

SHOCK DEFEAT

Arrogate, the world's top rated racehorse, entered the starting gate on Saturday at Del Mar in the San Diego Handicap so ridiculously favoured that the 1-20 odds produced too many digits to show on the track's big board. He was so regally regarded that the trumpet belted out the theme from 'Superman' before the call to the post. But his glorious streak of seven wins ended in minutes. Arrogate, astonishingly, lumbered to the line a staggering 15 lengths off the pace. "He just laid an egg," said astonished trainer Bob Baffert.

Time Flies

Nadeson Park's Redoute's Choice stallion Time Thief looks to have another good one in the 3yo filly, Memes. The flying filly won her 5th race in 15 starts in an 1100m Handicap at Royal Randwick on Saturday. Time Thief is a multiple Gr1 placed Australian sprinter/miler, rated Timeform 120. His three-part sister Laisserfaire will be fondly remembered by Cape racegoers. She was twice voted Champion Sprinter here, winning both the Gr1 Cape Flying Championship and Gr1 SA Fillies Sprint in consecutive years. Imported to South Africa in 2015, Time Thief's first crop here are foals. He stands at Nadeson Park Stud in Hermanus at a fee of R15 000.

So Close

Maine Chance Farms sire Querari's half-sister Quidura was beaten a head into second place in Saturday's G1 Diana Stakes at Saratoga. Quidura (also a half-sister to Quasillo, who will stand his first season at Klipdrif this year) was beaten by the best mare racing in the USA, with Twice Over's relative Antonoe close up in third. The winner Lady Eli is now a winner of 5 Gr1 races. Querari has been represented by 14 individual juvenile winners in 2016-2017, with his 2yo winners including Listed Dahlia Plate winner Joking, Gr1 SA Nursery third Wonderwall and stakes performers Made In Hollywood and Monks Hood – who runs in Sunday's Gr1 Premiers Champion Stakes, while another promising juvenile by Querari, Spring Breeze, lines up on the same after in the Gr3 The Debutante over 1200m.



Gone

Some good ones have just departed our shores. Multiple Gr1 winner Carry On Alice, her stablemate Gr1 SA Nursery winner Cloth Of Cloud and former Mike Azzie-trained Western Winter filly Winterinthewoods are off to Australia. Vodacom Durban July runner-up and SA Derby winner Al Sahem, joins Belle Rose, dual Guineas winner Janoobi and Gr2 Gauteng Fillies Guineas winner Smiling Blue Eyes on the Dubai bus. The Team Valor raced Gr3 Three Troikas Stakes winner Anna Pavlova, Gr2 Gold Bracelet winner Flying Ice and Dynasty's dual Gr3 winner Olma are travelling to France. The Gr2 Choice Carriers Championship winner Ektifaa and Turaathy, a maiden full-sister to champion Rafeef, are off to the UK. The 2017 National Yearling Sale graduate Bastide is off to Hong Kong. The Varsfontein bred son of Judpot (ex Requista) was purchased by Michael Lee for R1,2 million. We will be following their progress.

EMPEROR HEADS EAST

A rare SA bred was offered at the recently concluded Tattersalls July Sale. Welsh Emperor, the 91 rated 5 year old gelded son of Go Deputy and runner-up in the Gr3 East Cape Derby, was bought for 78 000 Guineas by agent Oliver St Lawrence Bloodstock for Saudi Arabian interests and is expected to depart for the Middle East at the end of July. Consigned by Jane Chapple-Hyam Racing as agent for Hartley SA (Pty) Ltd, Welsh Emperor, a half brother to the dam of Edict Of Nantes, the Equus Champion 3yo elect, was trained by Alan Greeff, who produced the Ascot Stud bred to win 4 races and 7 places from just 14 starts. He follows other high class racehorses to have emerged from the Eastern Cape, such as Dubai World Cup placed horses, Lizard's Desire and Paris Perfect and Gr2 Al Maktoum Challenge winner and now sire, Bold Silvano.

Cat Out The Bag

Punters may have been caught unawares in the last race at Fairview on Friday when The Cat ridden by Chase Maujean, ran a place but was missing in the final results. The gelding apparently rushed the front gate and broke through momentarily before the starter effected the start and gained an unfair advantage over the other runners. The Starter did not call a false start and the Stipendiary Board called a race review into the start. The Board after reviewing the patrol films of the start, and hearing evidence from the Starter, the rider of The Cat and other riders, decided to act in terms of rule 61.6.11 and declared him to be a non-starter.

Comeback Kid

Since his reign as the world's best sprinter, Lankan Rupee has had his share of problems but trainer Mick Price and his owners have patiently restored him to race fitness more than once. The rising eight-year-old has lost his mantle to Chautauqua who has won the past three TJ Smith Stakes, the race that stamped Lankan Rupee as the world leader in 2014. He makes his latest comeback in Saturday's Bletchingly Stakes (1200m) at Caulfield and hasn't raced since his fourth in the Darley Classic in November.

