



R2W VICTORIA JOCKEYS – SPECIAL REPORT

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Victoria Jockeys – Special Report (February 2015)

Knowing the true relative ability and performance of jockeys can assist you in making the right betting decisions or at the very least add a critical variable to your form analysis and/or betting model. Most punters know that a “good, average or poor jockey” can significantly affect a horse's chance however very few can actually tell you accurately who's hot and of course who's not as the reference point for most of this type of analysis is either based on statistics associated with jockey premiership tables and/or other publically available free information which is ridden with error. Why? Because the official data sources are sufficiently wrong so as to skew any chance of accurate analysis being undertaken (more on this in a different article).

When looking at the current Victorian Jockeys Premiership tables (season 01/08/2014 to 16/02/2015) the best performing jockeys at or above the benchmark strike rates plus 50% can be seen in the tables below.

Top Performers - Sorted By Strike Rate

Jockey	Rides	Wins	W%
Damien Oliver	377	65	17.2
Michael Walker	434	74	17.1
Luke Nolen	318	54	17
Linda Meech	313	53	16.9
Dean Yendall	459	77	16.8
Mark Zahra	303	51	16.8

These above figures obviously consider all rides regardless of market rank and do not provide any basis to determine which riders are either over bet or under bet by the broader market. Another level of performance criteria sometimes used in a general sense is to examine how riders perform in terms of prize money earned. Interestingly from the top six riders listed in the above table only one, namely Damien Oliver qualifies in terms of

prize money earned. The other five are Dwayne Dunn, Craig Williams, Nicholas Hall, Craig Newitt and Damian Lane.

For the purpose of this Special Report we will examine each of these selected riders (those listed in the table above) and compare them across three levels of assessment criteria for a rolling twelve month period. This focus will isolate and measure Overall Performance, Starting Price Rank, and Track Types. There is somewhat little point in examining all three of these indicators for the latest three month period due to the smaller sample size, however we will still examine overall performance in that context so as provide a comparison to their medium term performance levels.

Top Performers – Overall performance 12 months

Jockey	Rides	Wins	W%	POT%
Damien Oliver	611	101	16.5	-9.07
Michael Walker	654	95	14.5	-3.95
Luke Nolen	614	89	14.5	-11.3
Linda Meech	597	95	15.9	-0.63
Dean Yendall	937	145	15.5	-5.94
Mark Zahra	537	76	14.2	2.18

The best performing jockey in the last twelve months from this list is Mark Zahra when using the most appropriate of metrics, namely real dollars won and/or the least amount lost, as strike rates and POT only reveal part of the answer. Now let's examine the same data over the latest three month rolling period.

Top Performers – Overall performance 3 months

Jockey	Rides	Wins	W%	POT%
Damien Oliver	153	22	14.4	-25.46
Michael Walker	225	39	17.3	-0.84
Luke Nolen	131	22	16.8	-1.71
Linda Meech	142	25	17.6	-3.78
Dean Yendall	195	31	15.9	-5.57
Mark Zahra	117	22	18.8	23.82

Once again Mark Zahra shines as the best performer, with both a high strike rate across all rides and a level of profitability that would spell utopia in any punters world. Clearly Damien Oliver's recent performance is well below his medium and longer term levels.

Sorted By Starting Price Rank - 12 months

Jockey	SP Rank	Rides	Wins	W%	POT%
Damien Oliver	1	140	49	35	-5.78
	2	117	24	20.5	-4.51
	3	71	10	14.1	-12.58
Michael Walker	1	99	37	37.4	0.7
	2	92	15	16.3	-26.87
	3	81	11	13.6	-18.52
Luke Nolen	1	122	42	34.4	-6.73
	2	86	13	15.1	-28.75
	3	69	10	14.5	-13.96
Linda Meech	1	104	39	37.5	1.94
	2	90	20	22.5	-2.23
	3	73	13	17.8	7.66
Dean Yendall	1	182	62	34.1	-6.04
	2	148	35	23.6	6.23
	3	112	16	14.3	-16.31
Mark Zahra	1	87	30	34.5	2.04
	2	67	13	19.4	-10.64
	3	45	10	22.2	37.19

All six jockeys' performance on favourites is above the long term market benchmarks with the most notable of those performances being for Mark Zahra, Linda Meech and Michael Walker.

Sorted By Track Types - 12 months

Jockey	Track Type	Rides	Wins	W%	POT%
Damien Oliver	Metropolitan	388	56	14.4	-7.09
	Provincial	196	44	22.4	-3.15
	Country	27	1	3.7	-81.38
Michael Walker	Metropolitan	234	23	9.8	-14.04
	Provincial	330	61	18.5	12.12
	Country	90	11	12.2	-38
Luke Nolen	Metropolitan	289	27	9.3	-25.77
	Provincial	254	44	17.3	-6.2
	Country	71	18	25.4	5.57
Linda Meech	Metropolitan	103	20	19.4	45.43
	Provincial	195	14	7.2	-46.73
	Country	294	59	20.1	9.33
Dean Yendall	Metropolitan	198	18	9.1	-5.72
	Provincial	241	32	13.3	-1.14
	Country	490	95	19.4	-5.72
Mark Zahra	Metropolitan	223	25	11.2	11.28
	Provincial	287	42	14.6	-10.78
	Country	27	9	33.3	85.99

Key Performance Indicators

Let's summarise our focus some of Victoria's leading jockeys with some important tips that can be applied to your future form analysis and betting decisions.

- All six jockeys' performance on SP favourites is above the long term market benchmarks in terms of both strike rate and betting returns with the most notable of those performances being for Mark Zahra, Linda Meech and Michael Walker.
- Often the best profits can be obtained by supporting skilled jockeys that are less fashionable than others in terms of their public profile. Essentially the market often undervalues some of these riders.
- Some jockeys excel when riding at different track types. Accordingly it does not automatically follow that a top rider in the city will be equally as effective at the provincial and country meetings either in terms of their strike rates and/or betting returns.
- Remember strike and POT only provide part of the answer. If you want to analyse data properly you need to have access to a database that is built off accurate verified data. To our knowledge, R2W Axis is the only publically available database that meets this requirement.
- Ratings2Win Axis Professional database clients have the ability to quickly isolate other key performance indicators for a range of key variables including trainers and jockeys. This information including that which is published in this report provides exclusive insight into some of Victoria's leading jockeys. Arm yourself with the data that cannot be found elsewhere in any other commercially available product.

Notes

All statistics in relation to the POT figures published in this report are based on examining runners with a starting dividend of $\leq \$8.00$ and a proportional bet to collect 4% of a starting bank using the best of Starting Price and NSW Tab dividends.

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