



A stablemate has a laugh (right) as Driefontein is fitted with a compression suit at Kensington yesterday. Picture: Mark Evans

Gai's star filly suits up for spring carnival riches

RAY HICKSON

MOVE over Black Caviar and Hay List, star filly Driefontein is all suited up for her spring carnival assault.

With the Magic Millions winner's many owners looking on, the filly was fitted with her own compression suit at Gai Waterhouse's Tulloch Lodge stables yesterday and she handled the job like a seasoned pro.

Driefontein, who ran sixth in

the Golden Slipper, is preparing for a return in the Group 2 San Domenico Stakes (1100m) on August 18 and Waterhouse is hoping the suit can give her an edge in the very competitive three-year-old races.

"It didn't do a bad job on Black Caviar," Waterhouse said.

"When I was in England someone who swims competitively said to me they wouldn't be without their compression suit. And horses are athletes just like runners or swimmers."

The \$600 suit is manufactured by Hidez, which is based at Windsor, and enhances blood and oxygen availability to the muscles and assists in a horse's recovery from travel or after a race.

Driefontein has won almost \$1.5 million for her connections, some of whom have previously owned a Star Thoroughbreds syndicated horse and some who are first-time owners.

Waterhouse is excited about the filly's spring ahead and at

this stage of her preparation is aiming at the Group 1 Golden Rose (1400m) next month.

"She has come back a lot bigger, a good hand, and she is particularly athletic and very focused and she will easily get to Group 1 this preparation," Waterhouse said.

"If she comes up the way I think she will she could be very competitive in the Golden Rose. She is Melbourne-bound as well, and it wouldn't surprise me if she ran in the Oaks."