



GOLD CIRCLE

## Can Win – Can't Win

Jockey Serino Moodley produced the ride of the week at Greyville last Wednesday. Misty Heath fly-jumped and lost a few lengths. Yet Moodley never stopped trying and got his mount up to win. His joy was shortlived though as the Stipes felt he overused his whip in the short straight and he was penalised under Rule 58.10.2 – and suspended from riding in races for a period of seven days from 1 April to 7 April. Three days prior to this meeting he was fined R1000 on the same contravention. Jockeys have it tough.

## 3

South African Ernst Oertel won the opening race on Dubai World Cup night when AF Maher won the Gr1 Dubai Kahayla Classic for Purebred Arabians. He is topping the Trainer's log for the UAE and is on track for a third UAE trainer's championship title.

## Good Son

A three-year-old son of deceased SA champion filly Igugu by Dansili won on debut at Newcastle on Monday. El Misk went off a strong 8-11 favourite over 2000m on the tapeta, and scored comfortably by a length. Trained by John Gosden and owned by Sheikh Mohamed Bin Khalifa Al Makhtoum, the bay colt has been nominated for the Epsom Derby in June.

## Bridge Of Glory

Talented five-year-old Sharja Bridge, a full-brother to Maine Chance Farms' young stallion Querari and half-brother to fellow Cape sire Quasillo, made headlines at Doncaster on Saturday when he won the Listed Unibet Doncaster Mile Stakes over a mile. Trained by Roger Varian, Sharja Bridge made it win number three from just ten outings, when scoring a fluent two length win in Saturday's race as the warmly supported 8-13 favourite.



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## 87

Sunshine Silk became Silvano's 87th individual stakes winner when the Geoff Woodruff trained filly ran on stoutly to land Saturday's Gr3 Caradoc Gold Cup. Sunshine Silk is out of the Al Mufti mare Vanilla Silk and is thus bred on the same Silvano/Al Mufti cross as the Gr1 winners Al Sahem, Bold Silvano and Kings Gambit. She was one of three winners on the day for Silvano, who has 21 yearlings on offer at the 2019 Emperors Palace National Yearling Sale.

## 4

Avontuur Thoroughbred Farm's perennially successful sire Var, Champion Sire of 2Yo's for the past two seasons running, was represented by four winners this weekend, with his progeny scoring in both South Africa and Mauritius. Var, whose past two-year-old stars include graded stakes winners Villandry, Purple Diamond, Harry Lime, Normanz, William The Silent and Vacherin, has now been responsible for five two-year-old winners in 2018-2019. Var has 23 lots on offer at the 2019 Emperors Palace National Yearling Sale – including a filly (Lot 94) out of Fillies Guineas winner Go Indigo, a half-brother (Lot 107) to Gr1 Computaform Sprint winner Attenborough, and a filly (Lot 186) out of Equus Champion Rat Burana.

## A Mistake

Trainer Julieann Lancaster will throw herself at the mercy of Queensland's racing stewards after conceding an innocent mistake led to Australia's latest ring-in scandal. She got mixed up resulting in her eight-year-old gelding Plain 'N' Simple running at Rockhampton last Thursday instead of seven-year-old gelding Authadane. Lancaster explained that instead of the switched horses being some sort of scandal, the mix-up was an innocent one. "It was actually my fault. I saddled the wrong horse. They are both bay geldings. I just had four consecutive (races) in a row and I had a few things happen at home too and so I was just not thinking and just put the saddle on the wrong horse."

## DAMAGING

Belinda Stronach, scion of the powerful Stronach Group, is the mover and shaker attempting to bring Santa Anita into the new millennium with far-reaching medication and whip reforms. While that is still in the process of playing out, another racehorse, the twenty third since 26 December, died over the weekend at the California track after breaking down.

## War Horse

Almost one and a half years after his last Kranji appearance, former champion galloper and 2014 Singapore Horse Of The Year War Affair makes a comeback on Sunday. The son of O'Reilly takes pride of place with the topweight of 60kgs in the \$100,000 Class 1 race over 1200m. Back in 2017 when news came through that the Ong family was sending him to New Zealand to fix his respiratory issues, some read retirement between the lines. But rising 9, he is healed and back home - and will be an interesting runner.