

Melbourne Books

Level 4a/178 Collins St, Melbourne 3000 Ph. (03) 9662 2550 Fax. (03) 9662 2571 email: info@melbournebooks.com.au

Greg Hall Tells All in his new book **RIDE TO WIN**

Greg Hall survived the 'school of hard knocks' to become one of Australia's most successful jockeys.

Greg Hall did not see his mother for 12 years after his father, the great jumps jockey **Ron Hall**, stole him in the dead of night when he was only two. He sold papers in front of the landmark *Young & Jackson's Hotel* in Melbourne at 11 to feed himself, and roam the unsavoury area of Fitzroy Street, St Kilda at 12. Hall then spent 7 years as an apprentice, being shunted between Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

He rode his first Group 1 winner for his father in 1978 at age 21 but returned to Melbourne to seek advice from the great **Roy Higgins** to put polish on his style. Years later Higgins rated Hall in the top 10 jockeys he had ridden against.

Hall rode for owner **Mick Sayer**, the underworld figure who was gunned down after the *Fine Cotton* 'ring-in' affair. He was a stable jockey for owner/punter/bookie **Mark Read** and had a hand in Australia's biggest plunge on *Getting Closer*. He rode for **Kerry Packer** and **Lloyd Williams** and for all the top trainers including **Lee Freedman** and **Tommy Smith**.

He did it all in the saddle, riding 49 Group 1 winners, 41 Group 2s, 43 Group 3s and 73 Listed winners. He was associated with some of the turf's greats - *Mahogany*, *Super Impose*, *Subzero*, *Zeditave*. He boasts the amazing record of winning the **Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Brisbane Cups; two Victoria and two AJC Derbys; two Golden Slippers and three Blue Diamonds as well as the Cox Plate.**

But the good times were mingled with bad. He copped the biggest penalty in Australian racing history, two months and \$50,000, in the 1996 Golden Slipper. Worse, he twice was the victim of the booze. The first almost cost his career when he was at his peak, the second coming after his wife left him. Hall overcame all the hurdles and today is a successful media personality, motivational speaker and professional tipster. He manages **Frankie Dettori** when the champ comes to Australia.

Hall was known as an enforcer in the saddle. He would always ride to win.

This is a great story of triumph against the odds.

Ride To Win is written by **Greg Hall with Rod Nicholson**, Chief Sports Writer with the *Melbourne Sunday Herald Sun*. The Foreword is by leading world jockey, **Frankie Dettori**

"I rated Greg Hall one of the top 10 jockeys I had ridden against because he had an enormous will to win, tremendous natural ability and a terrific killer instinct."

Roy Higgins

"Anyone who had Greg as a rider was dealing from the top of the pack."

Angus Armanasco

"I only get the top riders for my horses and Hall is among the best."

Tommy Smith

"Greg was a big race rider who thrived on pressure. He sits up in the top four or five jockeys of the past 15 years."

Lee Freedman



"He became one of the top three jockeys in Australia, in my opinion. He had nerves of steel. As far as temperament is concerned he had no peer, especially when the big money was on."

Mark Read

"Greg Hall was daring in the extreme. He knew no fear and pushed everything to the limit to win."

Brent Thomson

"...he was fearless, ruthless, and had a real killer instinct. He always rode to win. ...he has won The Melbourne Cup, The Cox Plate, Derbys and Golden Slippers and all the big ones in Australia...Greg has been great for racing in Australia, and I'm sure he will continue to have an impact in whatever he chooses to do in racing. Just so long as he remains my manager when I come to Australia".

Frankie Dettori

Ride To Win

Paperback 240 pages

Includes 16 pages of colour photos

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Contact Melbourne Books:

- to interview Greg Hall
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