

Ipswich Racing

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The Mick Price and Michael Kent Junior-trained Naifah, with Emily Lang in the saddle, races home first in the Fertpro Gai Waterhouse Classic (1200m)



Emily Lang discusses the win she described as one of the biggest in her career so far.

Kaluakoi: Emily's Cup win

By Peter Foley

Apprentice Emily Lang admits she has struggled with the inevitable letdown of losing her riding claim, but Ipswich Cup Day proved she has a bright future.

Emily rode Kaluakoi to a stirring, all-the-way win in the \$250,000 Listed Ipswich Cup (2150m) for training duo Chris and Corey Munce.

She capped the day with another Stakes success, guiding Naifah to victory in the \$160,000 Listed Gai Waterhouse Classic (1200m) for Mick Price and Michael Kent Junior.

Last season, Emily fought for the Brisbane jockeys' premiership before finishing second to Angela Jones, but this season has been tougher.

"I think this is always your toughest year when you lose your claim as an apprentice," Emily said.

"It will start to get better now as I establish myself more as a senior.

"This is one of my biggest wins to date. I really appreciate getting the support from such a good, stable, like Chris and Corey Munce and also the owners for trusting me so early in my career.

"He's a big, free-flowing horse who likes to get out and do his thing, so that was the plan from the start — jump, balance up around the first corner, then let him relax and find a rhythm.

"At the top of the straight I had a lapful of horse underneath me. The feel he gave me, it would have had to be a good one to catch him."

Before the race, Emily was a picture of smiling calm, saying, 'G'day' to the owners.

She reckons that attitude helped Kaluakoi.

"The owners are full of nerves and Chris and Corey were pretty confident with the delivery of their instructions today," she said.

"Probably my best trait of riding is getting them out in front and when you're on a horse that gives you so much confidence right from the start, it was a very nice enjoyable ride."

Kaluakoi won by just under a length from runner-up Encoder, with Sun Worshipper in third.

Chris Munce won the Ipswich Cup as a jockey on Oompala in 1994 and, four years ago, became the first person to win it as both jockey and trainer when Smart Meteor saluted.

When the Ipswich Tribune Today caught up with Chris and Corey, they were in the winners' bar — Chris with champagne, Corey with a beer.

"It means everything, working with family, and days like this make it worthwhile," Corey said.

"Dad's obviously been in the game a lot longer than I have. I'm still learning. I feel like I've got a grasp of the training caper and the industry.

"I think we see eye to eye on a lot of things, but we do challenge each other.

"Not in a bad way, but it makes us think about what we do. Hopefully, with that in mind, we make the right decision.

"This horse, we paid a bit of money for him, but we really wanted him because this is the style of race that we thought he could aim up in."

He added it was pleasing to win with Emily.

"She's clearly a talented rider. You don't ride winners unless you're at the top of your game," he said.



Apprentice Emily Lang is already smiling as she guides Kaluakoi to victory in the TAB Ipswich Cup (2150m). Encoder ran on for second, with Sun Worshipper in third. (Trackside Photography)

"Ipswich has been a happy hunting ground for our stable and his pattern of racing suits Ipswich.

"So we were quietly confident with no weight on his back, knowing he was near his peak today, he'd run a race."

Ipswich jockey Jake Bayliss will have to wait another year to fulfil his dream of winning the

Cup after Belvedere Boys finished fifth.

"Couldn't be any happier where I was down the back straight. At a crucial time at the 600, things out wide started to get mobile, and the cart that I had just didn't take me anywhere," Jake said.

"But he showed a nice turn of foot once he got clear; he had enough time, and he rushed

into third.

"And then he sort of peaked at the hundred and sort of flatlined.

"So maybe he's a query at the trip. The 2150 might have just been a stretch.

"It's a hard race to win. It doesn't matter what you're on, you've got to get the right run."