



PRINCESS REICHEN in one of her dazzling Brisbane displays. Trainer McLachlan believes she will have a good season.

Swift Apollo, a half-brother to Black Onyx cost \$17,500, and won brilliantly at his first start in a race. He was to win again before being purchased by Mrs Maureen Dittman, wife of leading jockey Mick Dittman for a stud stallion.

A filly by Indestructable from Sweet Victoria by Todman was a \$5250 buy for the stable. This filly was destined to provide Bruce with one of his most bitter disappointments.

"Cheriquita was the best filly — in fact the best racehorse — I have ever trained," Bruce stated firmly. "She could have been anything!"

This filly showed her great potential as a two-year-old, and then began her climb through the restricted ranks of Brisbane metropolitan racing. She bolted in with a Novice, treated her opposition with contempt in the higher Transition class, and then tragedy struck.

Sent out a screaming hot favourite for her next race, Cheriquita was galloped on, and stripped to the bone. Tendons, sinews, muscles were all

reduced to a bloody mess, and the crippled filly was saved for stud.

"We tried to get her right to race again," Bruce explained, "but it was hopeless."

Another filly who commands great respect both from her trainer and her rivals on the racecourse is Princess Reichen. She is a daughter of Roy Bridge, a stallion who owes some of his success to horses like Wish Me Well, and Wish Me Wings, both trained by B. J. McLachlan.

Princess Reichen won her first race start by a conservative 15 lengths in a Doomben Two-Year-Old Handicap. Bruce confidently took her to Sydney where she found the state of the tracks not to her liking but still performed well enough to indicate a big future.

"Princess Reichen was placed in Sydney, in the company of horses like Lowan Star," the trainer said, "she has spelled very well, and I think she will be a very good three-year-old."

Bruce has now established his training complex in the Brisbane area. He lives at Hendra with wife Lorraine and

three children Ian (13), Grant (12) and Jason (8), and is redecorating a big Queensland-style home.

A win in the trainers' premiership indicated the consistency with which the McLachlan runners perform, and a look at the distances and the classes over which they win show that Bruce is capable of training sprinters or stayers to wins in the best company.

A brilliant front-running exhibition by Brazen Gambler brought about the undoing of the Sydney galloper Mont D'Or in the Doomben Haig Handicap during the Winter Carnival, stablemates Into Battle and Sterlet fought out the finish of a restricted race recently at Eagle Farm and ex-Sydney insider Diamond Cutter has really found his niche up here, showing excellent form.

Many good judges claim that the star of the McLachlan team in this new season will be Moshoto, a good sort of a horse by Cindy's Son from a full sister to the dam of Cap D'Antibes.

A top handicapper in Brisbane, Moshoto contracted a virus soon after arriving in Sydney earlier this year where the Sydney Cup was to have been his goal.

Like Princess Reichen, this horse has recently returned from a spell and looks in magnificent order.

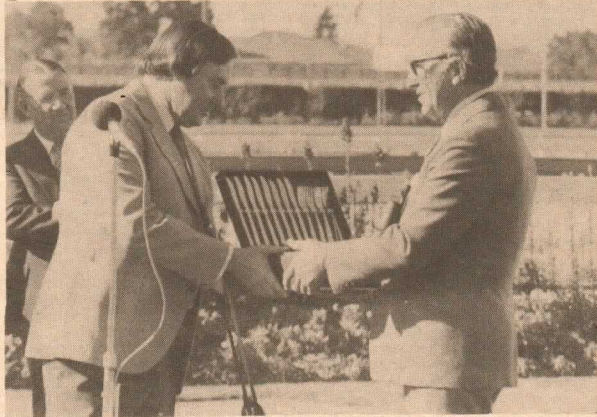
Much of the riding for the McLachlan stable is done by Graham Cook, whose premiership battles with Mick Dittman have become a feature of Queensland racing in recent years.

Mel Schumacher also rides for Bruce when weight permits, and was seen recently in a great win at Albion Park with the very smart "Creeker" Makutu.

The success and efficiency of a racing stable is due in many respects to the work that is put into it. Former jockey Andy Galletly is stable foreman, and together he and Bruce supervise a busy stable routine.

A visitor to the McLachlan stable can't fail to notice the sense of purpose, and a "let's get on with the job" atmosphere.

Now officially acknowledged as the Queensland trainer at the top of his profession, Bruce McLachlan does not intend to rest on his laurels.



The realisation of an ambition for Bruce McLachlan (left) as he is presented with the trainers' premiership trophy for last season by Judge Broad.