

➤ **Marcos Ambrose makes history in US motorsport**

Daytona drive for Tassie star
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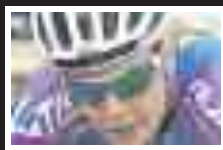
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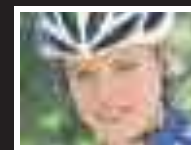
Laura McCaughey



Belinda Goss

Tasmanian cyclists pick up more medals at national titles

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Harriet Kossman



Luke Ockerby



Gotta Keep Cool, ridden by Craig Williams, gets up on the outside to win yesterday's Hobart Cup at Elwick from Zavite, ridden by Nash Rawiller. Tasmanian stayer Dream Pedlar (Dwayne Dunn) was third. Picture: WILL SWAN

Hobart Cups king

Ballarat trainer Weir's third win in four years

By GREG MANSFIELD

BALLARAT trainer Darren Weir is fast becoming the Bart Cummings of Tasmanian racing after winning the \$400,000 AAMI Hobart Cup for the third time in four years at Elwick yesterday.

Weir's tough five-year-old Gotta Keep Cool overcame a wide run to beat Sydney visitor Zavite by a head with promising local stayer Dream Pedlar four lengths away third.

Gotta Keep Cool was ridden by three-time premier Victorian jockey Craig

1: Gotta Keep Cool — 2: Zavite — 3: Dream Pedlar

Williams, who also teamed with Weir to win last year's Hobart Cup with Offenbach.

The trainer's other winner was True Courser, ridden by Craig Newitt, in 2006.

Weir earmarked Gotta Keep Cool as a potential Hobart Cup winner more than six months ago.

"He raced really well last campaign and I thought, if he went out and matured a little bit, this would be a good race to set him for," the trainer said.

"Apart from a poor second-up run at Flemington, things couldn't have gone better."

Weir will consider leaving Gotta Keep Cool in Tasmania for the \$300,000 AAMI Launceston Cup at Mowbray on February 25 but isn't fussed about future plans.

"This race was his goal — I really don't care what happens now," the trainer said.

"The Launceston Cup is an option — the 2400m would suit him better — but

anything he did there would be just a bonus."

Weir said he wasn't unduly worried when Gotta Keep Cool was caught three wide because he knew the horse was fit enough to overcome it.

"It wasn't ideal but he's a good, strong stayer," the trainer said.

Williams said the horse was "always in his comfort zone."

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