

TIMEFORM

SACRED FALLS PEAKING FOR HIS COX PLATE TARGET



Sacred Falls

SPORTPIX

Sacred Falls (O'Reilly) [127] landed his fourth Group One of his career in taking out Saturday's George Main Stakes (Gr 1, 1600m) at Randwick looking right on track for his prime target the Cox Plate (Gr 1, 2040m) at Moonee Valley on 25 October, writes Alex Steedman.

So convincing was Sacred Falls' win that it warranted a Timeform figure of 127, equal to his master Timeform rating achieved when second behind It's A Dundee (High Chaparral) [129] in the Queen Elizabeth Stakes (Gr 1, 2000m) at Randwick in April.

A demonstration of the quality of Sacred Falls' 127 rating is that it sits above the prior five year winning average for the George Main Stakes.

That is quite an achievement considering the quality of horses to win in that five year period included More Joyous (More Than Ready) [122] in 2010 and Shoot Out (High Chaparral) [126] in 2012.

Winning trainer Chris Waller confirmed post-race the George Main Stakes was always an early campaign goal for Sacred Falls, who improved significantly at his third run this preparation as he had done on previous occasions.

Sacred Falls' master Timeform rating of 127 now has him sitting only marginally below the current five year winning average of the Cox Plate, consolidating his claims.

With questions already being asked of the 2014 renewal's likely quality, the multiple Group One winner looks well on track for the race.

A contributing factor being the high attrition rate of last season's best three-year-olds continuing on into the 2014 spring which has resulted in a lack of new blood heading toward this year's Cox Plate.

Many of the highest rated three-year-olds from last season have been spelled or retired either due to injury or stallion duties.

Only Dissident (Sebring) [124p] has gone on to perform as an older horse so far having won both the Memsie Stakes (Gr 1, 1400m) and Makybe Diva Stakes (Gr 1, 1600m).

Otherwise, the main weight-for-age features so far this season have been claimed by older horses with the five-year-old Sacred Falls along with his eight-year-old stablemate Foreteller (Dansili) [123].

Melbourne and the Cox Plate are now beckoning Sacred Falls, while his stablemate Foreteller could be on a similar path after his win in Saturday's Underwood Stakes (Gr 1, 1800m) at Caulfield.

Sacred Falls has been promoted to equal \$9 favourite with Fawkner (Reset) [124] with the TAB while Foreteller is now on the fourth line of their market at \$15.00.

Foreteller's Underwood Stakes win returned him Timeform rating of 123, which is under the prior five year winning figure of the race.

Saturday's race was the lowest winning rating of the Underwood Stakes since Rubiscent (Rubiton) [122] won the race in 2007 with horses the standard of Weekend Hussler (Hussonet) [129], So You Think (High Chaparral) [130], Ocean Park (Thorn Park) [124] and It's A Dundee (High Chaparral) [125] winning since.

This year's Underwood Stakes profiled three pounds inferior on the five year average winning Timeform rating and, for the first time in 25 years, it signaled the lack of depth amongst four-year-old ranks with not a single runner from that age group in the field.

In fact the race was won by the eight-year-old Foreteller from the seven-year-olds Happy Trails (Good Journey) [123] and Crackerjack King (Shamardal) [120], the three oldest runners in the race which also supports the analysis.

Foreteller's performance was equal to his Master figure achieved on three prior occasions before last Saturday.

Just over a year ago he won the Makybe Diva Stakes with an effort assessed at 123 and Foreteller returned that rating with minor placings when second in the 2013 Caulfield Stakes (Gr 1, 2000m)

behind Atlantic Jewel (Fastnet Rock) [125] and third to Fiorente (Monsun) [125] in this year's Australian Cup (Gr 1, 2000m).

Trainer Chris Waller may now direct Sacred Falls and Foreteller's Melbourne campaigns via either the Turnbull Stakes (Gr 1, 2000m) at Flemington on 4 October or the Caulfield Stakes on 11 October

However the Caulfield Cup (Gr 1, 2400m) on 18 October may be a better option for Foreteller considering his current master figure of 123 as he will need improvement to take out the weight-for-age Cox Plate.

But the Underwood Stakes had a confirmed Cox Plate aspirant racing on Saturday, the multiple Group One winning Silent Achiever (O'Reilly) [113] who was a disappointing fifth, beaten just over two lengths.

Silent Achiever's record at Caulfield is now five runs for five unplaced performances and Saturday's effort, which rated 113, was ten pounds below Silent Achiever's Master rating of 123.

She obviously may improve as Saturday was only her second start this preparation but another relevant factor, from a historical viewpoint, is that Silent Achiever's effort continued the poor record of mares in the race.

The last mare to take out the Underwood Stakes being Tristar (Sir Tristram) in 1985, en route to winning the Caulfield Cup of that year, where she carried 50.5kgs.

3YOs:

1	Panzer Division	3C Redoute's Choice (AUS)-Desert Fight (CHI) (Hussonet (USA))	PAUL MESSARA	\$107,800	120
2	Hallowed Crown	3C Street Sense (USA)-Crowned Glory (AUS) (Danahill (USA))	B & J CUMMINGS	\$675,800	119
3	Scissor Kick	3C Redoute's Choice (AUS)-Back Pass (USA) (Quest For Fame (GB))	PAUL MESSARA	\$335,800	118
	Valentia	3C Fastnet Rock (AUS)-Smart Company (AUS) (Mister C. (USA))	MS GAI WATERHOUSE	\$15,000	118?
5	First Seal	3F Fastnet Rock (AUS)-Episode (AUS) (Scenic (IRE))	JOHN P THOMPSON	\$144,700	117
	Rich Enuff	3C Written Tycoon (AUS)-Hotnuff (AUS) (Spartacus (AUS))	K M KEYS	\$194,500	117p
7	Looks Like The Cat	3G Husson (ARG)-Fiery Dee (AUS) (Fraar (USA))	TONY GOLLAN	\$36,000	116
8	Almalad	3G Al Maher (AUS)-Ilhaam (AUS) (Secret Savings (USA))	MS GAI WATERHOUSE	\$50,000	114
	Chivalry	3C Street Cry (IRE)-World Peace (AUS) (Danahill (USA))	MARK KAVANAGH	\$112,300	114p
	Earthquake	3F Exceed And Excel (AUS)-Cataclysm (AUS) (Marauding (NZ))	JOHN O'SHEA	\$35,000	114
	Nostradamus	3C Medaglia D'Oro (USA)-Leone Chiara (AUS) (Lion Hunter (AUS))	M & W & J HAWKES	\$97,000	114P
	Shooting To Win	3C Northern Meteor (AUS)-Listen Here (AUS) (Elusive Quality (USA))	P & P SNOWDEN	\$126,200	114
	Winx	3F Street Cry (IRE)-Vegas Showgirl (NZ) (Al Akbar (AUS))	CHRIS WALLER	\$141,700	114
14	Bring Me The Maid	3F Sebring (AUS)-Maid For Me (AUS) (Belong To Me (USA))	PETER MOODY	\$116,700	112
	Washington Heights	3C Commands (AUS)-Demanding (AUS) (Octagonal (NZ))	GERALD RYAN	\$26,200	112P
16	Law	3C Denman (AUS)-Lady Cat (CHI) (Sir Cat (USA))	CHRIS WALLER	\$13,700	110
	Sarajevo	3C Lonhro (AUS)-Laleta (IRE) (Danahill (USA))	JOHN O'SHEA	\$21,200	110
18	Get The Nod	3G U S Ranger (USA)-Silent Cash (AUS) (Secret Savings (USA))	LLOYD KENNEWELL	\$90,700	109p
	Nordic Empire	3C Wilander (AUS)-Brown Limestone (AUS) (Rustic Amber (IRE))	MICK PRICE	\$85,700	109
20	Alpha Miss	3F Lucky Owners (NZ)-Soiree Girl (AUS) (Rory's Jester (AUS))	GARY NICKSON	\$52,500	108
	Awesome Rock	3C Fastnet Rock (AUS)-Awesome Planet (AUS) (Giant's Causeway (USA))	TROY CORSTENS	\$22,500	108
	Better Land	3C Shamardal (USA)-Amelia's Dream (AUS) (Redoute's Choice (AUS))	PETER MOODY	\$26,200	108

Click here for the Timeform archive
available on:

RACING SPORTS

4YOs:

1	Dissident	4H Sebring (AUS)-Diana's Secret (AUS) (Anabaa (USA))	PETER MOODY	\$484,000	124p
2	Spillway	4H Rail Link (GB)-Flower Market (GB) (Cadeaux Genereux (GB))	D HAYES & T DABERNIG	\$57,000	119
3	Lucia Valentina	4M Savabeel (AUS)-Staryn Glenn (NZ) (Montjeu (IRE))	KRIS LEES	\$110,200	118p
4	Criterion	4H Sebring (AUS)-Mica's Pride (AUS) (Bite The Bullet (USA))	DAVID PAYNE	\$59,200	117
5	Cluster	4H Fastnet Rock (AUS)-Taroola Diamond (AUS) (Last Tycoon (IRE))	P & P SNOWDEN	\$138,400	116p
	Sweet Idea	4M Snitzel (AUS)-Flidais (AUS) (Timber Country (USA))	MS GAI WATERHOUSE	\$178,700	116
	Weary	4G Astronomer Royal (USA)-America Nova (FR) (Verglas (IRE))	CHRIS WALLER	\$5,200	116
8	Bull Point	4H Fastnet Rock (AUS)-Rose Of Cimmaron (AUS) (Bite The Bullet (USA))	CHRIS WALLER	\$52,500	115
	Chautauqua	4G Encosta De Lago (AUS)-Lovely Jubly (AUS) (Lion Hunter (AUS))	M & W & J HAWKES	\$91,500	115
10	Anatina	4M Fastnet Rock (AUS)-Quack (AUS) (Magic Ring (IRE))	ROBERT SMERDON	\$14,400	113
	Rising Romance	4M Ekraar (USA)-Post Romance (NZ) (Postponed (USA))	D & D LOGAN	\$12,200	113
12	Atlante	4H Fastnet Rock (AUS)-Readyforcatherine (AUS) (More Than Ready (USA))	M & W & J HAWKES	\$73,000	112p
	Gregers	4M Commands (AUS)-Satnav (AUS) (Canny Lad (AUS))	D HAYES & T DABERNIG	\$142,700	112+
	Hooked	4H Casino Prince (AUS)-Absolute Lure (AUS) (Lure (USA))	JOHN P THOMPSON	\$95,900	112
	I'm All The Talk	4H Stratum (AUS)-Weekend Gossip (AUS) (Hussonet (USA))	GARY PORTELLI	\$42,500	112
	Trust In A Gust	4H Keep The Faith (AUS)-Subtle Breeze (USA) (Storm Cat (USA))	DARREN WEIR	\$117,600	112p
17	Vilanova	4G Commands (AUS)-Our Valpolicella (NZ) (Red Ransom (USA))	CHRIS WALLER	\$3,200	111?
18	Fast 'n' Rocking	4G Fastnet Rock (AUS)-For The Good Times (AUS) (Hennessy (USA))	D HAYES & T DABERNIG	\$48,000	110p
	Greatwood	4G Manduro (GER)-Gaze (GB) (Galileo (IRE))	MS GAI WATERHOUSE	\$69,100	110
	Gypsy Diamond	4M Not A Single Doubt (AUS)-Gypsy Tucker (AUS) (Zabeel (NZ))	P & P SNOWDEN	\$2,500	110
	Kirramosa	4M Alamosa (NZ)-Freyja (NZ) (Danske (NZ))	J G SARGENT	\$3,700	110
	Politeness	4M Street Sense (USA)-Berengaria (AUS) (Commands (AUS))	ROBERT SMERDON	\$6,700	110
	Spirits Dance	4M Statue Of Liberty (USA)-Jubilant Spirit (AUS) (Hurricane Sky (AUS))	PETER MOODY	\$5,100	110

5YOs+:

1	Sacred Falls	5H O'reilly (NZ)-Iguazu's Girl (NZ) (Redoute's Choice (AUS))	CHRIS WALLER	\$227,500	127
2	Fawkner	7G Reset (AUS)-Dane Belltar (AUS) (Danewin (AUS))	ROBERT HICKMOTT	\$72,000	124
3	Foreteller	7G Dansili (GB)-Prophecy (IRE) (Warning (GB))	CHRIS WALLER	\$271,500	123
	Happy Trails	7G Good Journey (USA)-Madame Flurry (AUS) (Perugino (USA))	PAUL BESHARA	\$82,300	123
	Hawkspur	5G Purrealist (AUS)-Mollyhawk (AUS) (Catbird (AUS))	CHRIS WALLER	\$129,400	123
6	Laser Hawk	6G Artie Schiller (USA)-High Heels (AUS) (Canny Lad (AUS))	JOSEPH PRIDE	\$38,700	122
	Puissance De Lune	6H Shamardal (USA)-Princess Serena (USA) (Unbridled's Song (USA))	DARREN WEIR	\$76,000	122
	Terravista	5G Captain Rio (GB)-Parfore (NZ) (Gold Brose (AUS))	JOSEPH PRIDE	\$195,800	122+
9	Lankan Rupee	5G Redoute's Choice (AUS)-Estelle Collection (NZ) (Stravinsky (USA))	MICK PRICE	\$36,000	121
	Tiger Tees	7G Dubawi (IRE)-Parfore (NZ) (Gold Brose (AUS))	JOSEPH PRIDE	\$233,200	121
11	Crackerjack King	6H Shamardal (USA)-Claba Di San Jore (IRE) (Barathea (IRE))	D HAYES & T DABERNIG	\$41,000	120
	Messene	6G Lonhro (AUS)-Belle Giselle (AUS) (Redoute's Choice (AUS))	M & W & J HAWKES	\$35,000	120
	Rebel Dane	5H California Dane (AUS)-Texarcana (AUS) (More Than Ready (USA))	GARY PORTELLI	\$17,500	120
14	Bagman	8G Easy Rocking (AUS)-Bada Bing (AUS) (Dehere (USA))	CHRIS WALLER	\$133,500	119?
	Moriarty	6G Clodovil (IRE)-Justice System (USA) (Criminal Type (USA))	CHRIS WALLER	\$8,000	119
	Royal Descent	5M Redoute's Choice (AUS)-Mulan Princess (NZ) (Kaaipstad (NZ))	CHRIS WALLER	\$140,000	119
17	Boban	5G Bernardini (USA)-Kenbelle (AUS) (Kenmare (FR))	CHRIS WALLER	\$28,700	118
	Junooob	6G Haafhd (GB)-Faydah (USA) (Bahri (USA))	CHRIS WALLER	\$123,000	118
	Lidari	5H Acclamation (GB)-Laxlova (FR) (Linamix (FR))	PETER MOODY	\$34,200	118
	Temple Of Boom	8G Piccolo (GB)-Temple Spirit (AUS) (Special Dane (AUS))	TONY GOLLAN	\$27,000	118
	The Cleaner	7G Savoie Vivre (GB)-Dash Of Scotch (AUS) (Blessington (AUS))	MICK BURLES	\$199,500	118

Click here for the Timeform archive
available on:

RACING **SPORTS**