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Dorabella surges to victory in Captain Cook Stakes

by Delamere Usher

Dorabella overpowered eight rivals away to win the Wellington Racing Club's \$153,320 (\$200,000 New Zealand) First Sovereign Trust Captain Cook Stakes (NZ-G1) by 3 1/4 lengths at Trentham racecourse on Saturday.

Seachange, the red-hot favorite, was aiming for her sixth Group 1 victory in the 1,600-meter (7.95-furlong) weight-for-age race and almost succeeded. Sir Slick snatched the lead from Dezipna and set a solid pace, pursued by Al Farouk, Seachange, and Bonjour.

Sir Slick increased his lead as they raced along the backstretch, with Seachange within striking distance. Veteran Sir Slick was still in front as the field swept around the home turn, but not for long as Seachange was on the move.

Seachange closed in with every stride and the crowd cheered her on as she appeared poised for victory. Suddenly, Dorabella, ridden by Hayden Tinsley, surged into contention from the outside with a scintillating turn of foot and won going away in 1:34.50 on a track rated as dead.

Seachange finished second followed by Porotene Gem and Sir Slick.

A four-year-old Postponed filly trained by Howie and Lorraine Mathews for owner D. Ha, Dorabella won the 2006 New Zealand One Thousand Guineas (NZ-G1). Out of the winning Kaapstad mare Caserio, Dorabella improved to five wins and two seconds in 14 career starts.

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