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LONESTAR READY TO LAUNCH

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By Greg Hayes

Miracle Mile aspirant Lonestar Legend returned to the trials at Tabcorp Park Menangle yesterday and trainer Paul Fitzpatrick couldn't have been happier with the former American pacer. Despite only competing in a small field, the last start Golden Mile winner proved too strong.

"I was very happy with what he did at the trials" Fitzpatrick said.

"The time was only about 1:57 and that's nothing to get too excited about but Blake drove him and only let him slide from about the 400 metres and he said he felt extremely strong to the finish."

Fitzpatrick had always been keen to give the son of Western Hanover a good spell since he arrived at his stable and believes he can improve on what he has done in Australia.

"I have always thought a long break would do him the world of good and without it I think he has been underperforming."

Lonestar Legend will be aimed at the feature sprint races in New South Wales later in the year including the Newcastle Mile and Miracle Mile before a decision is made on a possible trip to New Zealand for the Inter Dominion next year.

"His owner Clive Palmer will have a say in which way he goes and the horse might even go to Queensland for the big races coming up there but at this stage it's all about the big sprint races here at home."

Harness Racing NSW (HRNSW) is the controlling body for harness racing in New South Wales with responsibility for commercial and regulatory management of the industry including 31 racing clubs across the State. HRNSW is headed by an industry-appointed Board of Directors and is independent of Government.

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