

Star Plans

"I'm not convinced we'll go for the SA Derby. I have great respect for the Derby, it has a history of being won by some super horses, but I'm not sure it will do anything for his pedigree. I see Hawwaam running only once more, perhaps twice, this season. The Gr1 Daily News is a possibility and the Gr1 Champions Cup at the end of the season - winning any of the two will be good for his pedigree. The July is not on the cards. I know what we've got in Hawwaam and I still scratch my head at his defeat in the Gauteng Guineas, a race we expected him to win." The latest from Mike de Kock on his star 3yo.



BONJI HONOURED

Retired jockey Anthony Delpech is being honoured by Gold Circle at their Greyville racemeeting this coming Sunday and all races will be named after significant horses in his career. The first is named for his 1998 Durban July winner, Classic Flag. Anthony will be on course on Sunday and is setting aside time to meet his fans and sign autographs.

Festival Blow

Cheltenham ante-post backers took a knock with the news that the Festival's top owner JP McManus has taken three leading handicap fancies out of his squad as they are badly treated compared to other Irish-trained entries. Jezki, Ivanovich Gorbатов – both contributors to their owner's haul of 54 festival triumphs – and De Name Escapes Me, will not be among those carrying the famous gold and green hooped silks at Cheltenham.

Masterful

Varsfontein Stud's Master Of My Fate had a weekend to remember when the multiple graded stakes winning son of Jet Master produced four winners – in three different provinces. Master Of My Fate, South Africa's Leading First Crop Sire by winners in 2017-2018, had a double on Saturday, with his runners Toastmaster and Fateful winning at Turffontein and Durbanville respectively. He also dominated the first two races at Greyville on Sunday, with Purple Persuasion and Triple Fate Line winning the day's first and second races respectively. Master Of My Fate, whose first crop includes multiple graded stakes winner Twist Of Fate and Kenyan classic hero Silverstone Air, has four lots on offer at this month's Cape Yearling Sale.



6 WINNERS, 2 DAYS

After a double at the Vaal on Thursday, Drakenstein Stud's resident sire What A Winter produced four winners on Friday - with his son Fabian becoming his latest stakes winner when victorious in the Listed Ibhayi Stakes at Fairview. The What A Winter gelding What A Summer also won on the afternoon. At Greyville on Friday evening, his sons Ring Of Fire and Mauritius-bound Siberian Husky won their races. South Africa's Leading First Crop Sire of 2016-2017, What A Winter has nine yearlings on offer at the 2019 Cape Yearling Sale.

Boycott Blues!

A total of just 17 runners remained in six races for Wednesday's meeting at Lingfield amid an ongoing row over prize money. Trainer Ralph Beckett encouraged racing professionals to boycott meetings at Arena Racing Company (ARC) tracks for three days this week. Industry leaders had reached a temporary agreement last weekend to maintain prize money at 2018 levels. Three of the six races at the all-weather track had two runners.

Having A Ball

As a means of recognising the key role of all personnel in the day to day care of horses and the industry, Klawervlei Stud, in association with Betting World, are hosting a Seven-A-Side soccer tournament at Durbanville on Saturday. Eric Sands and Snaith Racing, along with various stud farms have drafted their teams and the games will take place from 10h00 until just before racing kicks off at 13h50. There is R10 000 up for grabs.

MELLOW YELLOW

KZN-based jockey Keagan de Melo stole the limelight at the first 2019 meeting back at the 'Big D' on Saturday with the first away hat-trick of his career. The 25 year old De Melo, who is Dean Kannemeyer's stable jockey, is on the fringes of the national top ten with 55 winners at a strike rate of 10%.



0 Double

Avontuur's international star Oratorio enjoyed a good day at Durbanville on Saturday, where his runners both won. The first win came with his three-year-old daughter Procrastination, who shed her maiden in convincing style. Bred by Joey Ramsden, she is out of the Silvano mare Seal Of Approval – who was also trained by JR. Oratorio's second Durbanville winner was his well-bred daughter Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein bred 3yo Sacred Story. A dual champion sire in Italy, and sire of more than 50 stakes winners the world over, triple Gr1 winner Oratorio has two fillies on offer at this month's Cape Yearling Sale.



Not Too Meticulous

The Coolmore – owned Meticulous, a Medaglia d'Oro colt purchased for A\$2.4 million (R24 million) at the 2017 Inglis Easter Yearling Sale, failed to fire in a Tuesday Kembla Grange maiden on debut. Corey Brown was unable to spark the high-priced colt into action, with Dance Hall Girl skipping clear to record a six-length victory. Meticulous finished 7.8L away in fourth after hanging in at various stages from the 300m to the winning post. The three-year-old was fitted with a tongue tie and winkers for his debut, which came on the back of seven official barrier trials dating back to April last year.