please contact KER today if you're interested in using Gro-Trac as a management tool on your farm. Call 1-888-873-1988!

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