

CAREER OF DRONGO

Place Winnings, £2,200

Commenting on Drongo, a Melbourne writer states that the rogues' gallery of horses exists only in the minds of racing men, and most racegoers include Drongo among the horses which they term rogues. Still, in calling Drongo a rogue they are not correct.

The accepted meaning of a rogue in racing is a horse which is capable of winning but which only does its best when in the humor, or when least expected. Therefore, Drongo cannot be termed a rogue, as he has never won a race. Still, that does not prevent most racegoers from calling him much harsher names.

Drongo is a horse of promise. When he finished third in the Memsie Stakes at Caulfield in the spring of 1923 keen judges declared that he was a promising stayer. He then finished second to Frances Tressady in the Victoria Derby. "A colt of great promise," declared racegoers. But Drongo failed in the Melbourne Cup. He finished second in the V.R.C. St. Leger, and was taken to Sydney for the A.J.C. classic.

After running a really good race at Rosehill he was made favorite for the A.J.C. St. Leger. He could not get closer than third. However, starting at a long price in the Sydney Cup he finished just behind the placed horses, well in front of the Leger winner, Lady Valais.

"He'll be a Melbourne Cup proposition in the spring." That was the opinion of racegoers. It was strengthened after Drongo finished a close third in the Herbert Power Stake at Caulfield. But Drongo did not win the Melbourne Cup, or did he show any good form during the spring meeting.

This autumn Drongo has again led backers astray, and his list of minor placings continues to grow. Two seconds at the S.A.J.C. meeting in Adelaide have been added during the last two weeks. However, Drongo has not been such a profitless horse to his owner, Mrs. H. D. Wood, as most

owner, Mrs. H. D. Wood, as most people would think.

Not many horses can win £2,200 in two seasons, but that is what Drongo has done. As a two-year-old he was unplaced at each of his five starts, but at three and four years he has recorded five seconds and seven thirds. Place money in these days of rich prizes soon mounts up to a respectable total, and if Drongo can gain a few more minor places in important events his earnings will be more than respectable by the time he is retired from the turf. Following is Drongo's record:—

AT THREE YEARS

	£
Third—V.A.T.C. Memsie Stakes ..	100
Second—Victoria Derby	1,000
Second—V.R.C. St. Leger	300
Third—Rosehill Club Handicap ..	50
Third—A.J.C. St. Leger	250

AT FOUR YEARS

Third—V.A.T.C. Herbert Power Stakes	100
Third—V.R.C. Brunswick Stakes ..	50
Second—V.R.C. Northcote Handicap	100
Third—Moonee Ponds Handicap ..	100
Third—V.A.T.C. Glenhuntly Cup ..	50
Second—S.A.J.C. Fisher Handicap ..	40
Second—S.A.J.C. Handicap	60

Total—Five seconds, seven thirds, £2,200

Drongo is engaged in the Birthday Cup at 8/6. Even allowing that he has yet to open up his winning account, he is sure to be strongly supported for that event.