

# Elly bounces back from horror fall

SIMON WHITE

ELLY Brooks doesn't remember anything of the trackwork fall last May that put her in an induced coma - and says she's all the better for it.

Brooks finally makes her return to race riding this afternoon at Strathalbyn in what is a week of milestones for the young apprentice. She transferred her indentures from Gordon Richards to Stuart Gower on Monday and turns 18 tomorrow.

But it is today's two heats of the Marcellin Technical College Apprentice Challenge that really have Brooks excited.

"To be honest, I think I'm going to be more nervous than I was on the ferry to Kangaroo Island for my first race ride," Brooks said.

The fall that started Brooks' nine-month spell on the sidelines remains a mystery to her and others who were at trackwork at Morphettville on May 1 last year. Brooks was galloping a horse alone when she fell and suffered head injuries that resulted in a two-week stay in hospital and a week in Adelaide's Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre.

"The doctors told me not to go back to riding but if you love something you fight for it," Brooks said. Today's challenge heats are the first two legs of an all-apprentice series that continues until early next month.

The winner will receive a technology package valued at \$2000.

Picture: TAIT SCHMAAL



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