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It was another big feature weekend for Highlands top sire Dynasty with Highlands-breds Eyes Wide Open and Let It Rain winning the Gr1 Cape Derby and Gr2 Cape Stayers on Met day on Saturday. Then 24 hours later, the smart looking Wild Wicket came from the clouds to win the Listed Michael Roberts Handicap at Scottsville. The Duncan Howells galloper became Dynasty's 55th individual stakes winner.

84 000 000

That's the first cheque in rands earned by the newest Three Chimneys stallion Gun Runner as he bowed out by winning Saturday's Pegasus World Cup. At Kenilworth on Saturday, the CTS 1200 and CTS 1600 winners Dutch Philip and Undercover Agent each pocketed a handsome R3,7 million, while Oh Susanna bagged R2,85 million for winning the Gr1 Sun Met. Eyes Wide Open earned R625 000 for winning the prestigious Gr1 Cape Derby. Quite a diversity of earnings – and all top performances!



Eclipsed

Sporting Post editor Karel Miedema received recognition at the Eclipse Awards in the USA last week. In his acceptance speech for winning Champion Older Dirt Female with Forever Unbridled, owner-breeder Charles Fipke mentioned both Karel's name and his home country. Miedema has been Fipke's pedigree adviser since 2010, during which time the matings for Breeder's Cup winner Forever Unbridled and her Gr1 winning full sister Unbridled Forever were planned. Fipke lives in Kelowna

(British Columbia, Canada), and is in virtual daily contact with Miedema in Cape Town. Fipke, who owns a large stud farm in Kentucky, has several homebred stallions and an extensive mare-band. He has breeding and racing interests in USA, Ireland, UK, France, Japan and Australia. The Eclipse Award is an American thoroughbred horse racing award named after the 18th century British racehorse and sire, Eclipse. The Eclipse Awards were created by three independent bodies in 1971 to honour the champions of the sport.

Globetrotter

Plans for an international campaign for storming Sun Met runner-up Last Winter are under way. The son of deceased sire Western Winter made up lengths in the final stages of the big race and was only a half length in arrears at the line. Jockey Piere Strydom said that a lack of experience and 'knowing what racing was about' had cost the lightly-raced colt. "By the time the penny had dropped, the bird had flown. No excuses – it was a great run," said trainer Dean Kannemeyer.



GOLD CIRCLE

HUGH CAN DO

The last time champion racemare Winx raced without Hugh Bowman was in September 2015 when James McDonald rode her to victory in the Theo Marks Stakes. The star – who won all of her 9 starts in 2017 – may miss her regular pilot again on her return to action in the Apollo Stakes at Randwick on 17 February. Bowman is currently under suspension until 22 February but has indicated that he may lodge an appeal.

Best Of The Lot

Arrogate made it a double in the 2017 Longines World's best racehorse awards in London last Tuesday with a rating of 134, ahead of Australian champion Winx – third in 2016 – on a rating of 132. Cracksman and Gun Runner, who won his last outing in the Pegasus World Cup on Saturday, were joint third on 130. Winx' regular pilot Hugh Bowman was crowned world's leading jockey. The Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe was named the world's best race.



MIKE EHRMANN

CREDIT DUE

Seeing that we have rightly complained when the tote has crashed on some of our biggest days, it would appear that Saftote deserve a thumbs-up for apparently sailing through Sun Met day – without any issues that we are aware of. Gotta give credit where it's due!

Retro

Nice to see that Gold Circle are using the traditional old-style racecards at R10 a pop for their local meetings only. The card carries the basic race information and affords sponsors the opportunity of exposing their branding, if required.



Wine List?

Top personalities Gary Player and Barry Irwin have pledged their support for Dave Mollett's 'Testimonial Lunch' at Turffontein racecourse on 11 February. "We're thrilled that Gary is donating a piece of memorabilia from his illustrious career and American racing expert, Barry Irwin, has indicated he wishes to make a donation," said Keith Waterston, who is organising the event. He added that top jockeys such as Piere Strydom, Andrew Fortune, Weichong Marwing and Gunter Wrogemann will be attending. "If anyone would like to donate wine – that would be great," added Keith. Anyone wishing to attend – or make a donation – can contact Gale or Keith Waterston on their e-mail – advf@mweb.co.za.