

SPORT

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RAIN MA'M

Punters flood to Gai for wet-weather Cups double

Adrian Dunn

PUNTERS have unloaded on Gai Waterhouse's renowned mudlark Descarado to add the Melbourne Cup to his Caulfield Cup triumph.

They have backed the weather bureau's long-range forecast to be on the money.

With 30mm of rain predicted for Derby Day, followed by showers on Sunday, Monday and Cup Day, punters yesterday continued their assault on Descarado.

The level of support has forced Descarado from \$17 to \$11 with sportsbet.com.au, while in the past few days he has been backed from \$16 to \$13 with Sportingbet Australia.

Sportsbet took one bet of \$75,000 to \$5000, after a bet of \$45,000 to \$3000 on Wednesday and another of \$51,000 to \$3000 each-way on Tuesday.

Sportsbet spokesman Hayden Lane said yesterday punters had identified Descarado as the best wet-track galloper in the Cup.

"There are many horses at the top of the market who will relish (the conditions) — Shocking, American, Shoot Out, Manighar and Profound Beauty — but Descarado has comfortably been the best-backed horse in the past 24 hours," Lane said.

"If the rain comes as expected, we expect punters to continue to latch on to Descarado and all the wet-trackers."

Eskander's Betstar spokesman Michael Home said his firm bet \$17 about Descarado early in the week, but punters launched on the wet-track specialist as soon as the weather bureau forecast a deluge tomorrow, followed by continual rain up to and including Cup Day.

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Two times a lady:
Gai Waterhouse yesterday.
Picture: GEORGE SALPIGIDIS

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