

Final field, weights and draw for the Vodacom Durban July



Sc#	Horse	Mass	MR	Draw	B A T	Jockey	Trainer
1	POCKET POWER	58.0	118 (118)	3	A	Bernard Fayd'Herbe	Mike Bass
2	BUY AND SELL	55.5	111 (111)	16	A T	Felix	Sean Tarry
3	FLOATYOURBOAT	55.5	111 (111)	14	A	Karl Neisius	Mike Bass
4	HUNTING TOWER	55.5	111 (111)	2	A	Gunter Wrogemann	Charles Laird
5	SUCCESSFUL BIDDER	55.0	110 (110)	4	B A T	Glyn Schofield	Sean Tarry
6	CATMANDU	54.0	108 (108)	15	A T	Stuart Randolph	Andre Kirsten
7	EDDINGTON	53.5	111 (107)	18	A	Piere Strydom	Dominic Zaki
8	PICK SIX	53.5	107 (107)	11	A	Anton Marcus	Charles Laird
9	SHE'S ON FIRE	52.5	105 (105)	10	A	Weichong Marwing	Ormond Ferraris
10	DANCER'S DAUGHTER	53.0	106 (106)	13	A	Kevin Shea	Justin Snaith
11	BOUND BY HONOUR	53.0	106 (106)	7	B A T	Mark Khan	Sean Tarry
12	SILVER MIST	53.0	106 (106)	6	A		Joey Ramsden
13	DESERT LINKS	51.0	102 (102)	5	B A	G Cheyne	Basil Marcus
14	STRATEGIC NEWS	52.0	104 (104)	20	B A T	Raymond Danielson	Dylan Cunha
15	RUSSIAN SAGE	51.5	107 (103)	19	A	R Fourie	Justin Snaith
16	GALANT GAGNANT	51.0	105 (101)	17	B A	Anthony Delpech	Mike de Kock
17	LION'S BLOOD	51.0	105 (101)	8	S	*B Lerena	Herman Brown
18	TAN CAN	51.0	102 (98)	12	A	MJ Byleveld	Dean Kannemeyer
19	RIVER JETEZ	50.5	101 (101)	9	A	Jeff Lloyd	Mike Bass
20	WENDYWOOD	50.0	100 (96)	1	A	Barend Voster	Sean Tarry

Jeff Lloyd to fly back for 2008 Vodacom Durban July



The Mike Bass yard confirmed on Saturday, 14 June 2008, that Jeff Lloyd will be riding River Jetez in the 2008 Vodacom Durban July.

The former Durban jockey is not only one of the world's best but also has the advantage of being a lightweight.

River Jetez will carry 50,5kg and looks virtually certain to make the final field as she was 18th on the log before the weekend and it looks highly unlikely that more than two horses can leapfrog her.

Lloyd will be attempting to win the big race for the first time. In a race he desperately wants to win he has finished third no fewer than eight times.

One of South Africa's greatest jockeys, Michael Roberts, had to fly over from his base in England to nab his first victory in the July in 1997 on the David Ferraris-trained Super Quality, 26 years after his first ride in the famous race.

This year's July will mark the 24th year since Lloyd made his debut in the country's premier race and it will be the first time he has had to fly over from an overseas base.

SUN CLASSIQUE and Archipenko

SUN CLASSIQUE and **Archipenko**, who both struck at Group 1 level for Mike De Kock on their most recent outings, are in flying form as the South African trainer maps out respective British campaigns.

Sun Classique won the Dubai Sheema Classic when last seen in March, while Aidan O'Brien's former inmate Archipenko secured the QE II Cup at Sha Tin towards the end of April.

Both horses have a few options during their time in Britain, but De Kock has formulated a probable plan of attack.

"They are both going very, very well and I'm more than happy with the pair of them," he said.

"Archipenko, at this stage and providing everything continues to go well, will start off at Ascot in the Summer Mile on July 12.

"I have got the filly in the King George at Ascot but my gut feeling is that we'll probably go for the Nassau at Goodwood and maybe the Yorkshire Oaks.

"Our main mission with her is the Arc later in the year but both horses are going well at the moment."



Curlin to be tried on grass

Following Curlin's dominant win in the Stephen Foster Handicap (gr. I) June 14, trainer Steve Asmussen says he's planning to work the reigning Horse of the Year over the Churchill Downs grass course while considering a bid in France's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (Fr-I), Europe's greatest race for older horses.

Asmussen said that the possibility of racing in the Arc, which is contested at 1 1/2 miles on Oct. 5 at Longchamp, has been discussed with Jess Jackson, the owner of Stonestreet Stables who owns majority interest in Curlin. Jackson is partner in Curlin with Midnight Cry Stables.

"We've talked about it since last year, since the Classic and he put him back in training," said Asmussen.

Asmussen said he would work Curlin on the turf and find a grass race for him in North America on the weekend of July 12-13. He did not say if he had a particular race in mind. He

would prefer a race over an international style course, such as those at Arlington Park, Belmont Park or Woodbine. Major turf races for older horses scheduled that weekend include the \$500,000 Man O' War (gr. IT) at 1 3/8 miles at Belmont Park and the Arlington Handicap (gr. III) at 1 1/4 miles at Arlington Park.

Were the champion to turn in a "Curlin-esque" performance in that race, he said the 4-year-old son of Strike Smart would ship to France to train at Chantilly. Curlin would probably have one race prior to the Arc in France, most likely a traditional Arc prep like Longchamp's Prix Foy (Fr-II).

"If we don't like how he works on the turf, then we'll change plans and that will have to be discussed," Asmussen said. "But right now we're going to plan on working him on the turf, with the possibility of running him on the turf the weekend of the 12th."



Curlin

Asmussen said Curlin checked out well following his 4 1/4-length triumph in the \$1-million Stephen Foster. With Robby Albarado aboard, Curlin, carrying 128 pounds, stalked the pace and won with a hand ride through the home stretch.

The victory improved Curlin's record to 9-1-2 in 12 races and extended his winning streak to five races - a string that includes wins in the \$5-million Breeders' Cup Classic - Powered by Dodge (gr. I) and the \$6-million Emirates Airline Dubai World Cup (UAE-I). The winner's prize of \$589,000 from the Foster improved his career earnings to \$9,396,800. The Kentucky-bred Curlin moved closer to second-place Skip Away on American racing's all-time earnings list. Skip Away earned \$9,616,360 in his career, while Cigar remains atop the career earnings list with \$9,999,815.

Big Brown triple crown disaster

Affirmed remains the last horse to win the American Triple Crown after the glory bid of Big Brown was left in tatters following the Belmont Stakes in New York.

The previously unbeaten Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes hero was trying to become just the 12th horse to notch his name in US racing legend.

In sweltering temperatures, the Rick Dutrow-trained colt - racing with a slight quarter crack in his left front hoof - took a keen hold early on, appearing to run into the back of another horse, and was a spent force rounding the final turn where jockey Kent Desormeaux eased his mount to a virtual walk in front of the stands as he trailed in last.

Up front, long-time leader Da'Tara, trained by Nick Zito, kept up the gallop to readily beat Denis Of Cork in front of a crowd well in excess of 100,000.

A total of 11 horses have now won the first two races in the Classic trilogy since Affirmed in 1978 but all have failed to add the Belmont, which is run over a

gruelling mile and a half, a distance foreign to most top-class horses in the States.

Desormeaux said: "He was keen but I got him out early and we just cantered along down the backside. There were a couple of times he thought it was time to go and jumped into the bridle, but long before we went into the last turn I had no horse."

"This horse is the best I have ever ridden and something is wrong so I took care of him. I have no idea (what went wrong)," he told ESPN.

Veterinarian Dr Larry Bramlage said: "Of course the first thing you expect is that something is wrong but the veterinarian inspection team didn't find anything wrong with him. His feet looked OK and he was not lame when he stopped here in front of the stands."

"They will go over him and look to see if there is a physical problem, some reason why he didn't feel like running today. He is a very intelligent horse and he may know of something but we couldn't

see anything outwardly."

Da'Tara's win marked the second time that Zito has dashed the dreams of a Triple Crown as he also saddled Birdstone to edge out Smarty Jones in 2004.

The winner was a newcomer on the Triple Crown circuit after skipping both the Derby and Preakness. He came in with little hope, finishing over 23 lengths behind Big Brown in the Florida Derby in March.

While Da'Tara crashed the Triple Crown party, many will start questioning if Big Brown, who won his first five career starts by a combined 39 lengths, should even have been running.

After developing the quarter crack, Big Brown missed some training time before returning to the track, but Dutrow and hoof specialist Ian McKinlay, who applied a patch to Big Brown's injury Friday, insisted the bay colt was healthy entering the 'Test of the Champion'.

- PA Sport

RACING-US-THOROUGHBRED-SAFETY

LEXINGTON, Kentucky June 18 Sapa-AP
US JOCKEY CLUB SAFETY PANEL PROPOSES BANS ON STEROIDS, TOE GRABS IN WAKE OF FILLY'S DEATH
By JEFFREY McMURRAY

U.S. thoroughbred racing took a major step toward outlawing steroids when a safety panel created after Eight Belles' fatal run in the Kentucky Derby recommended that they should be banned by January.

The proposal was immediately endorsed by several key players in the sport.

The call for a sweeping ban on anabolic steroids for horse racing was one of three suggestions from the committee established by North America's thoroughbred registry, the Jockey Club. Other recommendations dealt with banning certain horse-shoes known to cause injuries and regulating the use of the riding crop by jockeys.

"Hopefully we can say this is the last year horses were racing on steroids," said Stuart S. Janney III, chairman of the committee. "There's a real opportunity to shame people into doing the right thing if that's what it requires. We hope it doesn't."

The U.S. Congress might take action on the issue, too. On Thursday, an Energy subcommittee will hear testimony from key players in the industry about steroids and other safety matters. Using as a bargaining chip a federal law that grants simulcasting rights to states, there is a push by some lawmakers to force the industry to ban steroids and do a better job of policing itself.

"Anabolic steroids have no valid purpose in the training and racing of the equine athlete," said Bill Casner, chairman of the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association.

Alex Waldrop, president of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association, and Bill Farish, chairman of Breeders' Cup Ltd.,

also released statements endorsing the safety panel's recommendations.

Unlike most team sports, which have a national commissioner to make decisions, thoroughbred racing makes its regulations through individual states. Fewer than a dozen states have approved a model rule that would ban steroids before racing.

The safety panel says all racing jurisdictions should approve the rule by the end of the year. Steroids could still be administered by veterinarians for horses recovering from injuries, but they would be ineligible to race again until it's out of their bloodstream.

Larry Bramlage, who was the on-call veterinarian at Churchill Downs during the Derby, said the effect on steroids in horses is somewhat different from their effect on humans - but still a safety concern. Steroids help horses recover more quickly from injury and maintain an appetite, even though the muscle bulk often associated with them isn't always a positive thing.

In the shoeing proposal, the Jockey Club panel recommended banning the spike-like "toe grab" that Bramlage said puts stress on a horse's front legs. There was no immediate rules proposal governing shoeing on the hind legs, and Bramlage said research is unclear on what effect back shoes may have on safety.

"We were convinced the further you stray from a flat shoe, the more you increase the trauma on the front legs and enhance the risk of injury," Janney said.

Besides calling for a limitation in the type of riding crop used by jockeys, the safety panel also proposed prohibiting jockeys from striking their horse with an arm raised above shoulder height. Janney said he knows of no racing jurisdiction that has taken that action.

SCIENTISTS PROVE ARSENIC KILLED PHAR LAP

Scientists have "proven once & for all that champion Australian racehorse Phar Lap died from a lethal dose of arsenic," reported ABC News. Researchers (examining hair & skin samples from Phar Lap's museum-preserved body) "have discovered Phar Lap died from arsenic which was ingested, rather than used in the taxidermy process" & old documents "have revealed the galloper's trainer Harry Telford routinely used arsenic as part of a tonic for Phar Lap". Racehorse veterinarian David McKellar said it "remains a mystery whether Phar Lap was deliberately poisoned by a single lethal dose, or an accidental overdose by the trainer," noting: "Over a period of time it (arsenic) builds up to levels that would become more & more toxic to the body. Obviously once the threshold of tolerance was exceeded, then you would get the onset of the clinical symptoms." Scientists interviewed on last night's ABC television program Catalyst found the horse (which was in America when he died) had been given a large dose of the poison in the last 30-40 hours of his life. But Dr McKellar said the new findings do not prove Phar Lap was nobbled, explaining: "It's too hard to say whether it was a single arsenic poisoning, a deliberate poisoning or whether it was just in fact a home-made remedy that was got slightly wrong. Certainly the potential was there for an overdose." He added giving horses arsenic "is not as unusual as it sounds & the poison is still used in small doses. Arsenic has historically been used as an appetite stimulant. It also promotes the shedding of old dead hair & the regrowth of a shiny new coat. It's actually still used in some commercial preparations." (Jun 20)

COMMENTATOR SAVES FIASCO AT PORT AUGUSTA

The swift action of South Australia's leading racecaller Hilton Donaldson "stopped what would have been a no-race when the barriers were at the wrong distance only moments before the field was dispatched in the Maiden Plate at Port Augusta" recently, reported racenet.com.au. The field was in the barriers ready to start, when Donaldson "told the Sky Channel audience to 'hold on for a moment' & yelled from his commentary box to the chief steward to warn him the barriers were at

the 1400m mark instead of the correct 1500m". The steward alerted the starter "who was on his stand ready to release the field" & the disaster was averted. The horses were backed out of the gates & the barriers hurriedly moved back up the chute to the 1500m start before the race was run (& won by White Banner).

CHIPPY GOES EAST!



SOUTH African jockey Christopher ("Chippy") Taylor has been contracted to ride for six months at Seoul Race Park in Korea, breaking new ground for SA riders. He has done most of his riding in Qatar and Dubai over the last few years. Taylor (right), seen here with French ace Olivier Peslier, will be jetting to Korea late next week. He was recently in the news when helping trainer Herman Brown in the preparation of Jay Peg for the Singapore Cup. www.freeracer.co.za

LAVINIA WAS THE POWER BEHIND THEO'S THRONE

Lavinia de Klerk, who died recently aged 92, grew up in Cape Town surrounded by horses. Her father, Capt. Charles Struben, was master of the Cape Hunt, and from an early age she rode with the hounds. She became a formidable horsewoman in her teens and early twenties, and this talent, as well as the way she looked, caught the eye of a well-known Western Province cricketer named Theo de Klerk.

At that stage, in the early 1930s, Theo was earning a living in the automobile business and knew nothing about horses. As the romance blossomed, Theo realized that he would have to learn about horses to keep up with the willful young lady whom he was pursuing. Being a talented sportsman, and having a natural affinity with animals, it was not long before Theo was also involved with horses and was riding competitively in all the Cape horse shows. As a pair, they were virtually unbeatable.

Lavinia eventually agreed to marry her persistent suitor and they immediately started a family, but were rudely interrupted by the start of the Second World War. Theo joined up immediately and was sent to North Africa and was put in charge of the literally thousands of horses that were used in the campaign. Lavinia followed as far as possible, with children in tow.

When the war ended in 1945, they returned to Cape Town where Lavinia's father staked them with a few horses to train and race. Thus began an illustrious career during which Theo trained more than a thousand winners. He went on to be Champion trainer in both the Cape and nationally many times over.

Everyone connected with racing knew however, that Lavinia was the power behind the throne - both from the point of view of dealing with owners as well as choosing horses. They were always together at the stud farms, yearling sales, and race meetings, where everyone could see how heavily Theo relied on her judgment.

Together they introduced an extraordinarily well known and glamorous group of people to racing at the Cape. Theo's list of owners always included the leading lights of the racing world both in South Africa and abroad, and it was seldom that there wasn't a member of the English racing aristocracy present.

Lavinia was a very keen owner herself and her bright scarlet colours were often in the winner's box. In the 1960s, she owned the best miler in the country, Inverthorn, who won the Queen's Plate, and she later owned a number of well-known sprinters such as Warrior Gay. She was the first to recognize Persian Wonder as a great stallion, which resulted in Theo's stable having huge success before anyone cottoned on to the stallion.

Lavinia de Klerk's contribution to racing in the Cape was substantial. She gave it class, style and verve which was exactly the way she lived her nearly 93 years.

The racing fraternity will always remember her in that way. www.mikedekockracing.co.za



LAVINIA DE KLERK
(1915-2008)

Lavinia in the winner's box with jockey Dana Siegenberg

Sibaya Yearling Sale has a draft of 292 lots

BloodStock SA, in conjunction with the Sibaya Casino and Entertainment Kingdom will host the 2008 Sibaya KZN Yearling Sale at the picturesque Sibaya Casino in Umhlanga Rocks on Thursday 3 and Friday 4 July. A total of 292 yearlings will come under the hammer.

The Yearling Sale will be followed on Tuesday, 8 July, by the Sibaya KZN Mare, Weanling and Horses-in-Training Sale. The combined increase for the Sibaya Sales last year was a phenomenal 60% up on the 2006 figure.

While the current economic climate may result in a stabilization of the thoroughbred bloodstock market, BSA CEO Jan Naude is expecting another good auction. "The Sibaya Sale has fast grown in popularity and we hope to build on last year's record turnover."

Several of the country's leading stud farms and stallions will be represented. The studs include Maine Chance Farms, Klawervlei and recently prominent Rathmor Stud.

Yearlings by Silvano, National Assembly, Mogok, Al Mufti and Kahal will probably attract most attention.

Melville Vogel, General Manager of Sibaya Casino and Entertainment Kingdom commented: "We are delighted that Sibaya's association with the equine industry over the July season has reached legendary status as vendors, buyers, their families, friends and associates flock here to participate in and witness one of the greatest horse sales in the country."

"The excitement in the Imbizo room during the sale is tangible and the mood in the stables in our car park is electric - all contributing to creating a truly exhilarating event on our property. This sale, coupled with the luxurious and elegant marquee experience that we offer our top end-players at the Vodacom Durban July, are the benchmarks for having a great time in our city during this season."

Vogel added: "We don't have many opportunities to get large groups of people together for big events and this is why the July is such a good occasion for Sibaya as we are able to host many clients from out of town."

"During the sales week we use approximately 2000 bails of hay, 40 containers, 10 000 litres of water, 1000m of fencing and we look after 150 grooms."

BSA Marketing Manager Caroline Simpson said: "This year's BSA Bonus Incentive comprises a R100 000 to be paid to the owner or owners of the first graduate by a first or 2nd season sire to win a Grade 1 race during its two- or three-year-old career. Also a bonus of R100 000 will be paid to the owner or owners of the first graduate by an established sire to win a Grade 1 race in its two- or three-year-old career."

The yearling sale starts at 12:00 on both days. To obtain a catalogue, phone 011 825 1713.

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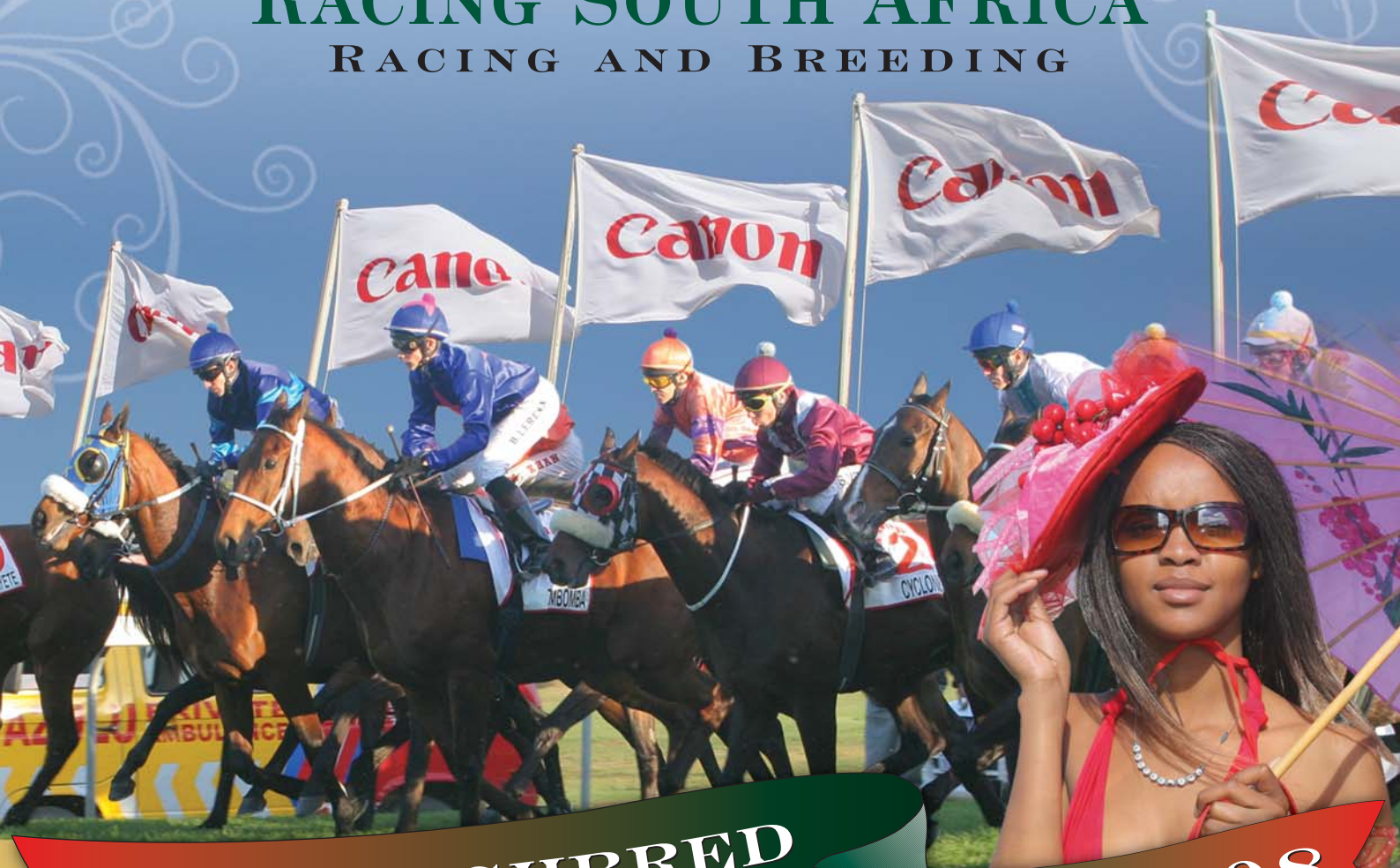
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