



Leg injury forces Divisive out of Inter Dominion

PACING

By MARK RAYNER

CHAMPION pacer Divisive won't be in a position to have another crack at the Inter Dominion series that starts on March 14 after trainer-driver Peter Rixon announced he would be out for the rest of the season due to injury.

Rixon said he was worried about the gelding as he had an off leg at the start of the week and his concerns were justified after tests

revealed the six-year-old had injured his tendon.

"I noticed something wasn't quite right with the leg on Sunday and that really worried me," Rixon told Australian Harness Racing.

"I knew we were in trouble, so much so, we travelled home from Melbourne and had the tests carried out here...it wasn't the news I wanted to hear."

It is a cruel blow for the gelding that is no stranger to Bathurst, taking out the \$20,000 Shirley Turnbull Memorial on boxing day last year and in July 2007 he made

the trip out for the Bernie Hewitt Trainer-driver of the Year Pace.

Rixon was keen to have another crack at the Inter Dominion after finishing as runner up to Black's A Fake in last year's race.

"We went into last year's series on the back foot because of EI and we were so proud of the way he competed considering his preparation was far from ideal.

"We honestly thought that this year's series was ripe for the picking but now those dreams have gone up in smoke," Rixon said.

Divisive was ranked second behind Black's A Fake in the first rankings for the Inter Dominion that were released on January 14.

And then the gelding finished second in the WA Pacing Cup at Gloucester Park in Western

Australia which would have kept him up in the top for the second round of rankings.

He also had the biggest win of his career when he won the Group 1 Miracle Mile in November.

Divisive is just one of a number of casualties that have pulled out of the Inter Dominion series including Auckland Reactor,

Monkey King and Be Good Johnny.

Bathurst trainer-driver Steve Turnbull and driver Emma Turnbull are also a chance of being involved with the series.

Steve drives Scolari, which has moved up two places to 56 in the second rankings. And Emma drives the five-year-old Twelve Paces for Hartley trainer Steve Conroy, which has also moved up two places to 51.

Dubbo trainer-driver Barry Lew is also in a strong position, sitting in 21st after both rankings.