

# DERBY WEEK

## Carnival Wins first Classic for Owner and Trainer

The weather Gods at Mysore were indeed kind to Mr. & Mrs. Intiaz Sait. **Carnival** (Grey Gaston — Yoko) a dry coated horse might have been in distress had the hot spell continued but the night before Derby day it rained bringing down the temperature and keeping the weather cooler throughout the cloudy Derby day with a light shower during the races. All this helped Billy Mathews to bring **Carnival** with a tremendous run down the straight to win the Mysore Derby 1980 for the proud owner Mrs. Sunita Intiaz Sait and her husband trainer Intiaz Sait.

Before the race the trainer was confident that the horse would run a good race but prayed for "just that little bit of luck needed to win a classic." **Carnival** had won twice at Pune, both the times in a commanding manner and tipped as a "good thing" by the trainer. Lakhs had been bet both the times. Sired by **Grey Gaston** who is a prolific sire of classic winners, **Carnival** has all the end speed required of a great horse and the temperament to be settled down to an easy early pace.

The main competition in the race was expected from the Byramji trained challenger **Look of Eagles** (Parnell) favoured by Byramji and **Beat the Clock** (V. Shinde) chosen by the first jockey. It was expected

that **Beau Geste** a Knight of Medina — Rock Haven Colt owned by Dr. M. A. M. Ramaswamy might upset because of his strong staying bloodlines.

In a slow run race, ridiculously slow paced for the first 400 metres the horses moving at a canter, all the runners were closely bunched with **Adventurer** in the front and **Look of Eagles** bringing up the rear. The four main contenders were all well in hand at the last bend with **Carnival** moving on the outside. In the 400 metre straight **Beat the Clock** was a spent force and the lead was between **Beau Geste** and **Carnival** the latter now running in the centre of the track (a habit of either the horse or this particular jockey). **Look of Eagles** moved fast to take second place but for the last 50 metres the distance of  $\frac{1}{2}$  lengths between the first and second remained unaltered.

Billy Mathews was already smiling as his horse was first past the post and could not stop grinning even when the horse was being led in. In a burst of enthusiasm Mathews patting **Carnival** on the neck shouted, "He'll take on any horse."

The race over, the husband and wife winning combination have only to cash their winning cheque of Rs. 1,50,300/-. Second prize of Rs. 50,100/- went to Mr. J. P. Goenka owner of **Look of Eagles**.



#### ABOVE

Mr. F. K. Irani, Chairman and Senior Steward of the Mysore Race Club presenting The Mysore Derby Trophy 1980 to Mrs. Intiaz A. Sait owner of **Carnival**

#### RIGHT

The husband and wife winning combination with Trophy (Mr. & Mrs. Intiaz Sait)

#### BELOW

The finish of the Mysore Derby (left) and the start of the Derby (right). In the background are the Chamundi Hills

