



Paying homage: Racegoers share the moment with Black Caviar and Luke Nolen on Saturday. Picture: WAYNE LUDBEY

That was the mare's best run



FREE REIN

with ADRIAN DUNN

AS far as defining moments go, can Saturday's Lightning Stakes be topped?

Not only did Black Caviar etch her name alongside Desert Gold and Gloaming in Australasian turf folklore for 19 consecutive wins, but this once-in-a-lifetime mare did much more.

She silenced all those naysayers who said the opposition she had beaten was ho-hum, or similarly ridiculous things.

Black Caviar rolled out all her qualities in a breathtaking display, her finest performance.

Yes, better than the record-breaking Newmarket Handicap performance, where she shouldered 58kg to run the fastest time in the history of the nation's premier handicap sprint.

Yes, better than when she gave Hay List a seemingly impossible start and still defeated him in the T.J. Smith Stakes at Randwick.

Black Caviar raised the bar to even more dizzy heights.

She dropped back from 1400m to 1000m within the space of a week and found herself engaged in the fight of her life. Hay List issued the strongest of challenges, so much so that for the first time the champion appeared vulnerable.

Hay List's jockey Glyn Schofield was not alone when he thought Black Caviar was wavering for a moment inside the 350m mark.

As Black Caviar's jockey Luke Nolen said later, champions find a way to overcome adversity and that's what she did.

She was able to delve into her seemingly limitless reserves of stamina, and rallied.

After such an engrossing, stride-for-stride duel, Black Caviar was able to shake off Hay List.

The sectional splits revealed Black Caviar ran home her last 600m in 31.78sec. Head-spinning.

But more amazing is that she clocked 30.59sec from the 800m to the 200m and that included a jaw-dropping 9.98sec from the 600m to the 400m.

Those who saw Black Caviar win the Lightning Stakes witnessed one of the great moments in Australian turf history.

'Flying' Caviar makes claim on Flemington track record

The time of her life

Adrian Dunn

BLACK Caviar is the new owner of the Flemington 1000m track record.

Well, that is if digital reproduction of Saturday's Lightning Stakes done by Daily Sectionals, a company that provides Racing Victoria with an assessment of all race times in the state, is validated.

Daily Sectionals revealed yesterday that Black Caviar had stopped the clock in the Lightning Stakes at 55.44sec.

That time, which Daily Sectionals owner Vince Accardi said he had triple-checked, is 0.09sec faster than the 55.53sec posted at Flemington on Saturday.

And it is 0.06sec faster than the track record time Special recorded in the 1988 Lightning.

RVL racing manager Greg Carpenter said the Daily Sectionals report on the Lightning Stakes would be considered.

FUTURITY STAKES MARKET

(with Black Caviar)

- \$1.05 BLACK CAVIAR
- \$12 Rain Affair
- \$18 Wall Street, Pinker Pinker
- \$81 Doubtful Jack
- \$101 Danzylum
- \$151 Adamantium

(without Black Caviar)

- \$2.10 RAIN AFFAIR
- \$3.60 Wall Street, Pinker Pinker
- \$16 Danzylum, Doubtful Jack
- \$21 Adamantium

*Odds Supplied by TAB Sportsbet



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Follow Black Caviar's progress ahead of a possible start this weekend at superracing.com.au

was a very clear and concise line at the finish, so I feel it's as perfect as I can get it using digital-age technology," he said. "Everything from my point of view demonstrates that 55.44sec is the time."

Accardi described Black Caviar's performance as "simply sensational" and the "best ever 1000m performance at Flemington".

He said during the 9.98sec 200m split from the 600m to the 400m, she was running at 20m a second, which he described as astonishing.

Accardi rates horses' performances in lengths — above or below the average of the first four horses across the line on dead to good tracks at the trip and distance.

"The result from the Lightning Stakes is that Black Caviar ran a phenomenal 16.6 lengths above the benchmark (for the track and distance on a dead to good surface)," Accardi said.

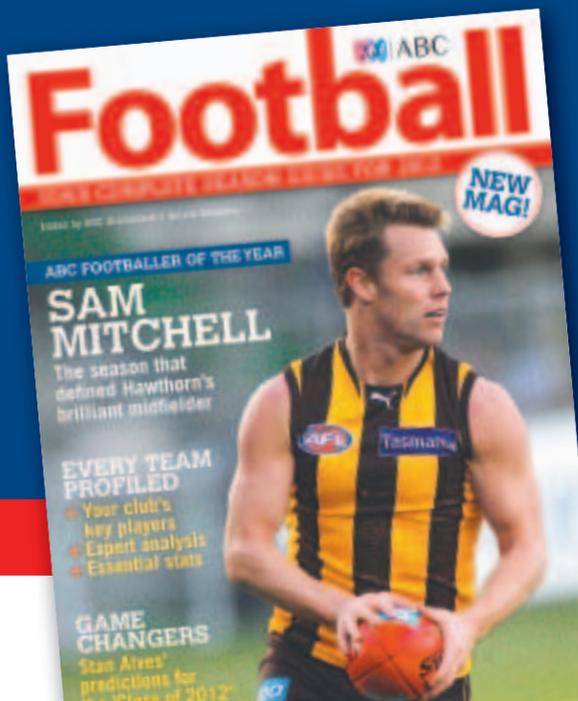
"The times she ran is like flying."

"Where Vince's time falls outside his usual variance of between one and two tenths of a second, then we would make further investigation," Carpenter said.

"Given this is below the usual variance, it's something we'll have to look at."

Accardi said he'd gone through a "pretty rigorous test to triple cross-check myself" to ensure all the footage was clean and there had been no frame losses.

"We were fortunate that we had a head-on shot of the start so we couldn't get that wrong and there



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