



BRIGHT LIGHTS IN THE BIG CITY

Big City Life became the latest three-year-old to write himself into the Vodacom Durban July record books and became the first horse since the great Dynasty to win all of the Grade 1 Cape Derby, the Grade 2 KRA Guineas, the Grade 1 Daily News 2000 and the July in his sophomore year.

He provided the first July wins for all of trainer and part-owner Glen Kotzen, jockey Greg Cheyne and breeder Judy Wintle.

It was also a first July win for his respective owners Raymond Deacon, Glen Mitchell, Andre Hauptfliesch and Hennie Basson. Kotzen said that Big City Life would now head back to Cape Town.

He was mindful that offers would come for the horse but said that presuming he was not sold his next racing campaign would be in the Cape Summer Season. He said the horse would not travel to any big races in Johannesburg.

There were three other Grade 1 races on the day.

Kotzen clinched one of them when the three-year-old Western Winter filly, Lady Windermere, won the Grade 1 Garden Province Stakes also ridden by Greg Cheyne.

This was a notable training feat as the filly had won the SA Filies Sprint over 1200m at Scottsville on May 30 to add to her two Grade 2 victories during the Cape Summer Season.

The win provided a milestone for the Kotzen yard in that it was their 100th winner of the season.

Lady Windermere came from some way back with a rattle down the inside to just deny the Justin Snaith-trained three-year-old Sparkling Gem.

The Gavin van Zyl-trained Prestic was third ahead of the Mike Azzie-trained On Her Toes.

Justin Snaith felt that Sparkling Gem had put up a superb effort to run second at what he described as “her least favourite course.”

Lady Windermere is the first Grade 1 winner that long time owner, Peter De Beyer, has had.

She was bred by the Gary Player Stud.

Kotzen has now won seven Grade 1 races in his career including five this season.

Possibly the most impressive winner of the day was the Mike de Kock-trained Australian-bred colt Musir.

This two-year-old colt is by top Australian sire Redoute's Choice and is the first Grade 1 winner that his owner, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Maktoum, has bred.

Musir, ridden by Anthony Delpech, won the Grade 1 Zulu Kingdom Explorer Golden Horseshoe for two-year-olds over 1400m by 3,5 lengths.

He travelled well throughout in a handy position and gave chase at the top of the straight after the Mike Azzie-trained August Rush had skipped clear under Gavin Lerena.

No other horse could go with Musir as he swallowed up August Rush before romping home.

The Dominic Zaki-trained Straight Forward finished second ahead of the Charles laird-trained Exclaim 'N Exclude and the de Kock-trained Solid Choice.

Alec Laird landed the Grade 1 Mercedes Benz Golden Slipper for juvenile fillies over 1400m with All Afire, whose resolute finish enabled her to overtake the Mike Azzie-trained My Kazzie, who had earlier shot clear.

The win provided jockey Johnny Geroudis with his second juvenile Grade 1 winner of the season.

The Stuart Pettigrew-trained Spiced Gold finished third ahead of the John Vos-trained favourite, Spring Clover.

All Afire is owned by Ronnie Boon and S Boon and was bred by SE Bennett.

There was a good training feat by the Mike Bass yard earlier when the 2006 Canon Gold Cup winner, the now seven-year-old Diamond Quest, won the Grade 2 Schweppes Gold Vase over 3000m under Glen Hatt.

Diamond Quest had his problems during his overseas campaign, including picking up an injury at Ascot. Since arriving back here he has slowly been brought back to his best by the Bass yard.

Diamond Quest is owned by Rose Leehup and was bred by Chavonne Stud.

The Grade 3 SABC Sport 2200 was won by the Zimbabwean-bred Killaridge from the Weiho Marwing yard. The four-year-old Kitalpha gelding was ridden by 'S'Mango Khumalo and is owned by Mr and Mrs C R Stonebridge, G P and M A Mackie, G M Litleford, S H Murray and P C Rugg.



JJ THE JET PLANE

JJ The Jet Plan failed to provide South African racing pages with a victory headline from Royal Ascot, but earlier in the week two American juveniles made history and provided South African breeders with an exciting double.

On the first day of the meeting Strike The Tiger became the first ever American-trained winner of a Royal Ascot race when winning the Listed Windsor Castle Stakes for juveniles over five furlongs.

Trainer Wesley Ward and Johnny Velazquez combined again the next day with the juvenile filly Jealous Again, who ran out a very impressive five length winner of the Group 2 Queen Mary Stakes over five furlongs.

The exciting news for South African racing is that the sires of both these Ward-trained winners stand in South Africa.

Strike The Tiger's sire, Tiger Ridge, stands at Mary Slack's Wilgebosdrift stud, while Jealous Again's sire, Trippi, stands at Johann and Gaynor Rupert's Drakenstein Stud.

Tiger Ridge is extremely well bred being by the world's most expensive stallion of his day, Storm Cat, out of a female line that has proven very successful in South Africa.

His dam Weekend Surprise is by Secretariat out of Lassie Dear, who is the dam of Al Mufti.

Al Mufti was South African Champion Sire in 2000 and is an excellent sire of sires.

His son Captain Al is a record-breaking sire of juveniles and is currently second on the National Sires log with only the phenomenal Jet Master ahead of him.

Al Mufti's other sons at stud include Victory Moon, The Sheik and Cataloochee.

Tiger Ridge's first South African yearlings sold at this year's National Yearling Sales and his 21 progeny went for a total of R6,710,000 for an average of R319,524.

He was tenth on aggregate, one behind Al Mufti, while Captain Al was in fifth place, Victory Moon in fourteenth and Cataloochee in 30th.

All four of the latter had averages over R200,000.

Trippi became the most expensive stallion ever imported to South Africa when landing last year.

The standard forty shares in Trippi were available at R900,000 per share and were snapped up by a cross-section of the leading breeders in South Africa.

He is by the Forty-Niner (Mr. Prospector) stallion, End Sweep, out of the Valid Appeal mare, Jealous Appeal.

As a racehorse he won seven times in 14 starts from 1200m to 1800m for earnings of \$675,000.

As a three-year-old he won the Grade I Vosburgh Stakes, the Grade II Riva Ridge Stakes and the Grade II Tom Fool Handicap, all over 1400m on the dirt at Belmont Park, as well as the Grade III Flamingo Stakes over 1800m on dirt at Hialeah Park and the

Grade III Swale Stakes over 1400m on dirt at Gulfstream Park. He is currently 28th on the sire's list in the USA, fourth of horses standing outside Kentucky.

This season among his 81 runners there are three stakes winners and 25 repeat winners.

Trippi will provide excellent opportunities for out-cross breeders as on his sire's side there is only one appearance of Northern Dancer, four generations back, and his dam is an outcross to Northern Dancer.

There were also two placed successes for South African-based sires at Royal Ascot with J J The Jet Plane (Jet Master) running fourth in the Grade 1 Golden Jubilee Stakes and Tartan Bearer (Spectrum) running second in the Grade 1 Prince of Wales Stakes.

Jet Master stands at Klipdrift Stud and Spectrum Stands at Highlands Stud.

Meanwhile, Mike De Kock said on Racing Web, "JJ The Jet Plane ran like a horse that needs more ground and he acquitted himself well."

"We are happy with the run, all of us. They didn't go fast early and the race turned into a dash over the last few furlongs. He was outpaced but came back strongly to finish fourth, ahead of Sacred Kingdom and with lots of pace around him."

De Kock said that JJ would probably be aimed next at Newmarket's July Sprint. "That is a stiff sprint and he will do well, but I will put my head on a block that we can win a feature race with him over ground."

"South African fans have no reason to be disappointed. We're competing against the best in the world and if you watch this race objectively you will see what a good run it was from JJ The Jet Plane. His owners enjoyed this experience and they have looked at the result realistically. We're looking forward to his future exploits."

The surprise winner, Art Connoisseur, provided jockey Tom Queally with his first Group 1 success.



Imbongi

South African raider Imbongi had too many guns for the opposition in the John Bovington Memorial Criterion Stakes at Newmarket.

Completing a big-race double for South African jockey Kevin Shea, the five-year-old Summerhill-bred son of Russian Revival was always prominent before stamping his authority on the Group Three contest.

Despite drifting in the betting, and stumbling shortly after the start, Imbongi (8-1) did nothing wrong once the race started in earnest.

The Mike de Kock-trained entire, who is owned by Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Maktoum, came home a length and a quarter clear of Huntdown, with Balthazaar's Gift third.

Shea said: "He came out on his nose but he recovered well.

"He ran a good race and it's very exciting. He's won two Guineas in South Africa but his last race was against a very strong field.

"He's a very versatile horse, but I'd have to leave his next assignment to the boss."

Shea had initiated his brace on Clive Brittain's Jira, who showed blistering pace to win the Listed Sunley Empress Stakes.

Rocket Man Shock: Boom Sprinter Out For 6 Months

Singapore's brilliant Australian-bred 3YO gelding Rocket Man (Visount-Macrota, by Mcginty) will miss the next 6 months of racing with a hairline fracture of the leg, according to sportal.com. Bred and sold by Tyreel Stud, Rocket Man was a \$60,000 yearling at the 2007 Magic Millions National Sale. The 3YO gelding has been dominant in Singapore since 1st making his debut. Rocket Man has recorded 7 wins from just 8 starts for S\$891,787 (A\$774,114) earnings, suffering his only loss to date with a very close runner-up to Hong Kong's champion sprinter Sacred Kingdom in the Gr1 Singapore Krisflyer International Sprint at Kranji in Singapore. Rocket Man (winner of April's Gr1 Lion City Cup over 1200m, March's Gr3 Kranji Sprint over 1200m, January's Gr3 Singapore 3YO Sprint over 1200m & last November's Gr3

Magic Millions Orchid Trophy over 1200m in an undefeated sequence) was set to take on Asia's best sprinters, including Australia's Scenic Blast, in the Sprinters Stakes at Nakayama in October, but those plans are off after X-rays revealed he has a hairline condylar fracture of the cannon bone to his off-side foreleg. He will now have surgery to repair the injury. Trainer Patrick Shaw commented: "He was out to do two rounds of light work, quickening up in the second lap, but (jockey) Robbie (Fradd) just felt there was something wrong with him. He didn't let him stride up and kept a tight hold of him before dismounting and leading him back. It's lucky we have found it now and it didn't happen during a race or a fast gallop. The result could have been a lot different."

Leading Sire Anabaa Dies From Colic Complications

Former Widden Stud shuttler and champion sire Anabaa (Danzig-Balbonella, by Gay Mecene) died after suffering from colic & subsequent acute peritonitis following surgery. Anabaa, whose northern hemisphere base from 1997 was the Head family's Haras du Quesnay in Deauville, France, has sired 60 stakes-winners and 115 stakes-performers in his career with progeny earnings of \$40 million worldwide. In 2008 alone, he was represented by 18 stakes-horses on 3 continents and in 7 countries

including the dual French and US Gr1-winner Goldikova. In 2007 he stood for US\$40,000 at Castleton Lyons in Kentucky, before heading down-under to stand the 2007 southern hemisphere season at Widden Stud for \$A55,000. His Australian-bred Gr1 winners include Headturner, Virage de Fortune, Yell and Teranaba. On the race track Anabaa was a dual Gr1-winner and champion sprinter in Europe.

The Chairmen's Dinner



The Chairmen's Dinner held in Greyville's Steward's Classic room broke with tradition and reverberated to the sound of one of Durban's best and most beautiful singers, Jae, whose marvellous rendition of the song Big City Life, done in duet with her nephew, Trent Kok, received an encore.

Joint chairmen of Gold Circle, John Bescoby and Vidrik Thurling, spoke of the success of this year's Vodacom Durban July.

They thanked Vodacom for its continued support of the huge event and also thanked all Gold Circle staff, contractors and the media who had contributed to the day's success.

They then reminded patrons that the evening's purpose was to pay tribute to the big race winner, Big City Life, and his connections.

Seated at the main table were winning trainer and part-owner Glen Kotzen and his wife Kathi, winning jockey Greg Cheyne, assistant trainer Frikkie Greyling and his wife Lynette, winning owners Andre Hauptfleisch, his wife Tilla and father Gren, Raymond Deacon, his wife Paula and daughter Lois, Glen Mitchell and his wife Debbie, and Hennie Basson.

The connections were all presented with commemorative plaques by Alberts Breed, Vodacom's Regional Manager in KwaZulu-Natal and the joint chairmen of Gold Circle.

A toast was raised to the absent breeder of the winner, Kotzen's mother-in-law, Judy Wintle.

Later, in a touching gesture, Gold Circle's marketing department presented a memento, together with a box of goodies, to Kotzen's son, Kuyan, in honour of him having named Big City Life.

Kathi Kotzen accepted it in his absence.

Cheyne, in his speech, praised the horse and its connections and said he hoped he would one day be able to ride him again. He is leaving to ride in Hong Kong in August. He also reserved special praise for course manager Allan Bharath, and his groundstaff, saying that the decision to move the false rail

inward had allowed the latter races from the July onward to be run on perfect ground.

Kotzen spoke of the reward of seeing a horse foaled down on his farm, Woodhill Racing Estate, watching it grow and mature into a spectacular racehorse and going on to win the country's premier race.

Deacon paid tribute to his late father, Maynard, without whom he would not have been in the game. He spoke of the honour of having his father's colours on the Classic Room's wall of July winners and of the fun and new friendships owning Big City Life had brought to him and his family.

Maynard Deacon's colours, purple and white checks, are on the body section of Raymond's colours.

Hauptfleisch likewise paid tribute to his father, Bren, whose horses he was able to enjoy as a kid, including Festive Season, who finished second in the J&B Met.

His father had also inadvertently played a part in him owning Big City Life, as it was he who had initiated a contract for him to build a road on Kotzen's Woodhill Racing Estate.

He told the story of how, while building the road, he kept on encountering Big City Life, who was unmistakable due to his magnificent looks. After enquiring about him and finding out he was for sale he encountered the horse alone in a paddock one day and finally made the decision to go with Kotzen's belief that he "would win the Met one day." He told Kotzen he would take a share if the horse ended up back at Woodhill after the sales, which it duly did, and he thanked Deacon for allowing him into the syndicate.

Basson, for whom the July was his first race as an owner, thanked his friend and business partner, Hauptfleisch, for selling him a share of the horse.

All of the connections showed their appreciation of Vodacom and Gold Circle, reserving them for special mention.

Jae and the up-and-coming fifteen-year-old rapper, Trent Kok, delighted the audience with a newly prepared version of the song Big City Life that had lyrics changed to reflect on Saturday's race.

The encore demanded was performed as the closing act.

Jae also sang her most well-known hit, I'm Missing You, which she wrote in tribute to her late sister and two late nieces.

She was accompanied by Bollywood theme dancers when performing the hit song Jaiho from the movie Slumdog Millionaire.

Another of the evening's highlights was the annual July replay, played late in the evening.

The huge screens provided excellent depth perception and brought home the brilliance of Big City Life's win.

The way he quickened when challenged was particularly clear to see and the connections cheers illustrated once again the excitement the win had brought them.

New Aust/Saf Co-Mingling Joint Venture

Tabcorp and its racing broadcaster Sky Racing have entered into a "long term partnership with Phumelela Gold Enterprises (PGE) - a joint venture between South African horse racing and the two South African tote betting operators, Phumelela and Gold Circle." The resulting partnership "provides for the reciprocal expansion of the broadcast of racing, and the co-mingling of totalisator pools between the two countries." The official signing ceremony took place at Greyville's Durban July race meeting in South Africa, with managing director of Wagering, Robert Nason, representing Tabcorp. Both the Australian & South African racing industries are expected to be beneficiaries. Subject to final regulatory approval, Tabcorp customers will shortly commence wagering directly into South African totalisator pools via the SuperTAB pool (operated by the Victorian TAB), in "a similar manner to the existing co-pooling arrangement with New Zea-

land." The reciprocal arrangement will provide South Africa's punters with regular access to betting on a range of Victorian TAB pools. Part of the deal for Victorian TAB customers betting into South African pools is that they will be betting under South African betting rules, which includes some concepts new to the Australian wagering market, including a 4th place dividend for all South African races with 16 or more starters. Nason said the partnership was "part of Tabcorp's broad international strategy of bringing the best of international racing to Australian customers", & providing them with access to the host nation's totalisator pools. As well as South Africa, Tabcorp now has a regular program of international racing from Singapore, Hong Kong, New Zealand, United Kingdom and France, as well as major events from Japan and Ireland.

Captain Al

The Klawervlei stallion Captain Al broke his own record for number of individual juvenile winners in a season when the Mike Bass-trained Super Freak won a Maiden Juvenile for fillies at Kenilworth on her debut.

Super Freak's win brought Captain Al's number of two-year-old winners for this season to 23, one better than the South African record he set as a freshman sire in the 2004/2005 season.

In that season his 22 juvenile winners won 27 races between them for stakes earnings of R1,532,000.

This season his 23 winners have won 25 races between them for new record earnings of R1,938,000.

The only record of his that remains to be broken is the 27 races won figure.

He went one step closer to this mark when the Sean Tarry-trained Captain Al filly, Mana Mou, a half-sister to Mythical Flight, makes won debut at Clairwood in the first race.

John Freeman, who is a shareholder in Captain Al and manages the syndicate, said that the stallion's mare book is already full for the 2009/2010 season.



1,000 Winners To Aust Jockey Kerrin McEvoy

Darley stable jockey Kerrin McEvoy recorded his 1,000th win when former UK-trained 5YO gelding Bright Mind scored over 2400m at Royal Randwick in Sydney for trainer Chris Waller. McEvoy rode his 1st winner at St Arnaud in 1997 & in 2000 became the 2nd youngest jockey to win the Gr1 Melbourne Cup when successful on Brew.

Study Proves Salix Massively Reduces Bleeding

Race-day application of Salix (trade name of the diuretic furosemide & formerly marketed as Lasix) significantly reduces exercise-induced pulmonary hemorrhage in racehorses, according to a ground-breaking study "that could influence international policy" to be published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association. "The data in the study provides the most reliable information to guide the highly politicised debate over use of furosemide in horses" summed up Kenneth Hinchcliff, the study's co-author & dean of the faculty of veterinary science at the University Of Melbourne. The comprehensive report (co-authored by Paul Morley from Colorado State University in the US & Alan Guthrie from the University Of Pretoria in South Africa) studied thoroughbreds during racing conditions in South Africa in 2007 & found "horses were 3-11 times as likely to have EIPH after placebo administration as they were after administration of furosemide" & "about 2/3 of the horses that had EIPH after administration of the placebo had a reduction in EIPH severity when treated with furosemide".



New Going Descriptions

It has been agreed with Gold Circle that with effect from 1st August 2009 the going descriptions at turf racecourses across the country will be standardised as follows :-

PENATROMETER READING (SUGGESTED SYMBOL)	GOING DESCRIPTION
15 and lower	Firm (F)
16 - 18	Good to Firm (GF)
19 - 23	Good (G)
24 - 26	Good to Soft (GS)
27 - 30	Soft (S)
30 and higher	Heavy (H)

