



**WINNING TEAM:** Driver Tony Shaw, Yulestar and part-owner and trainer Lorraine Nolan after their big Interdominion win in Brisbane on Saturday night. Photos: COURIER MAIL

# 'Taranaki heroes' take Interdom final

By PETER BINGHAM in Brisbane and TONY BIRD in New Plymouth

ALL HELL broke out in the grandstand when Yulestar won the Interdominion pacing final at Brisbane on Saturday.

"The club will have to buy new seats at Albion Park," said trainer Lorraine Nolan, of Hawera.

"I jumped up and down on them that much I'm sure they'll be broken.

"They're only plastic. I just went crazy."

Yulestar's blistering win over the best pacers in Australasia in the \$NZ622,000 race in Brisbane was later described as one of Taranaki's finest sporting achievements.

"To me, it's as big as bringing home the Ranfurly Shield," leading galloping trainer John Wheeler said.

Wheeler, who was one of the huge crowd at the park, said Nolan deserved the highest praise.

"Taranaki has a proud history of sporting achievements, but this is a remarkable feat — as good as it comes."

It is believed Nolan is the first woman to train a winner of the transman series.

Wheeler said winning a feature like the Interdominion final was no simple task, especially away from home.

"But Lorraine had Yulestar superbly prepared and Tony Shaw drove a perfect race. They deserve a heroes' welcome when they get back to Taranaki."

"Lorraine and Ron are two of the nicest people in the racing game, so I'm rapt for them."

Lorraine Nolan made an emotion-charged speech after the race in which she made mention of her friend Kenny Browne, who lies critically ill in Waikato Hospital after breaking his neck in a riding accident last week.

Her husband, Ron, part-owner of Yulestar, plans to visit Browne on the way home, after receiving a message from Browne's wife.

"Ann rang home this morning and said Kenny would like to see Ron," Lorraine Nolan said.

After snatching only a couple of



**BIG WIN:** Ron and Lorraine Nolan with the Interdominion Grand Final Trophy.

## FACT FILE

**Yulestar**  
**Age:** Six-year-old.  
**Sex:** Gelding  
**Breeding:** Camelon-Victoria Star  
**Owners:** Ron and Lorraine Nolan  
**Trainer:** Lorraine Nolan, Hawera  
**Cost:** Bought at auction for \$9000  
**Earnings to date:** \$NZ1,232,427.  
**New Zealand record holder:** 3200m (3m59.1s) and 2400m (2:57.2)  
**Race statistics:** 48 starts, 19 wins, 8 seconds, 3 thirds.  
**Regular driver:** Tony Shaw (Cambridge)  
**Biggest wins:** \$4400,000 Hunter Cup, Moonee Valley, Melbourne, in Feb, 2000.  
**\$350,000 New Zealand Cup at Addington.** \$622,000 Interdominion Pacing Championships Grand Final, Albion Park, Brisbane (total prizemoney).

hours' sleep after celebrating the win, the 60-year-old grandmother yesterday morning ranked Yulestar's grand final victory up with the horse's record-breaking \$350,000 New Zealand Cup win last November.

"They're both wonderful moments. It doesn't come any better, I can tell you!

"The New Zealand Cup meant so



**VICTORY SALUTE:** Tony Shaw acknowledges the crowd as he brings Yulestar back at the head of the field after the race.

much to me, I'd say this one is on a par.

"Winning the Interdominion on Australian soil was special," Nolan said. "It was an amazing feeling to represent New Zealand and be able to bring home the trophy."

Yulestar joins some household pacing names as an Interdominion finals winner, including Cardigan Bay, who won the 1963 series final.

The Hawera paper also buried a 24-year hoodoo for New Zealand pacers. It was the first Kiwi Interdominion victory on Australian soil since Stanley Rio in 1977, also at Albion Park.

Yulestar had to overcome all the odds to earn the title of Australasian champion pacer.

With a lap of the .2647m race remaining, the Nolans had given up any hope of Yulestar winning the glamour race.

The long-striding six-year-old was in a seemingly hopeless position, trapped on the inside rail and well off the leaders.

"I didn't think he was going to get out," Lorraine Nolan said yesterday.

"As they went out of the straight the last time I said to Ron, 'That's it,

he's got no chance from there.' It looked an impossible mission."

No sooner had the Nolans accepted that perhaps it was not going to be their night, the gaps started appearing, she said.

"When the leaders sprinted hard off the back straight the field started to open up and Yuley was going so well he just picked his way through them."

It was a tearful Tony Shaw whom the Nolans met after rushing down to the winner's circle to greet the horse and successful driver after the race.

"He had tears in his eyes, he was just waving to the crowd and all he could say was 'we've won, we've won'."

"That's all we could say to each other."

Yulestar came through the race in magnificent order and while due back in New Zealand accompanied by Ron Nolan late last night, was not expected home in Hawera until tomorrow.

The gelding is likely to be spelled before being prepared to defend his New Zealand Cup crown in November.