

Duke's Double Donnie

Drakenstein Stud sire Duke Of Marmalade enjoyed a notable stakes double on Sunday. His son Marmelo is surely headed for Europe's greatest race, the Gr1 Qatar Prix de l'Arc De Triomphe on 1 October after he won the Gr2 Darley Prix Kergorlay. On the same day another of the Duke's sons Can'thelpbelieving, a potential starter in either the Gr1 Northern Dancer Stakes or Gr1 Pattison Canadian International later this year, won the Gr2 Sky Classic Stakes at Woodbine.



Mayfair's Super Saturday

The names of Champion SA owners Mayfair Speculators, world leading sire Galileo and Ecurie des Monceaux were all over the score sheet on the opening day of the ARQANA August Yearling Sale on Saturday, as a trio of youngsters by the perennial champion sire and offered by the famed Normandy nursery registered the three highest prices of the evening when selling to the South African operation. The trio were bought for a cool €2 050 000 but the purchases didn't end there with Peter Doyle and Derek Brugman adding more. "You just can't have enough Galileo fillies to breed from," said Brugman. Full sale report on www.sportingpost.co.za.

Bit On The Side

Trainer Adam Azzie's criticism of workrider Francis Semela's 'poor ride' on failed odds-on favourite Tapensee at the Vaal last Thursday has elicited plenty of reaction. Historically the horse appears to be a difficult ride with mouth and bit issues. Was it an error of judgement to run him in a workrider's race in the first place? Watch the video interview and replay on www.sportingpost.co.za

REALLY GRAND

The R750 000 Grand Heritage to be run over 1475m at the Vaal on Saturday 30 September has attracted a 70 strong entry. The Non-Black Type feature allows for 28 runners and the one condition is that in order to be considered for inclusion in the final field, every horse nominated must have had at least a minimum of one run from time of first entry up to and including the time of final supplementary entries on 18 September. Final Weights will be published on 19 September, with declarations due by 11h00 on 20 September.

Flag Flying High

Galileo's son Flying The Flag has his first foals arriving this season and there was plenty of celebrations at Bush Hill Stud this weekend when his younger full sister, Magical followed in her older Gr1 winning full sister's footsteps by winning the Gr2 Debutante in Ireland. Rhododendron won the race in 2016 and was crowned Irish Champion 2YO Filly after an exceptional Gr1 winning season.

On The Surface...

With the Breeders' Cup hosted at Del Mar this year, the world's best horse's connections have some decisions to make. Arrogate was beaten on Sunday by stablemate Collected in the Gr1 TVG Pacific Classic Stakes run over 2012m at Del Mar. Back-to-back defeats at this track - he was beaten into fourth last month in the San Diego Handicap - have suggested he just doesn't enjoy the venue.

DON'T SLEEP IN THE SUBWAY...

Like many racecourses around the world, Southwell has banned punters from bringing their own alcohol through the gates. The ban hasn't stopped racegoers from giving it a crack though, with one lady going to innovative lengths on Sunday to smuggle in a bottle of vodka. The 'Southwell Smuggler' stashed her bottle in a Subway-style sandwich filled with tomato and salami. The ingenious plan, on paper at least, was foiled when an official, who was performing routine searches at the gate, became suspicious about the weight of the lady's lunchbox.



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Highlands Equus Outstanding Stallion Dynasty has commenced the new season on a winning note, with three winners this past weekend - including two first-timers at Turffontein on Saturday. Cheveley Stud-bred 3yo Sir David Baird won for Mike de Kock. He was a R1.3 million buy from the 2016 National Yearling Sale. The John and Liz Slade bred Greek Fire also scored an emphatic win - this time for the Azz Men. The half-brother to Gold Cup winner Wavin' Flag was a R3 million buy from the 2016 Cape Premier Yearling Sale. Dynasty's third winner was Russet Roses who maintained her unbeaten record on the Greyville polytrack on Sunday. The Dennis Drier-trained filly was a R250 000 purchase from the 2015 Emperors Palace Select Yearling Sale.

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When the mighty Frankel enjoyed a Group race double last Wednesday - his son Eminent won the Gr2 Prix Guillaume d'Ornano and daughter Lady Frankel the Gr3 Prix de Lieurey - the latter became a remarkable 11th first crop group winner for the champion. The son of Galileo, who stands at Banstead Manor in Newmarket for a 2017 stud fee of £125 000, has made a remarkable impact with his first crop, who are now three.