



By

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Siena's Pride takes out TTC Horse of the Year

Outstanding two-year-old filly Siena's Pride capped off a remarkable 2008/09 racing season by being named the Townsville Turf Club Horse of the Year.

It has been well documented that this bonny filly by Honours List, was purchased for just \$1000 at the Magic Millions Yearling Sales in March 2008 for a syndicate of 10 almost all first time racehorse owners.

The syndicate was formed by long-time Townsville Turf Club committee member Dino Di Bella. Almost half of the township of Ingham at Cluden Park were cheering her on when she annihilated them in winning the \$100,000 Parry Nissan in June.

She clearly is one of the best thoroughbred purchases going around, taking all before her in her two-year-old year at Cluden Park.

It all started in October 2008 when she ran a game second to the super smart and now Brisbane and Sydney performer Kiss Me Katy.

Both two-year-olds showed that they were streets ahead of the rest in a dominant one-two in the Pallarenda Stakes.

Siena's Pride then stepped out minus the flying Kiss Me Katy on November 7 and showed the other juveniles how it was done. She cleared out to win convincingly by six and a half lengths in the smart time of 57.45, running home her last 600m in a flying 33.37.

This exciting filly then took the summer months off before returning on March 23. Here she showed she had lost none of her zip and even stamped her class as a future superstar of racing.

In the Two-Year-Old Handicap 1000m she carried 58kg and gave nothing else a chance in winning by seven and three quarter lengths, this time almost breaking 57 seconds over the flying 1000m.

After a small freshen up Siena's Pride stepped out on May 5 again showing she was all class in winning by two and a quarter lengths from some up-and-coming Parry Nissan starters over the 1000m in the process lumping 58.5kg.

What really set Siena's Pride apart from the rest was her next start, this time on May 26



Siena's Pride winning the Parry Nissan in June Mike Mills photos

in her final Parry Nissan warm-up against the older horses in Class 3 company. Here she defeated some seasoned professional sprinters in Voodoo Brown Magic (now racing and competing at open level) and Sun Yatsen. On a dead track and against older horses, she again showed true class in winning by almost a length in a time of 57.31 on a rain affected surface.

Siena's Pride made it to the grand final, the Parry Nissan Great Northern 2YO Classic, under a wave of pressure and queries about her running out the 1200m for the first time. This and the weight of expectation proved no match for the bonny filly who won this prestigious race by almost two lengths. In the process she ran a flying 1:09.34 for the 1200m giving nothing else a look in at first prize of \$64,000.



TTC president presents Siena's Pride's owner Dino Di Bella with the Horse of the Year trophy

Siena's Pride took her earnings for the year to just under \$100,000 and is set to become the new Sea Zulu of Cluden Park in the coming years.

Siena's Pride won the Horse of the Year Award ahead of the Roy Chillemi-trained Kanetoshi King, with the Errol Covell-trained Elegant Roi third and Legal Position rounding out the top four for Horse of the Year honours at Cluden Park for the 2008/09 racing season. ●