

Impi Too Strong

To the emotional strains of the late Johnny Clegg's hit song Impi, Vercingetorix' classy son African Warrior stamped himself a potential classic prospect for next season with a breathtaking turn of foot to win the Gr2 Umkhomazi Stakes on Saturday.

A novel touch of initiative by Gold Circle saw the crowd warm to the atmosphere as the popular song played out and welcomed Keagan de Melo and a 2yo he has formed a very profitable relationship with, back to the unsaddling enclosure.

And the cherry on the top of it all was the Pick 6 pool exceeding projections to pass the R9,3 million marker.

Dean Kannemeyer's first venture into formal syndicated ownership maintained it's momentum as the thrilled DK Racing Syndicate celebrated a repeat of their July day party where their charge had grabbed the big cheque in the KZN Yearling Sale Million.

Jumping from the widest draw on Saturday, African Warrior, winner of the Gr3 Godolphin Barb earlier this season, proved that he is not limited to restricted sales races as he turned up the volume at the 200m marker, to catch the Tarry filly Spring Break to cap his career peak success by 0,30 lengths in a time of 72,38 secs.

Alramz stayed on a half length off the winner in third.

Easy to back at 6-1, no doubt in view of concerns of the difficulty of his draw, African Warrior didn't disappoint in another open race. Share Holder started favourite but was never in the hunt and ran well downfield.

African Warrior has won 4 races with 1 place from 6 starts for stakes of R 1 032 375.

The hardy bay gelding was bred by Boland Stud and was purchased for R100 000 at the KZN Yearling Sale. He is out of the one-time winning Jet Master mare, Allez Afrique.

Gr2 Umkhomazi Stakes (2yo's) 1200m

Winner African Warrior (2nd best handicapped) was drawn wide; raced 11th of the 13; ran on strongly; hung in badly over the final 250m and shifted in between the 250m-50m marks; led 120m, held on

Runner-up Spring Break raced 4th; led 270m; found extra when headed 120m

Third Alramz raced 12th of 13; ran on strongly

Time: The second fastest of the three 1200m races, the time was a fair one. We gave the sixth (prev best 92) 92 which makes the winner (prev 84/89/95/102/102) 103, the runner-up (prev 81/89/90) 97 and the third (prev 78/99/97/91) 102

103	1	0.00	AFRICAN WARRIOR	(13)	60.0	K De Melo	25/4
2 b g Vercingetorix - Allez Afrique (Jet Master)							
97	2	0.30	SPRING BREAK	(2)	57.5	L Hewitson	7/1
2 b f Trippi - Miss October (Var)							
102	3	0.50	ALRAMZ	(7)	60.0	A Marcus	29/4
2 ch c Soft Falling Rain - Valdivia (Var)							
91	4	2.50	Sarah	(1)	57.5	P Strydom	11/2
92	5	4.00	Indy Go	(5)	60.0	M Byleveld	22/1
92	6	4.15	Poinciana	(4)	60.0	B Fayd'herbe	22/1
87	7	5.85	De La Cruz	(9)	60.0	R Fourie	13/2
87	8	6.05	Aristachus	(3)	60.0	G Lerena	22/1
86	9	6.20	Ad Allisima	(6)	60.0	L J Ferraris	50/1
80	10	6.70	Singlorafa	(12)	57.5	C Zackey	30/1
85	11	6.80	Share Holder	(10)	60.0	N Jugtall	6/1
79	12	8.80	Master Jay	(8)	60.0	W Kennedy	11/1
70	13	12.30	High Voltage	(11)	60.0	S Randolph	50/1

Time: 72.38s (60.32s avg/1000m, or 60km/h) SP Total %: 110%

1st T.D Kannemeyer O.D K Racing Syndicate

(Nom: Mr D M Kannemeyer) B.Boland Stud

Kannemeyer's Super Syndicate

Dean Kannemeyer struck early gold with his first syndicate venture when the super smart Boland Stud bred African Warrior streaked to victory in the KZN Yearling Sale Million at Hollywood-bets Greyville on July day.

A pleased Kannemeyer may have found this race as much pressure as producing his trio of past Durban July winners, after some DK Racing Syndicate members flew in from overseas to enjoy the big day.

"I can still train a racehorse, you know," he quipped as he welcomed and thanked his elated group of owners. "By the way, I bought another one at Sibaya yesterday," he laughed.

A winner of the Godolphin Barb and close up in the Gr1 Gold Medallion behind Eden Roc, who franked the form earlier in the afternoon, Keagan de Melo rode a confident race on African Warrior who drew off to beat the fast-finishing Wave to win rather comfortably by a length in a time of 78,75 secs.

The PE visitors Hooves Of Troy and the 100-1 Scarborough Fair ran decent races to complete the quartet.

African Warrior was bred by Boland Stud and was astutely picked up by Dean and Jane Thomas for R100 000 at the KZN Yearling Sale. He is out of the one-time winning Jet Master mare, Allez Afrique.

The gelding has won 3 of his 5 starts with a place for stakes of R844 875.

KZN Yearling Sale Million (2yo's) (NBT) 1300m

Winner African Warrior (2nd best handicapped) raced 6th entering the straight; led 200m; ran on

Runner-up Wave (best handicapped) raced in the rear 3 lengths behind the eventual winner; ran on strongly at finish; jockey Kennedy was fined R1000 for hitting this horse more than 12 times

Third Hooves Of Troy was drawn wide; raced 4th; led 300m; no answer to first two

Time: Tis was the sixth fastest of the eight races on the turf. We gave the fifth (prev best 98) 99 which makes the winner (prev 84/89/95/102) 102, the runner-up (prev 87/92/105) 100 and the third (prev 83/88/89/90) 100. Ratings are best treated with caution.

102	1	0.00	AFRICAN WARRIOR	(1)	60.0	K De Melo	47/20
2 b g Vercingetorix - Allez Afrique (Jet Master)							
100	2	1.00	WAVE	(7)	60.0	W Kennedy	7/2
2 b g Mogok - Seaview (Miesque's Approval)							
100	3	1.25	HOOVES OF TROY	(12)	60.0	B Fayd'herbe	30/1
2 b c Vercingetorix - Secret Magok (Mogok)							
94	4	1.35	Scarborough Fair	(9)	57.5	L Mxothwa	100/1
99	5	1.60	Kaydens Pride	(3)	60.0	M Yeni	41/10
98	6	1.85	Master Jay	(8)	60.0	A Marcus	109/20
93	7	4.35	Baby Shooz	(10)	60.0	C Orffer	25/1
82	8	6.65	Purple Persuasion	(6)	57.5	S Khumalo	16/1
85	9	7.90	We Light The Fire	(2)	60.0	S Brown	55/1
78	10	8.20	Brandina	(11)	57.5	G Cheyne	25/1
76	11	9.20	Smiley Kylie	(5)	57.5	L Hewitson	30/1
80	12	9.95	Look To The Sky	(13)	60.0	C Habib	50/1
67	13	13.45	Sapphire Rock	(4)	57.5	C Zackey	16/1
51	14	20.25	El' Zara	(14)	57.5	N Juglall	50/1

Time: 78.75s (60.58s avg/1000m, or 59km/h) SP Total %: 120%
1st T:D Kannemeyer O:D K Racing Syndicate
(Nom: Mr D M Kannemeyer) B:Boland Stud

'V'Again!

After the withdrawal of yet another Vercingetorix flagbearer in the unbeaten East Cape Nursery winner Viking Moon, the R150 000 Listed Dahlia Plate took on a more open appearance, with the scratching's stablemate Foreign Source starting an 18-10 favourite.

But there was plenty of support for the Nursery runner-up Hooves Of Troy and the son of Vercingetorix showed that he is maturing into a really nice sort.

Much more relaxed than the run-at-full-tilt antics of his first three starts, log-leading jockey Muzi Yeni had Hooves Of Troy relaxed early off the gallop set by his free-striding stablemate Sir Caleb.

An athletic sort, Hooves Of Troy picked it up gradually and ran on with a sustained finishing burst to easily hold Foreign Source to three quarters of a length in a time of 68,37 secs.

Bred by Hartley SA, the winner went through the ring for just R60 000 at the NYZ Yearling.

Trainer Gavin Smith recalled how he loved the look of the youngster – 'a dead ringer for Bold Silvano!'

The breeders Hartley SA (nominee Peter Gibson) race the 2yo with Frank Burggraaf.

He has won 2 of his 4 starts with 2 places and stakes of R185 200.

His sire Vercingetorix, a son of Maine Chance's own champion sire Silvano, has made a great start to his career. South Africa's Equus Champion 3yo Colt of 2012/13, Vercingetorix has already been responsible for nine first crop winners, including Gr3 Godolphin Barb Stakes winner African Warrior and Viking Moon, mentioned in our intro.

The winner is out of the seven-time winning Mogok mare, Secret Magok.

Dahlia Plate (2yo's) (L) 1200m

Winner Hooves Of Troy (2nd best handicapped) was nervous in the stalls; raced 7th; led 120m; won going away

Runner up Foreign Source was nervous in the stalls; raced 4th; beaten 0,75 lengths

Third Gold Dragon raced 5th; ran on; beaten 0,8 lengths; jockey Storey was fined R1500 for striking this horse more than 12 times during the running of the race

Time: This comparatively was marginally the fastest of the four sprint races.

We gave the winner (prev 83/88/89) 90 which makes the runner up (prev 81/79/85/85) 88 and the third (prev 78) 87

90	1	0.00	HOOVES OF TROY	(7)	56.0	M Yeni	57/20
2 b c Vercingetorix - Secret Magok (Mogok)							
88	2	0.75	FOREIGN SOURCE	(8)	56.0	G Cheyne	18/10
2 b c Bold Silvano - Bahamian Express (Bahamian Bounty)							
87	3	0.80	GOLD DRAGON	(9)	56.0	C Storey	18/1
2 b c Oratorio - Clematis (Silvano)							
78	4	2.05	Captain Anne Bonny	(3)	53.5	C Maujean	113/20
79	5	3.80	Sir Caleb	(2)	56.0	R Danielson	14/1
60	6	10.80	Gotcaughtspeedin	(1)	56.0	D De Gouveia	18/1
45	7	16.05	Spin Master	(4)	56.0	T Gould	22/1
31	8	19.05	Le Warrior	(6)	53.0	M Thackeray	100/1
37	9	19.15	Snorok	(5)	56.0	L Hewitson	9/1

Time: 68.37s (56.98s avg/1000m, or 63km/h) SP Total %: 109%
1st T:GD Smith O:Hartley SA (Pty) Ltd (Nom: Mr P B Gibson) & Mr F Burggraaf B:Hartley SA

Barb Wired!

Just a week after his stakes strike with a 1-2 in the Listed East Cape Nursery, Maine Chance stallion Vercingetorix produced his first graded winner in the shape of Dean Kannemeyer's very smart African Warrior, who sustained an early forward effort to win the R200 000 Gr3 Godolphin Barb.

A first feature winner for the DK Racing Syndicate, African Warrior started a weak 3-1 favourite and was last of the field of seven as they spun for home. He ducked down the inside rail for his run and at the 200m nothing looked to be going better – until Master Of Illusion clicked what it was all about.

In a drive to the wire, the Kannemeyer galloper held on by a nose to beat Master Of Illusion in a time of 66,58 secs.

African Warrior was bred by Boland Stud and was astutely picked up for R100 000 at the KZN Yearling Sale. He is out of the one-time winning Jet Master mare, Allez Afrique.

African Warrior has now won 2 of his 3 starts for 1 place and stakes of R201 125.

Dean Kannemeyer lauded the merits of Vercingetorix and would have been thrilled to have broken the SA Champions Season ice so early!

Gr3 Godolphin Barb Stakes (2yo's) 1100m

Winner African Warrior (2nd best handicapped) lost 1 length at start; raced at the back; ran on well to challenge 200m

Runner-up Master Illusion raced 2nd and challenged strongly

Third High Voltage lost 1 length at the start; raced 3rd; ran on

Time: Steady throughout, this was comfortably the slowest of the five sprint races. We gave the 4th (prev 87) 92 which makes the winner (prev 84/89) 95, the runner-up (prev 76) 95 and the third (prev 80/83) 89

95	1	0.00	AFRICAN WARRIOR	(7)	60.0	K De Melo	3/1
2 b g Vercingetorix - Allez Afrique (Jet Master)							
95	2	0.05	MASTER OF ILLUSION	(5)	60.0	S Veale	4/1
2 b g Master Of My Fate - Victorian Secret (Captain Al)							
89	3	0.55	HIGH VOLTAGE	(2)	58.0	C Zackey	7/2
2 b c Querari - Heliane (Captain Al)							
92	4	1.05	Wave	(6)	60.0	W Kennedy	5/1
85	5	3.55	Padre Pio	(1)	60.0	L Hewitson	8/1
79	6	3.80	El' Zara	(4)	57.5	J Gates	13/1
67	7	6.05	Katie's Treasure	(3)	55.5	D De Gouveia	8/1
Time: 66.58s (60.53s avg/1000m, or 59km/h) SP Total %: 113%							
1st T:D Kannemeyer O:D K Racing Syndicate (Nom: Mr D M Kannemeyer)							
B:Boland Stud							

Vercingetorix In Style!

Maine Chance stallion Vercingetorix is on the up and produced the top two home in Friday's R150 000 Listed East Cape Nursery.

Breeder Syd Birch said that the cross that produced Viking Moon – with the Untouchable mare Touch The Moon – had been one of their preferred choices.

"We settled on Vercingetorix as a few sires were unavailable. It's certainly worked out well though and I believe Viking Moon will be even better as a 3yo," reflected the veteran breeder, who said that he was worried early on when the Alan Greeff runner was bullying jockey Greg Cheyne.

He explained that Jurgen van Heerden and Frans van der Bergh owned the mare and did a deal to buy the youngster privately. He confirmed that Touch The Moon was currently in foal to Red Ray.

With the racing switched from the turf to the poly, the original nine horse field was cut from 9 to 7 runners, with Fillies Nursery winner Captain Anne Bonny and recent debut winner Gold Dragon, deciding not to take their chances on the all weather.

After fighting with his rider early on, Viking Moon relaxed as Charles Ndlovu – riding stablemate Pierina – took the initiative and provided the cover the favourite needed.

With Gavin Smith's Hooves Of Troy (another Vercingetorix colt) challenging, Viking Moon had too much in hand and strode out to win by a half length in a time of 71,35 secs.

Stablemate to the winner, Foreign Source ran into some traffic late and stayed on for third a further 1,50 lengths back, with Brandina in fourth.

Unbeaten in four starts in South Africa, and also victorious in Dubai's Gr1 Jebel Hatta, Vercingetorix is right up there with our leading first crop sires this term.

Bred by Birch Bros, Viking Moon has won 3 from 3 for stakes of R187 500.

East Cape Nursery (L) 1200m

Winner Viking Moon raced unsettled early in 2nd; led 250m; won well

Runner-up Hooves Of Troy raced 3rd; chased hard

Third Foreign Source lost one length at the start; raced 6th; was some 4 lengths behind the eventual winner entering straight; ran on; had to ease late

Time: Comparatively, this was only the fifth fastest of the afternoon's eight races. We gave the runner-up (prev 83/88) 89 which makes the winner (prev 88/89) 90 and the third (prev 81/79/85) 85

90	1	0.00	Viking Moon	(2)	60.0	G Cheyne	14/10
2 ch c Vercingetorix - Touch The Moon(AUS) (Untouchable)							
89	2	0.50	Hooves Of Troy	(6)	60.0	M Yeni	9/2
2 b c Vercingetorix - Secret Magok (Mogok)							
85	3	2.00	Foreign Source	(3)	60.0	B Fayd'herbe	9/2
2 b c Bold Silvano - Bahamian Express (Bahamian Bounty)							
77	4	2.75	Brandina	(7)	57.5	T Gould	5/1
79	5	4.00	Amber Tree	(5)	60.0	R Munger	22/1
69	6	5.75	Pierina	(4)	57.5	X Ndlovu	11/1
44	7	16.75	Linden Rock	(1)	60.0	L Mxothwa	20/1
Time: 71.35s (59.46s avg/1000m, or 61km/h) SP Total %: 112%							
1st T:AC Greeff O:The Carefree Syndicate (Nom: Mr J L Van Heerden)							
B: Birch Bros							