

Farewell to champion of the turf

IT IS ALWAYS WITH GREAT SADNESS WHEN WE HEAR OF THE PASSING OF ONE OF OUR CHAMPION HORSES AND THIS WAS THE CASE WHEN NEWS CAME OF INTERGAZE'S DEPARTURE

WORDS: SHARON HUNT (EXECUTIVE OFFICER – NSWROA) PICTURE: STEVE HART

One of our greatest middle-distance performers, everyone remembers Intergaze who the press referred to as the "giant killer" primarily for his defeat of the Champion galloper Octagonal at his last race start in the Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Royal Randwick in April 1997.

But Intergaze was so much more than a 'one-hit wonder'. He was successful in the black type arena no less than 11 times – eight of those wins being at Group 1 Level.

With some \$3.77 million in prizemoney, he faced the starter 49 times for 12 wins, 10 second placings and four thirds.

Incredibly, apart from his very first race start, Intergaze raced in the black type arena his entire racing career – a truly remarkable feat!

So let's go back to the beginning and tell the story of his amazing career.

Intergaze (Integra-Tempergaze (USA)) was owned by Mr C.M. Lee, Mr L.A. Andreazza, Mr P.K.T. Chin, Mr W. Manikas, Mr H. Hillely and Mr Ray McDowell (NSWROA President) and was trained by Rod Craig.

The horse made his debut on 9 December 1995 at Rosehill where he easily defeated his opponents over 1100m in a 2YO handicap.

Next up was a third placing in the Listed Kindergarten Stakes followed two weeks later with a second in the Group 3 Skyline Stakes.

The Gr 2 Pago Pago Stakes was his next start where he finished third, then followed his first start at Gr 1 level in the Sires' Produce Stakes where he finished 7th to Merlene, the Golden Slipper winner of the season.

His final start as a 2YO was his crowning glory saluting in the Gr 1 Champagne Stakes. In total Intergaze had six starts as a 2YO for two wins (including a Gr 1), a second placing (Gr 3) and two thirds (Gr 2 and a Listed Race).

As a 3YO, Intergaze had 11 starts for three wins (two at Gr 1 level and a Listed), four 2nd placings (two at Gr 1 level, a Gr 2 and a Gr 3) and a third (Gr 1).

Intergaze started his 3YO season with a 6th in the Gr 3 Up and Coming Stakes then duly saluted in the Listed Heritage Stakes.

Three second placings followed in the Gr 2 Stan Fox Stakes, Gr 1 Caulfield Guineas and the Gr 3 AAMI Vase. He had no luck at his next start in the Gr 1 Victorian Derby finishing sixth.

After a short let-up he returned in February 1997 with a 4th in the Gr 2 Hobartville Stakes. His first Gr 1 win as a 3YO was in the Canterbury Guineas where he was too strong for Might and Power.

He was a close second to Tampir Lane in the Gr 1 Rosehill Guineas then next finished third to Ebony Grosve in the Gr 1 AJC Derby.

It was, however, at his last start as a 3YO that he recorded his best win for the season in the WFA Gr 1 Queen Elizabeth Stakes where he defeated Octagonal in his final race start.

Intergaze's record as a 4YO was probably his leanest – recording just the one win (Gr 2 O'Shea Stakes at Eagle Farm) and two second placings (Gr 1

Doomben Cup and Gr 3 Chairman's Handicap) from his 11 starts.

As a 5YO, Intergaze arguably had his best season recording three wins (all at Group 1 level) and three seconds (two at Gr 1 and a Gr 2) from only eight race starts.

His first up 5th in the Gr 1 C.F. Orr Stakes was followed by three consecutive seconds in the Gr 2 St George Stakes, Gr 1 Australian Cup and the Gr 1 Mercedes Classic (now the BMW).

Intergaze then recorded back-to-back Gr 1 wins in the All Aged Stakes and the Queen Elizabeth Stakes prior to a Queensland campaign.

That campaign started with a 6th in the Gr 2 Hollindale Stakes prior to a win in the Gr 1 Doomben Cup which was his last start for the season.

Intergaze had his final racing season as a 6YO, facing the starter 13 times for three wins (two at Gr 1 level and a Gr 2) and a third placing (Gr 1).

He started his last season with a 5th in the Gr 2 Warwick Stakes followed by a win in the Gr 2 Chelmsford Stakes and success in the Gr 1 Underwood Stakes.

Next up was a 4th in the Gr 1 Yalumba Stakes and a 6th placing in the Gr 1 W.S. Cox Plate. His last start for the campaign was a 5th in the Gr 1 L.K.S. Mackinnon Stakes.

After a spell he resumed in February 2000 with a third in the Gr 1 C.F. Orr Stakes followed by a 5th placing in the Gr 2 St George Stakes. He returned to the winner's circle at his next start winning the Gr 1 Australian Cup – which was to be the last win of his career.

Intergaze had four further runs in the Gr 1 George Ryder Stakes (9th), Gr 1 All



Intergaze in full flight with Craig Carmody aboard winning the 1999 Group 1 Chelmsford Stakes at Randwick

Aged Stakes (8th), Gr 1 Queen Elizabeth Stakes (6th) and finally the Gr 2 Hollindale Stakes (6th) on 17 May 2000.

The handsome chestnut retired to Widden Stud for the 2000 breeding season and received good opportunities in his early years at stud.

Intergaze sired three stakes-winners: Maybe Better (winner of the Gr 3 MRC Coongy Handicap, Gr 3 VRC SAAB Quality and Listed VRC Japan Trophy Race, as well as a 3rd placing in the Gr 1 Melbourne Cup); Gaze On (winner of the Listed AJC T.L. Baillieu

Handicap) and Sir Sensible (winner of the Toowoomba Turf Club Toowoomba Cup), with his progeny having recorded in excess of \$8.7m prizemoney.

In recent years Intergaze has been standing at Norman Park Stud and covered 11 mares last year at a fee of \$3,300.

What an incredible horse? It must have been fantastic to have been involved with such a wonderful galloper!

I asked NSWROA President and part-owner, Ray McDowell, what it was like: "It is hard to put into words how great a

time we had with Intergaze.

"He was such a good horse who tried his hardest every time he stepped onto the track.

"He took us "on the ride of a lifetime" and I will forever have a place in my heart for him as will my children, Robert and Louise."

For further information regarding the NSW Racehorse Owners Association please visit the NSWROA website www.nswroa.com.au or telephone the NSWROA office on (02) 9299 4299.

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