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Prince of Penzance wins 2015 Melbourne Cup

November 3, 2015

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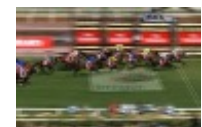
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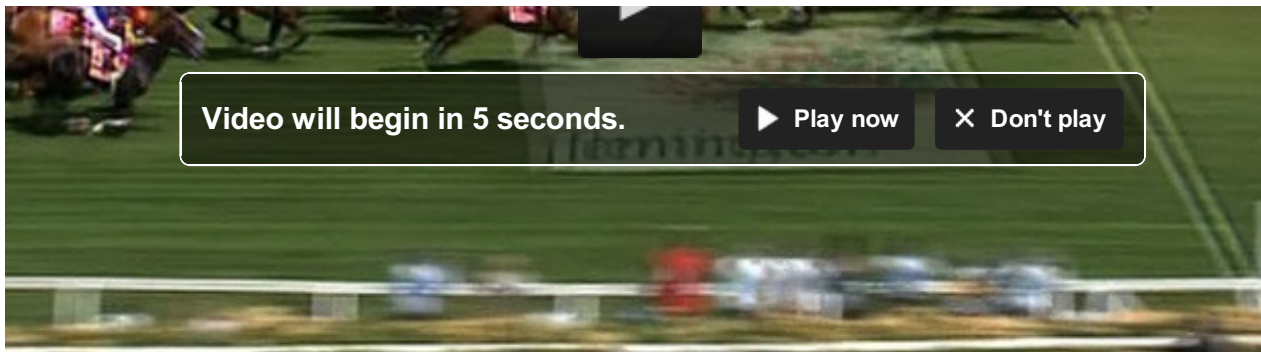
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Prince of Penzance wins the Melbourne Cup





Prince of Penzance wins the Melbourne Cup

Michelle Payne becomes the first-ever female jockey to win the Melbourne Cup, riding Prince of Penzance to take the \$3.6 million prize.

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Michelle Payne became the first ever woman jockey to win the Melbourne Cup when she pulled off a 100-1 shock to win Australia's greatest race aboard Prince of Penzance.

It has taken 155 years, but Payne, one of the youngest of the famous Payne racing family, has galloped into history with a stunning performance aboard the Darren Weir trained gelding.

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Breakthrough: Michelle Payne is the first woman to ride a Cup winner. Photo: Joe Armao

"It's unbelievable. I lay in bed last night... it's the kind of thing you dream about it. It's a dream come true, this horse, what he's been through," she said as she pulled up.

"Darren Weir is an unbelievable trainer to get him here today. They got him here in the best shape today. This is awesome.

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"When I won on this horse as a three year old I felt he was a Melbourne Cup horse. Far out, I didn't think he would be that strong. He just burst to the front and he was powering to the line."

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Michelle Payne rides Prince of Penzance to win the Melbourne Cup. Photo: Quinn Rooney

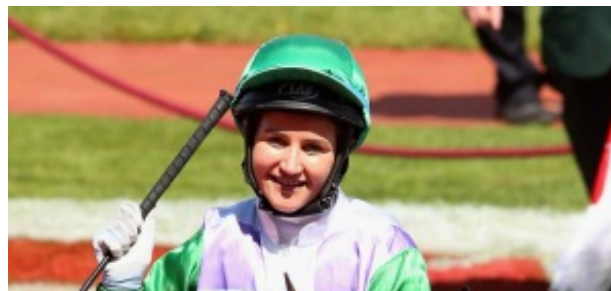
In an extraordinary race Prince of Penzance saw off the late challenge of the Irish hurdler Max Dynamite, ridden by the European champion Frankie Dettori and trained by the Irish maestro Willie Mullins, with the highly weighted Criterion, partnered by Michael Walker for the David Hayes stable, in third position.

Ed Dunlop was hoping he would finally break his duck in Australia having had three second places in the Melbourne Cup with the ageless warrior Red Cadeaux.

"Red" was not involved in the finish, but Dunlop's other contender, Trip To Paris, was a strong finishing fourth, showing that his second place in the Caulfield Cup was no fluke.

Weir has emerged in the past decade as one of Australia's leading trainers, winning the Victorian metropolitan trainers premiership in the past two years.

He went close to winning a Melbourne Cup with She's Archie when that mare ran second to the great Makybe Diva, but this success



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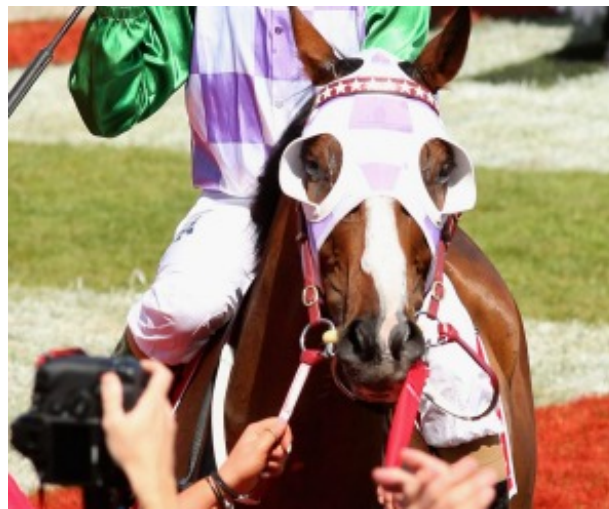
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surely eclipses all that has come before for Weir.

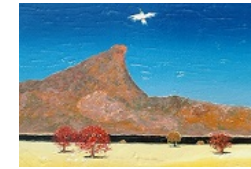
For Payne she now becomes etched not just in racing immortality but in Australian sporting legend.

Weir was choked with the success: "It's a lifetime dream come true, its an unbelievable thing to happen to anyone."



Payne makes history as the first woman to ride a horse to Melbourne Cup victory. Photo: Quinn Rooney

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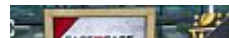
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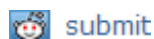
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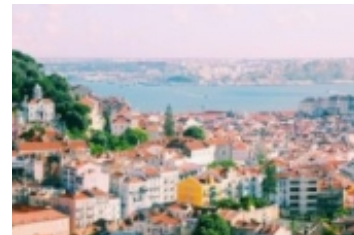
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