

TIME WARP SETS COURSE RECORD IN HONG KONG GOLD CUP

By Bob Kieckhefer

A pair of veteran Hong Kong campaigners doubled up on December group 1 victories Feb. 25, serving notice for would-be rivals eyeing late-season spoils over the Sha Tin turf.

Time Warp went right to the front in the 2,000-meter (about 1 1/4 miles) Citi Hong Kong Gold Cup (G1) and held off former local Horse of the Year Werther by a half-length in a furious finish. But he had to warp some time to do it as he was clocked in a course-record 1:59.97—the first sub-two-minute finish at the distance in Sha Tin history.

Seasons Bloom and Pakistan Star certainly were not disgraced chasing the top pair in the final 100 meters to finish third and fourth.

Time Warp, a 5-year-old Archipenko gelding, backed up a somewhat easier win, also on the front end, in the Longines Hong Kong Cup (G1) over the same course and distance Dec. 10.

"That was quite some performance, wasn't it?" jockey Zac Purton said. "We've been racing here for a



HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB

Time Warp (left) sets a course record of 1:59.97, the first sub-two-minute finish at the distance at Sha Tin

long time now and there's been a lot of good horses to grace this track so it's a credit to the horse."

Trainer Tony Cruz said he plans to keep Time Warp at home for now and let rivals come to him in the April 29 Audemars Piguet QE II Cup (G1). Later, he said, more international ambition might surface.

"Maybe next year we'll go places with him," Cruz said. "I don't want to gamble with the chance that he goes to Dubai and doesn't feel 100% when he comes

(continued on page 9)



LGB, LLC 2018 / PHOTO: Benoit

STORMY ATLANTIC

\$15,000 Stands and Nurses

STORMY ATLANTIC EXACTA IN DAYTONA S. (G3)

CONQUEST TSUNAMI LANDS HIS FIRST GRADED VICTORY IN THE GRADE 3 DAYTONA STAKES AT SANTA ANITA DEFEATING BC TURF SPRINT CHAMPION STORMY LIBERAL, ALSO BY STORMY ATLANTIC, WHO FINISHED SECOND.

CONSIGNED BY HILL 'N' DALE SALES AGENCY, BRED BY JOSHAM FARMS LIMITED & YVONNE SCHWABE THOROUGHBREDS, OWNED BY GARY BARBER AND TRAINED BY PETER MILLER, CONQUEST TSUNAMI SEEMS POISED FOR A PROMISING SEASON.



(859) 255-8290 • www.hillndalefarms.com