

R47 million

With a feature race stakes pot of some R30-million and another R17-million for supporting events up for grabs during the three-month feast of high-class racing from May to July, South Africa's Champions Season in KwaZulu-Natal is ready to blast off at Greyville in Durban at the end of next week. The Independent On Saturday evening race meeting at the Theatre of Champions on Friday, May 3, will open the sluice gates on 51 feature events that includes a total of 34 graded races.



GOLD CIRCLE

ALL YOU NEED

The outstanding Riverton Stud bred champion Sprinter Captain Of All has eight lots on the Emperors Palace National Yearling Sale and has made a bright start with his first 2yos this season. The triple G1 winner was responsible for a fourth first crop winner when his son Cartel Captain made a winning debut at Scottsville on Sunday. Cartel Captain joins the likes of Listed East Cape Fillies Nursery winner Captain Anne Bonny, Guantanamo Bay and What You Are as early winners from Captain Of All's exciting first crop.

Jump For Joy

Dan Skelton enjoyed a super Easter Sunday with six winners across the cards, taking him to a landmark 200 in Britain for the jumps season. The Warwickshire trainer had two winners at Plumpton and a four-timer at Market Rasen, with Montego Grey bringing up the double century under brother Harry. Martin Pipe had been the only previous trainer to reach 200 winners in a British jumps season, achieving the feat eight times, headed by his record of 243.

BACK THE TRAINER

The 2019 Gr1 Kentucky Derby will be run at 00h50 our time on Sunday, 5 May. BloodHorse MarketWatch have handicapped the trainers with contenders in this year's race. Five trainers ranked among the top eight by win percentage in all four categories: Steve Asmussen, Bob Baffert, Danny Gargan, Todd Pletcher, and Jason Servis. Not surprisingly, Baffert had the highest win percentages among all the trainers in route races (28%) and was co-highest with 3-year-olds in dirt route races (30%). Baffert, who ranks second by total Kentucky Derby wins with five behind Ben Jones' six, is tied with Gargan and Servis.

Easter Quartet

Visionaire, whose progeny include such star performers as Takingthepeace, Africa Rising and Heaps Of Fun, has eight lots on offer at this week's National Sale. And Lammerskraal Stud's Gr1 winning sire had an Easter weekend to remember with four winners. The quartet included a pair of impressive two-year-old debut winners in the form of Gaian Glory and Into The Future.

Mother City Magic

Capetown Noir has 4 Lots on the National Yearling Sale. His son Kamadeva, a juvenile half-brother to Gr1 winner Love Struck, won a cracker for Justin Snaith on Saturday. He hails from the female line of Anytime Baby and Thandolwami. Capetown Noir has had 2 winners and 17 places from his first crop, with his daughter Brandina already Black Type and missing her first feature win by a whisker. She runs in the East Cape Nursery at Fairview on Friday.



CHASE LIEBENBERG

Weight Loss

Queensland jockey Beau Appo has been suspended for four weeks for weighing in light after a race at Toowoomba, causing the winner to be disqualified. Appo came back to scale more than half a kilogram underweight after riding the Ben Currie-trained Pieridae to win the final race on Monday. Stewards said they were mindful of the seriousness of the breach and the loss of prize money to the owners and the loss of monies invested on the mare.



Silvano Double

Silvano has 21 yearlings on offer at this week's National Sale, including a half-sister (Lot 29) to Gr1 SA Nursery winner Arabian Beat, a filly (Lot 89) out of Gr2 Fillies Guineas winner Gibraltar Blue, a filly (Lot 178) out of the multiple Gr1 winning champion Princess Victoria, and a half-sister (Lot 189) to Equus Champion French Navy who is very closely related to Miyabi Gold – who showed her class when carrying 60kgs to a one length win in the Listed The Scarlet Lady over 1750m on Sunday. Miyabi Gold's paternal half-brother Silver Rose also caught the eye on Sunday when making all to win the Highland Night Cup (Non Black-Type) over 2400m – beating Silvano's Gr3 Cape Summer Stayers Handicap winning son Strathdon by two lengths.