

Greyhounds: Pup stars will need 'X factor' to take mantle from Aston and Causeway

PUBLISHED 27/10/2009 | 05:00

With 2008 Irish Derby champion Shelbourne Aston retired from racing and his successor College Causeway on a prolonged winter break at stud, the search is now on for the potential heirs to the throne.

While it is far from beyond the bounds of possibility that College Causeway could successfully defend his title next September, recent evidence suggests that the current crop of pups will prove to be one of the best for years.

There are some incredibly fast youngsters on the scene and it will be intriguing to watch them graduating up through the ranks. Some of the more established young stars like Scolari Me Daddy, Tullymurry Act and Tyrur Quinn will be joined by the likes of Tyrur Lohan, **Colorful Champ**, Jester Can Run and Slick Saxon in the rush for the top.

The forthcoming Comerford Cakes National Puppy Stake at Shelbourne will assist in establishing a pecking order among the budding champions.

Prior to that, though, we have a few interesting races coming up this week that will also assist in the evaluation process.

Scolari Me Daddy hasn't much to prove and Denny Lennon's brilliant tracker will be a hot order to win the TRF Open 525 final at Shelbourne on Saturday. This dog has turned into a real professional and he is going to be a high ranker in 2010.

Reputation

Colorful Champ's magnificent track record run in the Munster Puppy Cup at Clonmel on Sunday highlights his growing reputation. He was bought by Paul Hennessy out of the Future Champions at Enniscorthy and he is improving each time he appears.

He will be very much the focus of attention in next Sunday's semi-finals. But, let us give mention to the top females also, and Maireads Fantasy and Tyrur Liz have been wowing the racegoers at Newbridge in the JP Moran and Trevor O'Donnell Oaks.

Last Friday, Joe Horan's Maireads Fantasy set a magnificent new record when beating Tyrur Liz by a length and a half in 28.23 and what was really amazing was the ground the runner-up made up from halfway.

The two star bitches have avoided each other in the semi-finals and we can anticipate a mouth-watering rematch in the final.

Maireads Fantasy has a tough semi-final draw, with Puppy Derby third Cornamaddy Swift and dual Munster Oaks winner Cabra Tiny among her rivals.

Tyrur Liz appears to have an easier task, with Droopys Kina the likely main threat.

Irish Independent