



By Cameron O'Brien

2020 BLACK CAVIAR LIGHTNING

Date	Saturday, 15 February
Class	Group 1
Track	Flemington
Distance	1000m
Prizemoney	\$750,000
Age / Sex / Conditions	Open WFA

Past Winners & Performances

Only a small field for the Group 1 1000m Lightning Stakes at Flemington this Saturday, just the 7 in it. The last five renewals of the race have been won by...

DATE	TRACK	TYPE	WINNER	WGT	RATING	MARGIN
16/02/2019	FLEM	G1 . . .W	IN HER TIME	56.5	112	0.1
17/02/2018	FLEM	G1 . . .W	REDKIRK WARRIOR	58.5	115	0.1
18/02/2017	FLEM	G1 . . .W	TERRAVISTA	58.5	114	0.1
20/02/2016	FLEM	G1 . . .W	CHAUTAUQUA	58.5	112	0.1
21/02/2015	FLEM	G1 . . .W	LANKAN RUPEE	58.5	117	2.8

Obviously there's some nice sprinters in there, and in the past some of our greats have won this race.

LANKAN RUPEE never again went to his 117 after his year winning it, in fact that was his last career win. The enigmatic CHAUTAUQUA went on to rate 122 later that Autumn of his year. TERRAVISTA went 114 in winning, which was his top mark, he was a very consistent horse who rated that figure many times before then, and one more time after then. REDKIRK WARRIOR went 115 then won again in the Newmarket going 118 at his next run, but has not reached those figures since, while IN HER TIME – the only mare in the last five years to win it – has only raced three times since then but hasn't backed up that win, thus she did rate 113 in her one run in the Spring.

Speed Map

It looks a pretty straight forward speed map to me. NATURE STRIP will lead them, REDZEL will of course sit handy enough and DESPATCH will too. NATURE STRIP will attempt to increase the tempo as the race hits the business end, as he did in the Darley, and it'll be up to them all to run him down.

		3 - DESPATCH - (7)		6 - TOFANE - (3)	7 - LOVING GABY - (6)		
	2 - NATURE STRIP - (5)	1 - REDZEL - (1)		4 - GYTRASH - (2)		5 - I AM EXCITED - (4)	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6

Rated Market

15/02/2020 FLEM Race 7 16:10:00 - BLACK CAVIAR LIGHTNING G1 . . .W 1000m							
no.	horse	barr	jock	wgt	rating	price	
1	REDZEL		1 K MCEVOY	58.5	117	\$6.8	
2	NATURE STRIP		5 JAMES MCDONALD	58.5	123	\$1.4	
3	DESPATCH		7 L CURRIE	58.5	111	\$86.6	
4	GYTRASH		2 M J ZAHRA	58.5	111.5	\$55.9	
5	I AM EXCITED		4 B J MELHAM	56.5	107	\$289.8	
6	TOFANE		3 D DUNN	56.5	109.5	\$89.4	
7	LOVING GABY		6 C WILLIAMS	53.5	111.5	\$10.6	

NATURE STRIP broke the clock in the Darley, rating 124, which was the highest rating of 2019, any distance, in Australia or NZ. He flew there, maintaining his unbeaten straight track record, and I don't expect him to be changing that here. The fact is none of these other runners are able to get near that mark. The best any of them has done is REDZEL, who has a 118 to his name, but that puts him a level behind. 124 puts NATURE STRIP (when he turns up at that level) in the category of the likes of HAY list and TAKEOVER TARGET, who could both do those figures. REDZEL is not in that league, none of these are.

Of course, for NATURE STRIP the concern is which version of him turns up. He can VERY quickly go from chocolates to boiled lollies. REDZEL, on the other hand, is very consistent, so if NATURE STRIP does fail to fire (as he can!) then REDZEL is the most likely to run him down. LOVING GABY is the only other logical chance in the race for mine, she has upside and weight allowance as a 3yo filly, and will finish strongly late.

Betting Angles

With the market prices as they are there doesn't look to be any betting in this race, NATURE STRIP will start long odds on. If somehow he drifted to \$1.80 or longer I would want to be on, but that's unlikely.

Runner Comments

No	Horse	Comments	Rated Price
2	NATURE STRIP	Set the high mark for 2019 in the Darley going a flying 124, he is arguably better suited 1000m/1100m and he's unbeaten down the straight, as well as trialling up well for this. If he comes back in the 120+'s they don't beat him.	\$1.4
1	REDZEL	Now a 7yo but trialled up well for this, and won first up last prep same trip at Randwick going 118 in the Concorde. Goes well here too. Has a best of 118, he'll get his chance to do it if he's able	\$6.8
7	LOVING GABY	The only 3yo in the race, LOVING GABY is a nice filly, she will ideally want a little further for her best but expecting a solid showing first up.	\$10.6
4	GYTRASH	Should have won in his one run last prep at Caul, I don't think we've seen the best of this 4yo yet but he's badly treated taking these on at WFA	\$55.9
3	DESPATCH	5yo resumes off 126 days, solid enough galloper but he's a level below these on what he's done in his career to date	\$86.6
6	TOFANE	Nice mare resuming but she just needs too much on her current best first up to trouble the top couple	\$89.4
5	I AM EXCITED	A 109 horse at his top, that's too far off these and he's better a bit further anyway	\$289.8