

CHAMPIONS DAY

Champions Day finally took place at Turffontein despite some early weather scares and a big crowd enjoyed a magnificent day's racing.

The day turned out a superb one for the Mike de Kock and Sean Tarry yards and for the stallion, Caesour, who all had feature race doubles.

The Gary Alexander-trained Pierre Jourdan's Triple Crown dream died half-way down the long Turffontein straight, but he still managed a gallant second in its final leg, the Grade 1 R1,5 million SA Derby over 2450m.

The Mike de Kock-trained Irish Flame, brilliantly ridden by Kevin Shea, slotted in behind Pierre Jourdan in the running.

They were towards the rear of a strung out field in what was a strongly paced race, considering the penetrometer reading of 25.

It was clear virtually from the top of the straight that Irish Flame was moving the easier of the pair.

As Irish Flame cruised into the lead Derrick David got to work on Pierre Jourdan, but it was in vain as Irish Flame simply sauntered further and further clear.

He trotted up by 9,5 lengths in the end and the margin actually flattered the rest of the field.

The win prevented the great Mike de Kock-trained Horse Chestnut's Triple crown feat of 1999 being matched and it was highly ironic that the margin of victory was exactly the same as Horse Chestnut's SA Derby win, which many felt was one of his best career performances.

It was also ironic that this was the great trainer's 2000th career win.

However, de Kock, instead of basking in glory, magnanimously praised the Gary Alexander yard for the way they had used Pierre Jourdan's Triple Crown bid to market the sport of horseracing.

The atmosphere created by the large crowd was certainly reminiscent of the glory days not long gone.

Irish Flame, by Dynasty and bred by Millenium Stud, was originally trained by Dean Kannemeyer and was bought out of that yard by Larry Nestadt, Bernard Kantor and Gary Barber, although one of the original owners Percy von Molendorff kept a share.

The Mike Azzie-trained Service Ace finished third, 3,25 lengths behind Pierre Jourdan, while the fourth and fifth placed Mirage Drive and Iwanadance were beaten 15 lengths and more.

De Kock and Shea nearly pulled off a Grade 1 double when Rudra looked the winner of the R2million Champions Challenge over 2000m after getting the better of a ding dong dual with the Charles laird-trained Smart Banker.

However the Sean Tarry-trained Regal Ransom, ridden by Brandon Lerena, swooped late and won in the final stride.

Regal Ransom was backed in from 16-1 to 11-1 and ran three deep,

but Lerena knows him well having won on him twice before, and picked them off one by one in the straight.

Regal Ransom was a R160,000 purchase by Caesour bred by Avontuur Stud.

He is owned by Greg Blank, Denver Naidoo, WV Nsele and Alvin Pillay.

The Grade 1 R1 million Computaform Sprint was a triumph for Kwazulu-Natal trainers and especially for Clairwood-based Dennis Bosch.

Bosch had targeted this race from a long time ago for his speedy grey Connington Stud-bred filly, Noble Heir, who is by Kahal.

He wasn't happy when the normally front-running filly was slowly away.

However in the end this actually worked in her favour as there was a blistering early pace and Anthony Delpech was also able to switch her to the inside where he thought the going was superior.

She took the lead still full of running and went away to win by 1,75 lengths.

The Herman Brown-trained Intellectual finished second, an amazing performance considering that he had travelled up for this race with its original date of a week earlier in mind.

The 2007 winner of this race, the Sean Tarry-trained Mythical Flight, showed he still retains plenty of ability after his overseas campaign and was a further 0,5 lengths back in third ahead of South Country and Strike Paradise.

The favourite Warm White Night ran no sort of a race and finished last.

Bosch was magnanimous in his praise of Stuart Pettigrew who had accommodated Noble Heir for much of her extended Johannesburg campaign in which she had also won a Grade 3 race and finished second in both a Listed and a Grade 2 race.

He said he would sit down with jockey Delpech and the owners, Sean Franken, Drew Hadden and Des Holder, and discuss Noble Heir's future.

He was loathe to assume that the way the race panned out meant they should change her normal front-running style.

The Grade 2 Camelia Stakes saw a commanding performance from the Sean Tarry-trained Captain's Gal.

A filly that has such speed and can still win stakes class races over a mile is a rare gem and Tarry's Clairwood assistant, Deshone Steyn, reckoned her to be the best female in the yard after her facile win in the Grade 3 Flamboyant Stakes over 1600m at Greyville in January.

Captain's Gal, by Captain Al and bred by Normandy Stud, won more comfortably than the 0,5 length margin suggests.

Mary Lou finished second ahead of last year's winner, Mochachino, with Picadilly Miss and Mana Mou next best.

CHAMPIONS DAY (cont)

In the Grade 2 SA Oaks, the Weiho Marwing-trained outsider Arcola was bought with this race in mind and landed the spoils under Gavin Lerena despite her 25-1 starting price.

She fended off the Stuart Pettigrew-trained Salutation and the de Kock-trained Equiperada in an exciting three-way tussle.

The favourite, the de Kock-trained Here To Win, was further back in fourth with her stablemate Alderry next best. Marwing praised his mentor Ormond Ferraris, a master of preparing Oaks' horses. Arcola, by Caesour, was bred by CF De Vos.

The Grade 2 SA Nursery saw a facile win for the de Kock-trained first-timer Kavanagh, who is by Tiger Ridge and is owned and bred by Wilgebosdrift Stud. He was ridden by Johnny Geroudis. Both de Kock and Tiger Ridge got the one-two with The Raj finishing second.

In the Grade 2 SA Fillies Nursery the Louis Goosen-trained Waywest

Goddess, by Way West and bred by Hallmark Thoroughbreds, was allowed to go off at 25-1 despite having previously been a facile winner of a Stakes race. She won comfortably by two lengths under Deon Sampson.

The Grade 2 Gold Bowl saw the up and coming apprentice, JP van der Merwe, making the most of a chance ride and getting the Dominic Zaki-trained Labeeb gelding home. The three-year-old was bred by Summerhill Stud.

In Cape Town the Grade 3 Winter Guineas was won by the Dean Kannemeyer-trained Jallad gelding Last Regal in a thrilling three-way finish. Raymond Deacon, owner of reigning Vodacom Durban July champion, Big City Life, was among the owners as was Greg Blank.

Last Regal was bred by A Girolo.

KRA GUINEAS DAY

Champion Season spectators were treated to the exhilarating sight of probably the best male and female three-year-old milers in the country at Greyville.

Both Noordhoek Flyer and Gibraltar Blue justified favouritism and romped home in the KRA Guineas and KRA Fillies Guineas under Karl Neisius and Anton Marcus respectively.

The wins ended a fine weekend for both the Dean Kannemeyer and Mike de Kock yards. Karl Neisius said after the Kannemeyer-trained Noordhoek Flyer's easy win that he believed the Pivotal colt would see out the 2200m of the Vodacom Durban July.

Noordhoek Flyer, who was quoted as the 6-1 favourite for the July before betting was suspended yesterday, showed his suitability to the tight Greyville circuit as he once again used his electrifying turn of foot to telling effect. On the other hand de Kock warned punters that he had his doubts that Gibraltar Blue would run in the July.

De Kock felt that owing to Gibraltar Blue's style of racing he would be worried about her going further than a mile. He was referring to her tendency to overrace from the off.

He also reminded the public that she was six months younger than her three-year-old South African counterparts, another factor that might make the July task too much for her at this stage.

He mentioned one more run before possibly giving the Woolavington over 2000m a go, but added that he would discuss her immediate future with the owners. Gibraltar Blue was quoted at 10-1 for the July before betting was suspended.

A delegate from the Korean Racing Association that included Gunsuk Bae, Sungdae Nam, Kyungil Sung, Jongjin Kim and Eugene Chang enjoyed their racing yesterday from the comfort of the Stewards room.

Noordhoek Flyer was a best-priced even money but not surprisingly shortened into 8-10 before the off as he stood out in the pre-race parade and canter down.

Karl Neisius brought him into a midfield position from his nine draw, where he raced in quite a wide position, although he both had cover and was settled for most of the journey.

In the straight he was produced towards the outside as the de Kock-trained Havasha made a bold bid down the inside accompanied by the 100-1 shot, the Kumaran Naidoo-trained Al's Deputy.

However, Noordhoek Flyer swept past them as if they were standing still and was gearing down by the time he passed the post three lengths clear. Noordhoek Flyer is owned by Lady Christine Laidlaw and was bred by Mary Slack's Wilgebosdrift Stud. He was sired North Of The Line to Southern Hemisphere times.

Havasha held on for second ahead of Al's Deputy with Iliad and Nocturnal next best. Gibraltar Blue drifted out from 7-10 to even money for the Fillies Guineas. The powerfully built chestnut only came into the parade ring after the other runners had left to canter down. She pinged the starting gates superbly and Anton Marcus was able to bring her around the field from draw 14 and into the lead.

The Glen Kotzen-trained second favourite, Imperious Star, sat behind her in the running.

However, Gibraltar Blue, in much the same style as she had done at Turfontein in her South African debut, found another gear in the straight and none of the opposition could live with her.

The Kannemeyer-trained Strawberry Ice ran on well for second ahead of the 70-1 shot from the Dennis Drier stable, Secret Babe.

Comebackanddance and a disappointing Imperious Star were next best.

Marcus said he had not known what to expect in the straight as Gibraltar Blue had overraced, but added, "When I asked the question she just took off. She's a very good filly."

Gibraltar Blue was bred in Ireland and is owned by Klawervlei Stud.

ROSSGO WINTER GUINEAS

No more than the width of a racecard separated the first three in the Rossgo Winter Guineas at Kenilworth on Saturday and at least two of them will stage a rematch in both the Winter Classic and the Winter Derby.

Last Regal finished best of all to short head joint favourite Kiss Again with Tales Of Bravery only a head away third and Karl Nesius believes that the 10-1 winner will be even more effective in the other two legs.

He said: "This was the hardest of the three races for him distance-wise and he won't have any problems racing over more ground."

The Jallad gelding is trained by Dean Kannemeyer for breeder Aldo Girollo, Bill Rae, Greg Blank and Ray Deacon. Kiss Again will renew rivalry in the Classic on May 29 but the Bass stable feel the Derby trip may be beyond him.

However Vaughan Marshall is already itching for revenge with Tales Of Bravery, saying: "We would have won this had it been on the winter course, the next two legs will be and also the extra distance will suit our horse."

Eric Sands has the Winter Oaks on Secret Pleasure's shopping list after Oswald Noach conjured a decisive late burst from the Peter Mills-bred Al Mufti filly for owners John Robertson and Reg Smith in the Candarian Equine Racing Services Stakes.

Sands was also on the mark in the opening workriders maiden with Timeless, the first winner from only two rides for Bizu Mzwandile.

Justin Snaith became the first Cape trainer, and only the third in the country, to reach 100 winners this season when Aldo Domeyer sprang a 14-1 surprise on Green Keeper in the second of the three two-year-old maidens.

The winner is the first horse Snaith has had for Mary Slack and he promptly won the third juvenile (race four) with Emerald Cove for Ken Truter and former American trainer Jim Russell.

Snaith completed a treble with Hassen Adams' useful Dance With Al in the allowance plate (race eight) while Felix Coetzee completed his own treble on the Marshall-trained Crouching Tiger in the concluding mile handicap.

POCKET POWER ARRIVES

Pocket Power arrived at Clairwood from Cape Town together with nine other Mike Bass horses.

The seven-year-old champion travelled well and is eating as well as always.

He added that he would run in the Grade 1 Rising Sun Gold Challenge on June 12 and then take in either the Grade 1 Champions Cup on July 3 or the Vodacom Durban July on July 31, or both.

"The July's at the end of the season this year so it's going to be more difficult to prepare them," he said.

Ten other Bass horses were due to arrive this morning (Wednesday).

Bass announced his Champions Season string in late March and in total it included Pocket Power, Gaultier, Grisham, Blue Tiger, Test Pilot, Fort Vogue, Golden Parachute, Rushing Wind, Thanks John, Lancelin, Clarion Call, Temair, River Jetez, Sunsational, Love Is In The Air, Croc Valley, El Jadida, Ashbrook, Hammies Boy, Super Freak, Super Storm as well as some two-year-olds.

Meanwhile Yogas Govender has sent nine horses for the Champions Season up to Sabine Plattner's Summerveld satellite yard.

They arrived on March 16.

They are Caymen Island, Kwitizina, Miss Pink, Jamaican Dream, Buragh, Posh Josh and the unraced two-year-olds Goal In Mind, Senor Grise and Storm Aloof.

Govender's new Summerveld assistant trainer, Byron Forster, got off to a flying start for Plattner last weekend, winning with his first runner, Make My Day, and then claiming second in the Listed Easter Handicap with Danish Silver.

Forster was assistant to Paul Lafferty for ten-and-a-half years before joining Plattner last month, replacing Andre Nel, who has joined Plattner's La Plaisance Stud operation in George.

In more news from Summerveld, Dylan Cunha has been taking his former Grade 1 Summer Cup winner, Strategic News, down to Blue Lagoon regularly where he works out and swims.

Strategic News is entered in the Grade 1 Champions Challenge on April 24.

In other trainer news, Anne Upton, a stalwart trainer of the past found herself in the winner's enclosure last week at Scottsville as part owner of the Des Egdes-trained Shield The Sheik.

The three-year-old colt by The Sheik won first-time out over 1200m.

Shield The Sheik is owned by Anne, her husband Lou, who was a former Natal cricketer, her niece Fiona Meyer and Chris Saunders.

The colours Shield The Sheik runs in, registered under Fiona's name, were originally the colours of Anne's father, JWA Hampson, who is Fiona's grandfather.

Anne, who took out her license in 1957 becoming the country's second

POCKET POWER (cont)

lady trainer after Hilda Knapp of the Highveld, sent out her first stakes winner in these same colours in 1962.

The horse, Dowry's Son, a son of Dowry owned and bred by Anne's father, won the Kruger Day Handicap.

To complete the nostalgic win, Chris Saunder's father, Douglas, was a contemporary of Anne's father at Hilton College.

BREEDERS RAISE THE BAR

AUCTIONEER Andrew Miller succinctly summed up the somewhat unexpected record averages recorded at the 2010 Emperors Palace National Yearling saying: "Seven, eight years ago the good yearling crops stood out among the average ones. Now, however, one average crop will stand out among the exceptionally good quality crops produced by South African breeders."

Local and international buyers, including most of the leading trainers, several high-profile bloodstock agents, trainers and a host of visitors to the TBA Complex heaped praise on South Africa's breeders as if speaking with one voice. "Our horsemen have undoubtedly raised the bar with arguably the best consignment of yearlings ever sold in this country."

Already widely acknowledged as horsemen of rare knowledge and skill, the quality and results seen at this year's renewal of the National Sale will ring far and wide.

Over the three days of the Sale Miller and colleagues Steve Davis and Mike Killassy knocked down yearlings to the combined value of R160 million, a 4.5% improvement on last year's aggregate.

The average price of R326 378 was up 5.5% on last year's R309 313.

BloodStock SA's CEO, Jan Naude, described the turnover as "quite extraordinary considering the recessionary times". He added: "The depth of quality among the yearlings reflected our breeders' commitment to excellence. To have an existing top price bettered twice during a three-day period says it all. BSA are proud to have conducted this Sale and we know we can look forward to even better things to come!"

Trainer Mike Azzie was proud as punch when he secured Lot 10, an exquisite colt by Singspiel named Potala Palace, for a record R3,6 million during the opening night. Trainer Geoff Woodruff, however, stunned sales goers by bidding well over that mark to R4 million for Jet Master colt Devine's Jet on Sunday.

Michael Roberts, one buyer quite vociferous in his praise for the quality of horseflesh presented at the sale, found the gem he was looking for in Lot 257 Legend Dancer, a Black Minnaloushe colt from the mare Isadora Duncan.

He enthused: "This is the horse I wanted and I am terribly excited to have got him. He's a beautifully balanced individual with presence and I decided to close my eyes and go up to R2 million for him. As it happened I secured the bid at R1,6 million against the powerful Charles Laird camp. Charles came to congratulate me. Last Legend will spend some time at Jane Trotter's spelling facility before coming into training with me."

The Sale again received tremendous support from a strong contingent of international buyers representing the UK, Ireland, Dubai, France, the USA, China, Hong Kong and even Russia.

Shadwell South Africa, representing Sheikh Hamdan of Dubai, bought six lots including lot 237, Hollywood Chief, a Captain AI colt from a Fort Wood mare inbred 2x3 to Ascot's long-serving sire of champions, AI Mufti, the magnificent son of Roberto initially owned by the Sheikh himself. "This one's a big, strapping colt who really looks the part," said De Kock.

Shadwell topped the list of buyers by average, securing their six lots at an average of R940 000 apiece.

David Allan Of Allan Bloodlines and Vaughan Marshall purchased 12 yearlings at a cost of 3.57 million and Allan commented: "The quality of bloodstock at this sale made up for the enormous frustration of finding a way of getting here with the travelling mess in Europe. But Vaughan, as ever, has done a huge amount of work and we hope to keep up the near 80% winning record of our clients, Lindsay Ralphs and partners.

Mary Slack's Wilgerbosdrift sold Cragwood (Lot 575) for R2,2 million, the highest price during the final session. Wilgerbosdrift enjoyed excellent results and with R431 786 was the second leading vendor by aggregate to Highlands Stud, who sold both the first and the second record-breakers and averaged R551 071 per lot sold.

Form Bloodstock was the biggest buyer by aggregate, signing for 22 lots totaling R11,4 million, just under R3 million more than John Freeman, whose total for 32 buys came to R8,69 million.

Champion sire Jet Master stamped his authority on the sale, with 42 of his lots selling for an average R650 000 per lot and turning over R27,3 million.

Freshman sires Black Minnaloushe (35 lots, R338 571 average), Tiger Ridge (22 lots, R371 136 average) and Greys Inn (10 lots, R274 000 average), promised big things to come.

INDUSTRY NEWS

Mark Khan is hoping to know of his future in racing soon. Khan broke his shoulder in a fall in April last year. He made a short lived comeback but aggravated the injury. His wife Rhonda revealed yesterday that they are expecting a "follow up" opinion from doctors on April 20. They should then have a more definite idea of Mark's future.

In other jockey news Sean Cormack had his first winner in Singapore in just his ninth ride on March 28 aboard the Cliff Brown-trained Zinly.

Zinly dead-heated with Samurai Kid in a Class 4 Div 2 race over 1400m.

Later in the same meeting Cormack got another winner aboard the Stephen Gray-trained Demicus in a Class 4 stakes over 1800m.

In the following meeting, last Friday, Cormack had his third winner aboard the M Yusof-trained Zestfulgo who won a 1200m Class 4 race on the polytrack surface.

Cormack is contracted to Basil Marcus, who is yet to have a runner, but was granted a six month freelance license by the Singapore Turf Club that allows him to ride for other trainers too.

He said, "I'm loving it here so far in Singapore. It's a lovely place and the living conditions are great." Locally Piet Botha has moved from Cape Town to Kwazulu-Natal and picked up his first winner aboard the Glen Puller-trained Day Of Reckoning at Greyville last Friday night.

Botha made the move for no other reason than he wanted a change and a new challenge.

Kumaran Naidoo has provided him with most of his rides to date.

Willie Uys has also been spending time in KZN work-riding and race-riding. He is getting most of his rides from Dylan Cunha. Uys has a game farm in Messina on the Zimbabwean border and has been riding in Johannesburg, Harare and KZN.

MARK DIXON

Mark Dixon, who trains out of Summerveld, has had remarkable success raiding the Vaal sand track and punters have learnt to be wary whenever a pair of his horses are carded no matter how long they are on bookmaker's boards.

His latest success occurred when first Cwebe Cwebe finished a close second in a 1000m maiden at odds of 20-1 before Shoot The Breeze ran out a facile winner of a 1200m handicap at 7-1.

Dixon's 39 Highveld raiders over the last three seasons, the vast majority of which have run on the Vaal sand, have netted nine winners, an impressive strike rate of 23%.

On top of that he has also claimed five second places and five other stake cheques.

His formula involves looking at the quality of the horses' work on the sand at home before considering their pedigrees and then combining these factors with a proven successful travelling strategy.

"We travel the horses over night and arrive at the course as close to the race as possible," he said.

Former trainer, John Fox, who now runs a horse transport business, takes the Dixon raiders up in pairs in his two-berth trailer.

Dixon has learnt which pedigrees work well on the sand and sites Muhtafal and Kahal as two good examples.

Both of them are Mr Prospector line stallions.

"Knees, knees, knees," is one of Dixon's training philosophies.

"About 90% of a horse's work will be done on the sand as it is easier on them, especially on their knees," he said.

Consequently he is soon able to tell which horses run well on this surface.

Cwebe Cwebe, a three-year-old filly by Muhtafal, provides evidence.

"She ran very disappointingly in four starts on turf, but at home on the sand there is hardly a horse in the yard that can keep up with her," said Dixon.

However, it was Shoot The Breeze, a three-year-old filly by Kahal, that got tongues wagging on Tuesday as she won in impressive fashion.

Her record of two wins from four starts is a notable training feat as Dixon describes her one front leg as being so crooked it virtually resembles a "banana" from front on.

"She is offset at the knee and turns in," he explained.

Shoot The Breeze is a Summerhill-bred half-sister to Umngazi, who earned Dixon the biggest pay cheque of his career when winning the Emperor's Palace Ready To Run Cup over 1400m at Turffontein in 2007 before following up to win the Grade 3 Byerley Turk over the same distance at Scottsville a few months later.

"Myself and Chad Cooke were at a function just before the Sales talking to Mick Goss and he told us that Umngazi's half-sister wasn't on the sale due to her legs. We asked if we could lease her and he was more than happy to do so."

Shoot The Breeze thus became one of the Independent On Saturday Punter Club's horses, a syndicate set up for racing enthusiasts by Cooke.

"The winter going in KZN is generally hard and I could see she was hating it when going down in her previous start," continued Dixon. "Her work on the sand is very good and she has the pedigree on both her male and female sides. The Vaal sand was the obvious route for her."

Both Umngazi and Shoot The Breeze are chestnuts with very similar white colourings on their respective faces and legs.

However in conformation, they take after their sires with Umngazi being a compact bull of a horse, while Shoot The Breeze has impressive length and an eyecatchingly big stride.

On Tuesday Shoot The Breeze broke quickly from her pole position draw and was always travelling well, just off the pace, under Gavin Lerena.

Lerena merely had to hold her together, whilst allowing her to use her big stride, before letting her go at the business end.

MARK DIXON (cont)

She soon drew clear and won by 3,5 length winner, no mean feat for a three-year-old running off a merit rating of 84.

She pulled up sound and Dixon will keep her to the sand for the rest of the winter.

"We will try and win some black type for Mick Goss in one of the sand features," he said.

The IOS Punter's Club have much to look forward to and can be assured that their horse is in good hands.

Dixon was a former jumps jockey in the UK, a dangerous sport where

having an affinity with every horse you climb aboard is paramount not just to success but to survival.

This affinity is probably a major reason why former jumps jockeys often make even better trainers with the likes of Paul Nicholls, Fred Winter, Michael Dickinson, Jonjo O'Neill, Tommy Stack, David Nicholson and Ted Walsh serving as good examples.

Dixon's wife Hailey is also a fine horsewoman in her own right and her valuable input is another key to the yard's success.

TONY McCOY

Tony McCoy, 14-times Champion jockey and the winningmost rider in jumps racing history, landed his first Grand National at Aintree at his 15th attempt with the Jonjo O'Neill-trained Don't Push It.

Don't Push It was backed into 10-1 joint favourite and was full of running as three horses, Don't Push It, Black Apalachi and the other joint-favourite, Big Fella Thanks, approached the last.

He stayed on to win by five lengths.

It was also the first win for O'Neill and for his legendary owner, Irishman JP McManus, famous for the big punts he has on his horses.

There were jubilant scenes in the winner's enclosure as many punters

had joined in the gamble

A tearful McCoy said: "It is everything to win the Grand National. If I don't win the Grand National I'm not a good jockey.

The most watched race on the planet was spoilt for local viewers by Tellytrack deciding to split the screen for much of the race to show betting for two races from Lingfield and Turffontein respectively and to show the horses going down at Turffontein. Although Tellytrack policy dictates that local racing takes precedence, discretion could have seen the canter down being recorded for this one important occasion

SUPER SAVER

SUPER SAVER benefited from a classic Calvin Borel ride to give trainer Todd Pletcher his first Kentucky Derby (Group 1) win at Churchill Downs. Saving ground along the rail all the way around, the bay colt ran the 1 1/4-mile classic over a sloppy, sealed track in 2:04 2/5.

"It never gets old," said an emotional Borel, who became the first jockey to win three Derbies in four years.

"It's a joy," Pletcher agreed. "People said we had one with our name written on it. I didn't take anything for granted. It feels awfully good."

In a ride that paralleled last year's win aboard Mine That Bird (Birdstone) in the Derby, Borel kept Super Saver skimming the rail all the way around until nearing Conveyance.

Angling slightly off the inside, Super Saver smoothly passed the early pacesetter rounding the turn and then headed right back toward the rail. The three-year-old maintained his momentum to pass Noble's Promise and then hold a closing Ice Box, giving his connections the historic win while 2 1/2 lengths clear on the wire.

UNDEFEATED ZENYATTA

Former Darley shuttler & Gr1 Dubai World Cup winner Street Cry (Machiavellian-Helen Street, by Troy) added a US Gr1 triumph when undefeated 6YO mare & both 2008-2009 US Champion Older Female Zenyatta (Street Cry-Vertigineux, by Kris S) notched her 16th consecutive victory (to equal the winning streaks of legendary US champions Citation & Cigar) & also recorded her 2nd Gr1 triumph since returning from a 4-months spell to begin her 2010 campaign with wins in both last month's Gr1 Santa Margarita Invitational Handicap (9 furlongs) at Santa Anita Park in California & now an easy 4.25-lengths follow-up win in the US\$500,000 Gr1 Apple Blossom Invitational Handicap (9 furlongs)

for mares 4YO & up at Oaklawn Park in Arkansas. Zenyatta (ridden by Mike Smith for trainer John Shirreffs) defeated 5YO mare Taptam (Pleasant Tap-Salty Tam, by Salt Lake) & 4YO mare Be Fair (Exchange Rate-Go Donna Go, by Wild Again). Kentucky-bred Zenyatta (a US\$60,000 yearling at the 2005 Keeneland September Sale) is a half-sister to multiple Gr1-winner Balance & was unraced as a juvenile. Overall she now boasts 16 wins (also including 2009's Gr1 Breeders' Cup Classic over 10 furlongs at Santa Anita, Gr1 Lady's Secret Stakes over 8.5 furlongs at Santa Anita, Gr1 Clement Hirsch Stakes over 8.5 furlongs at Del Mar, Gr1 Vanity Breeders' Cup Handicap over 9 furlongs at Hollywood Park & Gr2

UNDEFEATED ZENYATTA *(cont)*

Milady Handicap over 8.5 furlongs at Hollywood Park, plus 2008's Gr1 Breeders' Cup Ladies' Classic over 9 furlongs at Santa Anita, Gr1 Lady's Secret Stakes over 8.5 furlongs at Santa Anita, Gr1 Clement Hirsch Stakes over 8.5 furlongs at Del Mar, Gr1 Vanity Breeders' Cup Handicap over 9 furlongs at Hollywood Park, Gr1 Apple Blossom Handicap over

8.5 furlongs at Oaklawn Park, Gr2 Milady Handicap over 8.5 furlongs at Hollywood Park & Gr2 El Encino Stakes over 8.5 furlongs at Santa Anita) from 16 starts for US\$5,924,580 prize-money & is North America's all-time leading female earner

UNBEATEN US CHAMP PERSONAL ENSIGN DIES

Also in the US, the Phipps family's undefeated champion racehorse Personal Ensign (Private Account-Grecian Banner, by Hoist The Flag) died of natural causes at Claiborne Farm in Kentucky aged 26. On the track, Personal Ensign notched 13 successive victories (8 Gr1 triumphs, including the Gr1 Frizette Stakes, Gr1 Beldame Stakes twice, Gr1 Whitney Handicap & Gr1 Breeders' Cup Distaff). Subsequently, her 1st foal Miner's Mark (by Mr Prospector) won 3 stakes including the Gr1 Jockey Club Gold Cup. Her 2nd foal Our Emblem (also by Mr Prospector) placed in 8 stakes including runner-up in the Gr1 Carter Handicap; subsequently as

a stallion he sired champion & dual classic winner War Emblem. Her 4th foal My Flag (by Easy Goer) won 4 Gr1 stakes in 1995-96: Gr1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies, Gr1 Ashland Stakes, Gr1 Gazelle Handicap & Gr1 Coaching Club American Oaks; subsequently at stud she produced 2002 champion 2YO filly Storm Flag Flying (who capped an undefeated juvenile season with victory in the Gr1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies). And NZ The Oaks shuttler Traditionally (a full brother to Miner's Mark & Our Emblem) became Personal Ensign's 3rd Gr1 winner with victory in the 2001 Gr1 Oaklawn Handicap