

SANSUI SUMMER CUP UPSET

There was an upset in the Grade 1 Sansui Summer Cup over 2000m at Turffontein as fifty-year-old Felix Coetzee rolled back the years with his trademark powerful finish to get the Sean Tarry-trained 15-1 shot Aslan home a neck ahead of a flying Ormond Ferraris-trained Magical.

Coetzee was used to winning big races like this when stable jockey to the legendary Terrance Millard in the 1980's and early 1990's.

However, this was a first Summer Cup win for Tarry, and although he has won many Group 1 races, he can probably add this to his J&B Met win with Angus in 2003 as his biggest career win.

Aslan became another success for the excellent Maine Chance stallion, Silvano, who is increasingly proving himself as up with the best sires in the country.

Meanwhile, leading owner Markus Jooste will have to wait longer to win one of the country's biggest three races as the hot favourite, Oracy, was bitterly disappointing and ran unplaced in what turned out to be a day to forget for Charles Laird's stable jockey, Anton Marcus

Marcus has been in scintillating and had a great chance of claiming a big race double on the day as he was on the hot favourites in both the Dingaans and the Summer Cup.

Instead he had to settle for second in the former and nowhere in the latter.

Oracy, who started at 15-10, went into the race unbeaten from five starts, although his last run came after an eight month break.

He had never been further than a mile before but being by the stamina influential New Zealand sire, Zabeel, there seemed little doubt that he would stay the trip.

A good pace was ensured when Oracy's stable companions Likeithot and Senor Versace went into the lead.

Aslan was lying in third ahead of Killaridge and the fancied Captain Scott.

Oracy was next best, moving comfortably on the outside of Catmandu.

Magical, who was well supported at 7-2, was near the back, while Mike de Kock's charge, Meet At Malamala was even further back.

Marcus hooked Oracy to the outside rail upon entering the straight and he quickened to make up the ground while Captain Scott was going well in the centre and Aslan was fighting on inside of that.

Marcus suddenly found himself in the lead, probably earlier than he had wanted to be, but just moments later it became apparent that Oracy was in trouble and no longer had a firm hold of the bit.

He could only run on at one pace, while Aslan was meanwhile fending off Captain Scott in a titanic struggle.

Then suddenly Chris Saunders' colours loomed up as Meet At Malamala came with a highly promising burst in an effort to give Mike de Kock his ninth Summer Cup.

It became apparent though that Aslan was going to hold off Captain Scott and Meet At Malamala, but just when the win seemed assured, a flying Magical appeared out of nowhere.

Magical's run came just a fraction too late under Piere Strydom and he failed by a neck, with Meet At Malamala a short-head further back and Captain Scott a neck behind that.

Coetzee said that the lightweight and the galloping track had suited the "gutsy" Aslan perfectly and he had "plugged away resolutely" all the way to the line.

Aslan was bred by Glenellen Stud and is owned by the Brooklyn Bullet Trust syndicate.

Earlier, in the Grade 2 Vodacom Dingaans over 1600m there was a small upset as the Anthony Delpech-ridden 15-2 shot Curved Ball, trained by Charles Laird, quickened superbly from a midfield position to collar his stable companion Galileo's Galaxy and go on to win by 1,25 lengths.

Galileo's Galaxy, who started even-money with Marcus up, lost his unbeaten record but held on for second.

Both the winner and the runner up were bred in Australia, Curved Ball being by Fastnet Rock and Galileo's Galaxy by Galileo.

Galileo's Galaxy set a good pace and was challenged quite early in the straight by the second favourite and former Grade 1 winner Exhilaration.

This move forced Marcus to make a move probably earlier than he had wanted to and played into the hands of Curved Ball, who had sat covered up in a midfield position and was produced on the outside by Delpech. Galanthus ran on well from a similar position to Curved Ball to claim third ahead of Fort Petersburg.

Curved Ball is owned by Markus and Ingrid Jooste.

In the first feature of the day, the Grade 2 Defy Merchants over 1160m, the Gary Alexander-trained Muhtafal gelding, Arabian Mist, enjoyed the fast going and scooted clear in the closing stages to win comfortably by 2,25 lengths from the Charles Laird-trained Marcus-ridden Cyber Case.

The win gave high-flying Karis Teetan his second Grade 2 win in successive Saturdays and a quick double on the day.

SANSUI SUMMER CUP UPSET (cont)

Arabian Mist was bred by Summerhill Stud and is owned by JP Gardner, MC Berzack, BC Gardner, MC Gerber, GP Sadie and L van Rooyen.

In the Grade 3 GommaGomma Fillies Mile over 1600m, the Mike de Kock-trained Galileo filly, Sidera, remained unbeaten in three starts under regular jockey Anthony Delpech.

She was bred in Australia and is owned by Markus Jooste's Klawervlei Stud.

The final feature on the card, the Grade 3 Racing Association Handicap over 3200m saw Ferraris and Strydom get consolation for Magical's defeat when Santa stormed home, holding off the Tarry-trained Royal Captive.

Santa, by National Emblem, was bred by George Rowles and is owned by PT and P Dimakogiannis.

FELIX COETZEE

Felix Coetzee has been dying to win a really big race since his return to South Africa from Hong Kong last season and it happened as he drove the Sean Tarry-trained four-year-old Silvano gelding Aslan to victory in the Grade 1 Sansui Summer Cup.

"A number of people I have bumped into since I came back have asked me if I am still riding," laughed the 50-year-old yesterday. "I really wanted to win one of the big ones so that I wouldn't have to answer that question anymore!"

It was Coetzee's 76th Group 1 win worldwide.

The biggest races among them include three Durban Julys, five J&B Mets, seven Gold Cups, two Hong Derbys (Hong Kong's biggest race) and now two Summer Cups.

Coetzee's first Summer Cup win was on the great Tony Millard-trained Argentinian-bred filly, Empress Club, who won when the race was called the Administrators Cup in 1992, powering clear by 2,75 lengths.

He also finished second on the Terrance Millard-trained Potomac in 1986 when the race was called the Sun International, beaten by his stable companion, the filly Enchanted Garden.

Coetzee recalled how Millard had sent a string up to the Highveld that year from the Cape and swept all before him, winning the Derby, The Oaks, the Sun International and a host of other big races.

He was not sure of the answer to the frequently asked question 'why can't or why don't the top coastal horses of today raid the Highveld?'

"Maybe they were better in those days, I'm not sure," he said.

However he added that the Summer Cup is still a very, very difficult race to win even if it is only the top Johannesburg horses that are contesting it.

Of the victory, Coetzee said the race had gone simply, "Firstly Aslan was very well handicapped and had a good draw. He jumped well and landed running. There was a good pace and he settled well in a handy position. He quickened nicely at the top of the straight. The other horses (Oracy and Captain Scott) then ran past us. But the thing about this horse is that he just doesn't stop, he is very courageous. What was exciting was that throughout the straight I was giving everything I had and he was giving everything he had. He pegged Captain Scott back, but a furlong out anybody could have still won it. It was a helluva fight, but when we crossed the line I knew we had won."

Coetzee said that he had liked Aslan from the first time he sat on him.

"He is a very genuine horse. The first time I rode him, when winning his

maiden, he gave me the feeling that he would give you everything you asked of him. I really like the Silvanos."

Aslan only won his maiden on May 13 in his third start over 1800m at Clairwood.

It was a very good training feat by Tarry to win the Summer Cup with him just six months later.

Coetzee enjoyed the entire day on Saturday.

"They put on a good show and there was a very nice atmosphere. But what was really great was the quality of horse throughout the day. The big guns were all out, it was top class racing."

One person who didn't return home with as big a bounce in his step as Coetzee and Tarry was Ormond Ferraris, trainer of Summer Cup runner-up Magical, who appeared to be a touch unlucky when flying up late only to be denied by a neck under Piere Strydom.

After later winning the Grade 3 Racing Association Handicap with Santa, Ferraris, never one to mince his words, said, "I'm not great, I'm very sore about Magical. He finished second but that's like a drop in the ocean. The stable did a fortune."

Strydom said on Saturday that Magical had run as he had expected, "He has a lack of speed, bad draw, we were always going to be at the back and caught wide. We were off the bit all the way, but it was unbelievable how he came through to run second. The horse was spot-on on the day and I just wish he had had more luck, then he would have won it."

Magical had appeared on the head on replays to possibly be a bit reluctant to go through a narrow gap between the one-paced Oracy and the steadily staying on Lion's Blood from about the 200m mark.

Once the gap widened he literally flew.

However, Strydom's spokesman, his wife Beattie, said that Magical had not been caught behind the two horses in any way, "He has to be ridden like that, coming from behind. He ran a great race," she said.

DEAN KANNEMEYER

Dean Kannemeyer went into the Grade 1 Bloodstock SA Cape Guineas at Kenilworth confident that Noordhoek Flyer would further establish the Kannemeyer name as a dominant force in this pivotal three-year-old event.

Kannemeyer, proud to have now gained a seventh Cape Guineas for the yard said, "I've always thought that the Cape Guineas is the best Guineas in the country and a very hard race to win. The top four in that race always go on these days to either be sold to overseas concerns or be major contenders in big races of the future."

Dean's father Peter sent out three Guineas winners as a trainer with Foreign Ambassador(1982), Young England(1988) and Eli's Truth(1992), while Dean has sent out four with Rabiya(2005), Express Way(2006), Le Drakkar(2008) and now Noordhoek Flyer(2009).

Dean pointed out that his father rode a Guineas winner too.

"It's funny how history repeats itself, but while my father was riding they had to switch the Guineas from Milnerton to Kenilworth for some reason one year and he rode the winner. When they had to make the same racecourse switch one year in his training years he won with Eli's Truth." The Guineas was run annually at Milnerton before that course sadly became defunct.

Kannemeyer said that the secret to winning the Cape Guineas was first all having the horse, then planning its program and finally having the luck of the draw and the running.

"In every race there is an element of luck," he said. "But I was very confident this year. I started him out with a sprint at Clairwood as a juvenile and fancied him strongly as he was showing brilliant speed at home. He was beaten by a fine tuned Var colt. I also fancied him strongly next time out over the same course and distance, but he was beaten again."

Kannemeyer was philosophical about the defeats.

"Despite his superb natural speed, he was bred to go a mile to 2000m, so I decided to put him away until the Spring."

Noordhoek Flyer came back in a 1600m maiden at Durbanville in October and, despite being drawn very wide, beat a promising sort in High Waters by a facile 3,25 lengths.

After a defeat in an open handicap he took in the Grade 2 Selangor Trophy over 1600m and finished second to his stable companion Past Master, whom Kannemeyer also has a good regard for but whom had to be scratched from the Guineas last Thursday.

"Noordhoek Flyer's Selangor run was an excellent performance as he was caught three wide the whole way, but still ran on very well," continued Kannemeyer.

"Then at the twilight meeting on the Friday a week before the Guineas I took him for a workout at Kenilworth. He put in a brilliant gallop. He had strengthened and was getting better and better, so I went into Saturday's race fancying him very strongly."

There were some anxious moments for both jockey Karl Neisius and Kannemeyer early on in the race on Saturday.

"He was caught wide before the first turn. But Karl used that brilliant speed the horse has to go around a couple of horses as they entered the bend. He managed to get him in, one wide of the rail, and well po-

sitioned."

They went a good gallop the whole way and the field opened up nicely in the straight.

"I was watching Anton Marcus' horse, Galileo's Galaxy, and could see Karl always had him in his sights," said Kannemeyer. "He started picking them off one by one. It takes a good horse to win the Guineas and this was a very impressive win."

Noordhoek Flyer, a striking chestnut by one of the UK's leading sires, Pivotal, had looked magnificent after entering the parade ring latest of all the horses.

His coat had a healthy shine to it and as one of the best pre-race analysts around, Graeme Hawkins, pointed out, "He stands over a lot of ground."

However, Hawkins, and a few others were a tad concerned after watching him go down.

"He seemed to be striding a touch short," said Hawkins at the time, before adding. "But I'm not sure if that's just him and he always does that."

Kannemeyer confirmed, "Yes, the Pivotal's often don't look good going down. But once the gates open it is a different ball game and they then give the jockey a superb feel."

Noordhoek Flyer's dam, Serra Negra by Kris, was bought in the UK by Mary Slack. She then sent him to be covered by Pivotal to Southern Hemisphere time before exporting her back to Wilgebosdrift Stud where Noordhoek Flyer was born and raised.

Noordhoek Flyer was sold on the green pages select sale at the National Yearling Sales under the name, White Hills.

Jehan Malherbe's Form Bloodstock chose and bought him on behalf of Lady Christine Laidlaw, who is married to Lord Irvine Laidlaw.

This was the first horse Lady Laidlaw had ever owned in South Africa.

The Laidlaw's live in Monaco but have a house in Noordhoek named Noordhoek Manor, after which the horse was then named.

"He is a very well balanced horse and came with a big price tag," said Kannemeyer.

"I am thrilled that he has justified his price."

Lady Laidlaw was clearly beyond thrilled to have got her association with South African racing off to such a magnificent start and "was looking forward to a great future for this 'little boy'".

Finally, Rodney Dunn pointed out that the signs were all there for a Noordhoek Flyer win on Saturday as it was in race seven, he was number seven, was drawn seven and it was the Kannemeyers seventh win in the race.

JOCKEY'S INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE

The Jockey's International Challenge was held in bright sunshine on the inside track at Turffontein, having been postponed from its original date on the outside track, and a nice crowd enjoyed a keen tussle.

The South African team, managed by Andrew Fortune and consisting of Anton Marcus (captain), Felix Coetzee, Pieter Strydom, Anthony Delpech, Richard Fourie and Gavin Lerena, won the challenge for the second year running.

This year they were up against Frankie Dettori (Italy, captain), Mick Kinane (Ireland), Jimmy Fortune (Ireland), Richard Hughes (Ireland), Seb Sanders (England) and Halas Karatas (Turkey).

The South Africans got off to a good start when Marcus led from start to finish on the Mike Azzie-trained Muamba (5-1) to win the MR76 Handicap for fillies and mares over 1400m.

Fourie on Apple Princess (9-1), snatched second away from Karatas, who was aboard Muamba's stable companion, Romantic Girl (15-2).

Jimmy Fortune finished next best on Mrs Brock (10-1) ahead of bookmaker's favourite, Autumn Gold (33-10), ridden by Coetzee.

The South African had taken a 59 to 40 point lead.

In the next leg Dettori made a bold bid to lead from start to finish on the Weiho Marwing-trained Roman Times (7-1) in the MR 73 Handicap over 2450m.

In an exciting dual in the closing stages, Dettori, drove his mount for all its worth, but Gavin Lerena extracted extra out of the challenger, the Sean Tarry-trained bookmakers favourite Winter Cruise (7-2), and got the upper hand late on to win going away by 0,5 lengths.

In a typically sporting gesture, Dettori "high-fived" Lerena after the line. Monsieur Et Madame (7-1) finished strongly for third under Hughes, with Coetzee next best on the tote favourite Bambelela (15-2) ahead of Sonic Gang (25-1), who was ridden by Karatas.

The International team had closed the gap by one point with the standings now 108 to 90.

Marcus, like Delpech in the first race, got seven points for his scratched horse and was in the lead in the individual standings on 27.

The third leg, a MR 84 Handicap over 1600m, saw another exciting finish and it was Lerena who once again timed his run to perfection to just get up on the Roy Wagner-trained Jet Flyer (33-10), who was the joint bookmaker's favourite.

Gunner Girl (8-1) came from last under Delpech and bursting through

late on looked the winner, but Lerena, who also came from way back, pipped her on the post.

Magner also saddled the third horse, Chestnut Cruiser (12-1), and praised Hughes for a "great ride", as the jockey managed to get the horse onto the rail in fourth in the running from a very wide draw.

Kinane on Water Nymph (8-1) and Jimmy Fortune on El Romantico (66-1) were fourth and fifth respectively and the standings were now South Africa 166, Internationals 132.

Lerena had opened up a big lead in the individual standings on 43 with Marcus next best on 32.

The International team got on the board at last in the final leg thanks to another peach of a ride by Hughes, who brought home the Tarry-trained Jack Sparrow (8-1) in a blanket finish.

Hughes is one of the tallest jockeys in the world at five foot nine inches but Tarry, who sent out three winners on the day, said afterwards, "He gets so low in the saddle you would never think he is that tall. He's a great rider."

Both Tarry and Johnny Geroudis, who rode Jack Sparrow in his last start, advised Hughes to leave his run until late and Hughes duly produced the horse at the last moment to deny Dettori, whose mount, Emir (6-1), was also finishing fast.

Lerena, who had led in the running, held on for third on Freiburg (12-1) ahead of Fourie on Caribbean Coast (16-1) and Delpech on Royal Express (4-1).

The South Africans had won the Challenge with a total of 209 points to 188.

Lerena was the leading individual rider on 55 points with Hughes in second on 46 and Dettori third on 40.

There was a scratching in each race with Marcus being the unfortunate victim twice.

In the last race on the card the Internationals took on team of young South African jockeys team and Mick Kinane won it aboard Silver Eagle, beating the Tarry-trained favourite, Trip Master, with Karatas aboard, into second.

Meanwhile in Hong Kong, the Mike de Kock-trained Eagle Mountain finished ninth of ten runners under Kevin Shea in the HK\$3 million Cup Trial at Sha Tin.

SUPREME SILVANO

The stallion Silvano stamped his credentials once again when his daughter Field Flower, trained by Stephen Page and ridden by Gerrit Schlechter, won the Grade 1 Avontuur Estate Cape Fillies Guineas at Kenilworth, defying massive odds of 50-1.

Silvano maintained his early lead in the National sires log with this win, while Stephen Page won his second Grade 1 race within six months, having landed a one-two in the Canon Gold with Mokaro and Noblewood on the first Saturday of August.

Ten of the horses finished within five lengths of the winner.

However, in an open betting race, the pace did not look a true one so there might possibly have been a few hard luck stories.

Laverna overcame her wide draw to take the lead in an early scramble but then her pilot, Anthony Delpuch, slowed it down as he had done when winning the Grade 1 Thekwini on her at the end of last season.

The tote favourite Jet Trail was handy but caught three deep, while Croc Valley was caught on the rail near the back of the field. Field Flower was just ahead of Croc Valley, one wide of the rail.

There was a calvary charge as they turned for home as Celtic Cross and Play Nice were the first to challenge, with Tick Tock on their inside.

Croc Valley quickened up well to make up ground down the inside rail, but didn't have much room throughout the straight.

Field Flower was covered up and travelling comfortably in the centre and was switched by Schlechter into a wide gap on her outside at about the 400m mark.

She then gave everything she had all the way to the line.

She galloped past a bunch of five horses on her inside and got up by 0,75 lengths from Tick Tock, with Jet Trail, Laverna and Croc Valley next best.

Field Flower is owned by Peter de Beyer and JA Bryant. She was bred by Maine Chance Farms, where Silvano stands.

In the next race, a Pinnacle Plate over 1500m, the champion Pocket Power proved a point as he beat his Vodacom Durban July conqueror, Big City Life, this time at level weights, which was the equal of weight for age and not 5,5kg to his disadvantage as was the case in the July.

Both horses will come on from the run, though, so it is too early to write off Big City Life, who will be Pocket Power's chief protagonist in the latter's bid to claim the Queen's Plate and J&B Met double for a fourth time in succession.

Earlier in the Grade 2 Southern Cross Stakes over 1000m, the Justin Snaith-trained sprint-miler Dance With AI ran out a fluent winner under a

cool ride by in form Felix Coetzee despite returning from a seven month break.

She sat behind her stable companion Scintilla in the running, this pair sticking towards the inside.

Coetzee produced her at about the 300m and she crossed the line full of running 1,25 lengths ahead of the Darryl Hodgson-trained Servilia with Scintilla holding on for third ahead of Seminole.

Both Dance With AI and Servilia are owned by Hassan Adams.

Dance With AI provided yet another success for stallion, Captain AI. She was bred by Willie Engelbrecht.

The first of the features at Turffontein was the Grade 2 Ipi Tombe Stakes over 1600m and the even-money favourite, Mother Russia, won her tenth race and increased her stakes record to seven wins including one Grade 1, three Grade 2's, one Grade 3 and two Listed races.

This was her first win for trainer Mike de Kock having been bought out of the Joey Ramsden yard by Mary Slack's Wilgebosdrift stud at the end of last season.

Anton Marcus never had to draw the stick as the four-year-old daughter of Windrush easily repelled her stable companion Milk And Honey, to win by 1,75 lengths.

Mother Russia is by Windrush and was bred by Normandy Stud.

In the next race Summerveld-trainer Kumaran Naidoo pulled off another successful raid of the Highveld when landing the Grade 3 Magnolia Handicap over 1160m with his unbeaten Lake Coniston filly, Purple Lake.

Purple Lake reportedly shows very little at home, an unusual occurrence for a sprinter, but she has now never been headed in three starts at the racetrack.

She held on under Muzi Yeni yesterday to win by 0,75 lengths, despite on official merit rated terms being 4kg under sufferance.

Except for the second and third horses, Worldwide and Dixie Lass, the field was strung out behind her. This has been a feature of all her wins, which suggests that she is a decent sort.

Purple Lake was bred by Riverworld Stud and is owned by K Singh, Y Naidoo, S Pillai, N Singh and N Deokynarian.

In the Listed Secretariat Stakes the Terry Lowe-trained Club Victor held on bravely to win under apprentice, Aldo Domyer.

Club Victor is by Fan Club's Mister and was bred by Terry Lowe and JC Mouton.

SEA THE STARS

Sea The Stars crowned a glorious year with Horse of the Year honours at the 2009 Cartier Racing Awards.

Racing's glitterati gathered at Claridge's Hotel in Mayfair, London, where the John Oxx-trained superstar was also awarded the title of Champion Three-Year-Old Colt.

Wins in the 2000 Guineas, Derby, Eclipse, Juddmonte International, Irish Champion Stakes and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe etched Christopher Tsui's horse into the annals of Turf history.

Brilliant French filly Goldikova was Champion Older Horse after recording back-to-back wins in the Breeders' Cup Mile in another stellar season.

The Two-Year-Old Colt category went the way of Aidan O'Brien's unbeaten Racing Post Trophy winner St Nicholas Abbey, while the fillies' equivalent was awarded to Criquette Head-Maarek's Special Duty, win-

ner of the Cheveley Park Stakes at Newmarket.

Oaks heroine Sariska saw off the likes of Middy and Ghanaati to lift the Champion Three-Year-Old Filly crown.

There was no need to look any further than Yeats for Champion Stayer.

O'Brien's stalwart brought the house down at Royal Ascot when becoming the first horse to win the Gold Cup four times.

July Cup winner Fleeting Spirit beat Total Gallery and Borderlescott to become Champion Sprinter.

On a great night for Oxx, he was voted the 2009 Cartier/Daily Telegraph Award of Merit winner, a title for the person or person who, in the opinion of the special 18-strong Cartier Jury, has/have done most for European racing and/or breeding either over their lifetime or within the past 12 months.

BREEDERS CUP MILE STAR FIGHTS FOR HIS LIFE

6YO entire Kip Deville (Kipling- Klondike Kaytie, by Encino) is suffering severe laminitis which stemmed from a routine bout of colic, reported bloodhorse.com. Owned by IEAH Stables, Kip Deville was moved to Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital near Lexington and is currently being cared for by Dr. Scott Hopper. IEAH president Mike Lavarone commented: "He is still in extremely guarded condition. The laminitis has progressed, unfortunately, and he is in critical condition." Bred in Oklahoma by Center Hills Farm, Kip Deville was purchased by a group led by IEAH in June 2006 and went on to win three graded stakes over the

next 10 months. Kip Deville was a 4-time Gr1 winner who notched 12 wins (including 2009's Gr1 Gulfstream Park Turf Hcp, 2008s Gr1 Keeneland and Maker's Mark Mile Stakes, Gr3 Belmont Poker Hcp, plus 2007's Gr1 Breeders' Cup Mile Stakes, Gr3 Santa Anita Frank E Kilroe Mile Hcp & Gr2 Keeneland Maker's Mark Mile Stakes) & 6 placings including (2008's Gr1 Breeders' Cup Mile Stakes, 2007's Gr1 Woodbine Mile Stakes & Gr3 Monmouth Oceanport Stakes) from 30 starts for US\$3,325,489 earnings.

MICK KINANE RETIRES

Veteran jockey Mick Kinane, 50, has announced his retirement, ending a 34-year career in the saddle.

He bows out on a high after a stunning 2009 saw him partner wonder horse Sea The Stars to six Group One wins.

His success with the John Oxx-trained colt included an unprecedented 2,000 Guineas-Derby-Arc treble.

Kinane said: "I feel fit and sharp enough to do any horse justice but

I have the privilege of being able to end my career on an incredible high."

Born in County Tipperary, Ireland, the son of a leading National Hunt jockey, Kinane won the 2,000 Guineas four times, the Epsom Derby three times, the Oaks twice and the St Leger once.

He also picked up 11 Irish Classic winners, and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe five times.

MICK KINANE RETIRES *(cont)*

Henry Cecil, the trainer who provided him with his first Derby success in 1993 on Commander in Chief, said: "Michael Kinane, in my opinion, was a brilliant, top-class jockey, a gentleman and a great ambassador to racing.

"He rode quite a few Group One winners for me including the Derby. Thank you very much Michael. Racing will miss you."

Kinane said he was leaving the sport "with a huge sense of gratitude to all the great horses I have ridden". And he paid tribute to "all the great trainers whose genius developed those champions and everybody else in racing, from the stable lads to the owners, who have made me deeply thankful for my involvement in the game."

He went on: "Teamwork is the key to success in racing and I have been blessed with some of the best alliances a jockey could have. The most important support of all throughout my career has, naturally, come from my wife, Catherine, along with my family and friends.

"Both Catherine and our two precious daughters, Sinead and Aisling, know how much they mean to me."

As well as riding hundreds of winners in Britain, Ireland and France, he also won the Melbourne Cup in 1993 with Vintage Crop and in the USA

won three Breeders' Cup prizes. He also had winners in Germany, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, Slovakia, the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

On Monday, Kinane was named jockey of the year at the 43rd Derby Awards, eight years after his previous victory, beating off competition from Ryan Moore, Richard Hills and Richard Hughes.

A champion apprentice in Ireland in 1978, Kinane had ridden his first winner aboard Muscari for boss Liam Browne at Leopardstown in 1975. He had 14 years as number one jockey to Dermot Weld from 1983 before he was retained by Aidan O'Brien from 1999 to 2003.

An Irish champion jockey on 13 occasions, he said his first Derby win had been a key moment in his career.

He got the leg-up at Epsom on the Khalid Abdullah-owned Commander In Chief with Pat Eddery on the owner's supposed first string Tenby, who started an odds-on favourite.

Kinane said: "Your first Epsom Derby success is very special so winning on Commander In Chief was a huge milestone."

That success in the showpiece summer classic was followed by Derby triumphs on Galileo in 2001, for O'Brien, before a third success earlier this year on the extraordinary Sea The Stars.

KINANE SAYS SEA THE STARS "BEST I EVER RODE"

Mick Kinane also declared this season's 6-time Gr1-winning 3YO colt & European Horse-Of-The-Year Sea The Stars (Cape Cross-Urban Sea, by Miswaki) was "the best horse he rode during his glittering career" reported racingpost.com. Kinane "has partnered some of the finest horses in recent memory, including Galileo, Montjeu & George Washington, to victory in some of the world's most prestigious races, but said the John Oxx-trained superstar was without compare". Kinane asserted bluntly that the best of them all was "undoubtedly Sea The Stars - the most com-

plete package you could wish for in a racehorse." Kinane (who notched his 1st winner at Leopardstown in 1975) added his most memorable victories included: this year's Arc de Triomphe on Sea The Stars because "there was so much expectation & it was a roller-coaster throughout"; his 1st English Derby on Commander In Chief in 1993; his English Derby-Oaks double on Galileo & Imagine in 2001; & Vintage Crop's Melbourne Cup triumph in 1993, which was a "great occasion, something I'll never forget."

SMULLEN DECLARES KINANE "GREATEST OF THEM ALL"

The 5-time Irish champion jockey Pat Smullen, who took over the reigns from Michael Kinane when appointed stable jockey to Dermot Weld in 1999, told racingpost.com: "He was the greatest of them all & always my

role model & it was a pleasure to ride against him for the past 15 years or so." Kinane enjoyed 14 years as Weld's number 1 stable rider from late 1983 (which yielded 10 Irish jockey titles) before moving to Ballydoyle.

DR PETER DE BEYER

Dr Peter de Beyer's momentous run in the 2008-2009 season as a horse owner continued into the current season as the Stephen Page-trained Silvano filly, Field Flower, added a third Grade 1 win to his tally for 2009. Field Flower, whom de Beyer owns in partnership with John Bryant, landed the Grade 1 Avontuur Estate Cape Fillies Guineas for three-year-olds at Kenilworth on Saturday at long odds of 50-1 under a fine ride by regular pilot, Gerrit Schlechter.

"We knew Field Flower would improve on her Odessa Run," said de Beyer. "The 1400m was too short for her and she met with interference, but she ran on well to finish only five to six lengths back. We thought we had as much chance as any of the Cape fillies as they have not stood out this year. We didn't know how good the Johannesburg fillies would be, but the two favoured ones (Jet Trail and Laverna) both had wide draws. So it was an open race and we arrived at the course thinking we could get a place. In the race Gerrit had to use her early from her draw of nine. She still was about two-thirds of the way back in the field but in the straight had a very clear passage and was able to get into her stride. Nothing else was really accelerating. In the parade ring beforehand I had never seen her looking so well. She was really on her toes. Stephen did a magic job. A lot of credit must go to him. He has a relatively small string and can give each horse real individual attention. He knows every horse intimately."

Page has also enjoyed a tremendous year and having added this Grade 1 win to his one-two in the Canon Gold Cup, he rose back into the top 10 on the National trainer's log despite having had less than a 100 runners in the season.

De Beyer felt that "partnerships are important in racing."

"Horse and jockey can get to know each other if you maintain a regular jockey, so that was another factor that helped."

He praised the condition of the Kenilworth new course, saying it was "running very fairly and giving every horse a chance no matter which side they made their run on."

De Beyer also owns the Glen Kotzen-trained Lady Windermere, in partnership with Johann and Gaynor Rupert's Drakenstein Stud.

She was named Equus Champion Three-year-old Filly of last season after winning the Grade 2 Southern Cross Stakes, the Grade 2 Sceptre Stakes, the Grade 1 SA Fillies Sprint and the Grade 1 Garden Province Stakes.

The Southern Cross Stakes was the first Graded win ever for De Beyer.

De Beyer began sending horses to Stephen Page about ten to twelve years ago.

As his string got bigger he decided to spread them between two trainers to lessen the impact of viruses and other downturns a yard can suffer.

He goes to the National Yearling Sales every year, alternating between Page and Kotzen to help him buy.

"I only buy fillies as breeding is my main interest," he said. "We usually buy conservatively and thought Field Flower went for a value price considering her decent looks, her excellent pedigree and how buoyant the market was at the time. Her sire Silvano had proven himself a very

good sire, while her damsire Northfields was a champion broodmare. Her fourth dam is dam of Bold Ruler."

Bold Ruler was a Hall of Fame racehorse in America and became the sire of one of the all time greats, Secretariat.

De Beyer reckoned that Silvano's progeny didn't mature particularly early and the best of them were seen as four-year-olds.

Field Flower has provided a good example.

"She's a straight forward sort of horse, I wouldn't say laid back, but relaxed. She has matured slowly and is one of those deceptive sorts as she raises her game at the racetrack. You wouldn't pick her out as a star on the training track."

Lady Windermere was the opposite.

"We could see Lady Windermere was special from the beginning. She was so quick and blew everything away in training. She's also a stropky horse, who thinks she's boss of the yard."

De Beyer said lady Windermere was found to have had a respiratory infection after her last below par run and being a good-actioned horse did not enjoy the "soggy ground."

That run could be ignored.

He felt an overseas campaign for a filly with top paddock value was "less clear" than sending a gelding over, so believed Lady Windermere would probably go to stud after defending her Group 1 titles in KZN.

He was not sure of Field Flower's route and felt that, unlike last year, the four-year-old and older horses would dominate the open features this summer.

"We might try her in the Derby Trial to see whether a crack at the Derby is worth it, although there look to be some every decent three-year-old colts around."

De Beyer's progeny from his breeding operation are starting to come through now.

Most of them would be sent to the sales.

He mostly uses the "value for money" sires, although he does have a share in both National Assembly and Jallad and also sent one mare to Jet Master this season.

DAM OF FIVE EXCELLENT STALLIONS

Mariah's Storm by Rahy out of the Roberto mare Immense was foaled in 1991. Named after the song "They Call the Wind Mariah" by her owners Bill and Margie Peters of Des Moines, Iowa, she was trained by Don Von Hemel.

A very promising two year old, the bay filly was being aimed at the 1993 Breeders Cup. She won a Grade 2 at Arlington but then broke down in the Alcibiades Stakes at Keeneland, fracturing her near fore cannon. Bill Peters was quoted as saying that "You could hear it pop all over the track". With such promise, the disappointment was great. But the story had hardly begun.

Owners and trainer refused to give up hope and managed to prevent the filly from being put down. Surgery and care from a team of expert veterinarians ensured her survival although she had to stay in her Keeneland racecourse stall for a month after the race meeting had ended. For a long time, her condition was uncertain but it was eventually clear that her life had been saved.

Back at the Von Hemel training barns at Oaklawn, Arkansas, Mariah's Storm slowly recovered and under the care of (Mrs) Robin Von Hemel, the fracture healed strongly. With great trepidation, the question was asked: "Could she race again?"

Against all odds, the filly was returned to training about a year later. "The first time we breezed her, my heart was pounding pretty hard" said Don Von Hemel "and when she jumped a shadow it just about stopped".

Mariah's Storm returned to win the Arlington Oaks and Arlington Matron Stakes. No other horse had won all three stakes races on the Arlington track and they duly named a race after Mariah's Storm. She developed a huge fan base and was cheered on by great crowds, even as she raced at different tracks around the country. At her home track Prairie Meadows, hundreds would come just to watch her races on the screens.

At 4 years old, Mariah's Storm went to Turfway Park and came up against future Hall of Fame filly Serena's Song who won nine of eleven stakes races that year including three against colts. But on this occasion, the great Serena's Song had the misfortune to come up against the determined and large hearted Mariah's Storm who beat her by five lengths in the Turfway Breeders Cup Stakes.

She did make it to the Breeders Cup itself but the night before the Distaff, the filly was sick and with the benefit of hindsight should have been scratched. She ran but finished down the field, then ended her career by winning the Falls City Handicap at Churchill Downs.

Since not only a life threatening but normally a life ending accident, Mariah's Storm had completed what her owners described as her incredible journey. She won ten of sixteen races and was a finalist in the Eclipse Awards for 1995's champion older filly or mare.

The story of this brave filly captured the imagination of film director John Gatins who was inspired to make the family movie "Dreamer" starring Kurt Russell and Dakota Fanning. The equine star is a filly named Sonya who breaks down on the track and is nursed back to health by a young girl, going on to win the Breeders Cup Classic.

And of course the story of Mariah's Storm did not end there. She was mated with Storm Cat in 1996 and sold to John Magnier's Coolmore team for US\$2.6 million. This was a bargain! The first foal was GIANT'S CAUSEWAY, one of the great post war racehorses as "The Iron Horse" and a sire of 15 Group/Grade 1 winners who needs no introduction. Four more group winners followed and a fifth, Group placed. No less than five of Mariah's Storm's sons stand as stallions and the other was the top class 2 year old filly YOUNG SOTHRILLING. FREUD stands in New York but still sires an impressive list of stakes winners from there. ROAR OF THE TIGER has done very well and now TUMBLEBRUTUS is siring top class horses in South America where they breed them tough.

TIGER DANCE, full brother to GIANT'S CAUSEWAY's and all the others, stands in the Western Cape at Lion River Stud, Tulbagh and has some greatly admired yearlings and foals on the ground. Testimonials to their quality have been gratefully received (and published) from Mike Barnard of Daytona Stud, David Hepburn Brown of Hemel 'n Aarde Stud, from Nina Robertson of Milkwood Stud and from Pat Schafer of Collingwood Stud. Lion River will put directly into training a considerable number of Tiger Dances and a number of attractive examples will appear at the sales.

In South Africa, through TIGER DANCE, a piece of the Mariah's Storm legend lives on.

RED RANSOM DIES

Vinery Stud's former shuttler & in recent years permanently Australian-based stallion Red Ransom (Roberto-Arabia, by Damascus) died aged 22 after complications following abdominal surgery. On the track, Red Ransom recorded 2 wins (setting a 5-furlongs track record at Saratoga in New York on debut & then winning again at Belmont Park) plus a runner-up in his only 3 starts before injury ended his brief career. Retired

to stud in 1991, he was Champion US Freshman sire in 1994 & begun shuttling to Vinery Australia in 1998. Among his 94 individual stakes-winners are 15 Gr1-winners, including Electrocutonist, Casual Look, Perfect Sting, Intikhab, Ransom O'War, Pico Teneriffe, Ekraar, Charge Forward, Typhoon Tracy, All American, Red Clubs, Red Dazzler, Duporth & Onemorenomore.