

Dye can't spot Slipper winner

SHANE Dye will get a better idea if he is a chance of winning a record fifth Golden Slipper when he rides Bid Spotter in the Group Three \$100,000 Kindergarten Stakes (1100m) at Randwick tomorrow.

Dye believes next month's Golden Slipper is one of the most open in recent memory.

"There is not a lot between the two-year-olds from what I've seen," Dye said yesterday.

"With Amelia's Dream out with injury, the Slipper is wide open now.

"There's also a bit of a question mark around the Melbourne two-year-old form. It remains to be seen if they will measure up."

Dye said it could even be possible for an unraced two-year-old to emerge from nowhere over the next four weeks and win the \$3.5 million Golden Slipper at Rosehill on April 19.

"The race is definitely up for grabs," he added.

Bid Spotter, the son of super stallion Redoute's Choice and Group One winner Isolda who cost \$850,000 as a yearling, impressed on debut when a game third behind Slipper favourite Sebring in the Breeders Plate earlier this month.

Dye didn't ride the Graeme Rogerson-trained Bid Spotter in the Breeders Plate but has partnered the colt in a barrier trial and at trackwork.

"He's a nice type with a future," Dye said. "We'll certainly know more about his Slipper chances after the Kindergarten."

Dye, a master rider of two-year-olds, has surprisingly only won the Kindergarten once previously on Slight Chance (1992).

In fact, none of Dye's four Slipper winners, Courtza (1989), Canny Lad (1990), Tierce (1991) and Burst (1992) contested the Kindergarten.

Dye is fast re-establishing himself in Sydney racing since returning earlier this month after a successful eight-year stint in Hong Kong.

It was the Dye of old at Canterbury on Wednesday with a brilliant winning ride on Nikiforos.

"I'm not setting the world on fire but I'm happy with the way I'm going," Dye said.

"I'm not getting the best rides but I didn't expect to just waltz back in. I always knew it was going to take a lot of hard work."

Dye has seven rides at Randwick tomorrow including Rogerson's promising colt Arlington in the Group One \$300,000 Chipping Norton Stakes (1600m).

Arlington is rated at \$12 in revised TAB fixed odds markets following the shock scratching of injured champ Racing To

Win yesterday.

Rogerson is hoping he can pull off a similar coup to 12 months ago when his ill-fated three-year-old He's No Pie Eater started at \$81 and scored a massive upset win over superstars Desert War, Mentality and Eremein

Dye has already won four Chipping Nortons on Octagonal (1997), Encounter (1998) and Tie The Knot (1999, 2000) and believes Arlington is an "each-way chance".

"Three-year-olds do have a good record in this race – I won it on Encounter when he was a three-year-old," Dye pointed out.

"Arlington seems a tough type of colt and he should run well. He's one of the chances particularly now that Racing To Win is scratched."