

NATIONAL SALE ENDS ON POSITIVE NOTE



The Emperors Palace National Yearling Sale ended after three days of tough trading. After three days, the aggregate reached a more than acceptable R117 000 000. Of the 600 yearlings catalogued, 63 were withdrawn and 52 failed to sell. Thus the clearance rate for the sale was 90 percent.

The average price of the yearlings, R241 879, was down from last year's average, however, no fewer than 16 yearlings sold for R1 million plus.

The top priced lot at the sale was lot 196, a Jet Master filly.

Consigned by Varsfontein Stud (as Agent), the filly, named Heart's Content, was knocked down to Anthony Peter for R3.2 million. The bay is out of the stakes winning Jallad mare, Jalberry, and is closely related to this season's G1 Bloodstock SA Cape Guineas winner Solo Traveller.

Varsfontein Stud consigned the top priced colt on sale. Lot 352, a son of Jet Master and champion Promisefrommyheart, was knocked down to A Papageorgiou for R3 million. The colt is a half-brother to recent Listed Spook Express Handicap winner, Justthewayyouare.



Wilgerbosdrift were the leading vendors, by aggregate. That farm sold 22 yearlings for a gross aggregate of R7.39 million.

Mayfair Speculators were leading buyers at the sale, purchasing 29 yearlings for R12.95 million.

Jet Master was well clear as leading sire on sale. South Africa's reigning champion sire sold 35 of his yearlings on offer for an aggregate of R21.325 million. Jet Master's 35 yearlings to sell averaged R609 286.

On the whole, the sales results were perceived to have been affected by the impact of the Cape Premier Sale, as well as the tough economic times which has had a considerable impact on the sport.

The TBA's CEO, Jan Naude, was a relieved man after the sale, saying, "These prices are a realistic reflection of the market. There was good money for top horses, but the middle market struggled."

A full list of results are available on www.tba.co.za

IGUGU SCORES HISTORIC WIN



Brilliant filly Igugu created history when she became the first filly in history to win the SA Triple Tiara on Champions Day last month. Having won the first two legs, the G2 Gauteng Fillies Guineas and G1 SA Fillies Classic in clear cut fashion, Igugu was sent off a prohibitive 1-10 favourite for the G2 SA Oaks (the final leg of the Triple). Given a confident ride from Anthony Delpuch, who was built a great relationship with the filly, Igugu was handily

placed in the running of the R750 000 Oaks. Delpuch sent the filly for home with 500m to go, and from there the result was never in doubt. Igugu drew clear, to win by the classic by 5.75 lengths, with Var filly Princess Light finishing second. Ilha Grande (Tiger Ridge) ran third.

Andre and Joyce McDonald, who own Igugu in partnership with Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa, were understandably thrilled after the race. Trainer Mike de Kock was also impressed by the filly's performance, saying, "She is right up there with the best fillies I have trained." Rider Delpuch was also overcome after the race, saying, "I will never ride a filly this good again." With this victory, Igugu won her owners a R1 million bonus for winning the Triple Tiara. Igugu, who was R1 million buy at the 2009 Ready To Run Sale, has now earned over R2.4 million in prize money. Bred by the Kia Ora Stud in Australia, Igugu is likely to be aimed next at the G1 Woolavington Stakes.

A daughter of champion sire Galileo (also sire of unbeaten British 3yo Frankel), Igugu is out of the Intikhab mare Zarinia, and is from the same family as unbeaten Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner Zarkava.

HAPPY LANDING UPSETS PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

Happy Landing caused a 55-1 upset when running out a narrow winner of the G1 R2 million President's Challenge, on Champions Day. Trained by Joe Soma, Happy Landing was not expected to bother a field which included brilliant filly Dancewiththedevil, former Summer Cup winners Flirtation and Rudra, and the fast improving Captains Wild.

However, Happy Landing justified the faith his trainer has long had in him by winning the President's Challenge. It was his first G1 win, and in fact was the first graded win in his career. The 4yo gelding was given a strong ride by Muzi Yeni, who kept the gelding close to the pace. Yeni sent Happy Landing to the front at the top of the straight, after the original pacemaker, Call To Combat, stopped to nothing. From there the 4yo had to hold off a strong late challenge from Captains Wild, but the son of Al Mufti showed heart, and held on to win by neck. Captains Wild ran a great race in second, and is clearly a horse to follow, whilst his stablemates Flirtation and Rudra finished third and fourth respectively.

Winning trainer, Joey Soma, was very emotional after the race, saying, "I always knew he had the ability, but his problem was that he took forever to mature. The Summer Cup was originally his aim, but after the Victory Moon we knew he

wasn't ready so we changed his target to this race. I just want to thank Markus for having faith in me, and I would like to dedicate this win to my wife, who is ill."

Bred by Danika Stud, Happy Landing was a R525 000 purchase at the 2008 Emperors Palace National Yearling Sale. A son of the recently deceased sire Al Mufti, Happy Landing is out of the unraced Badger Land mare, Landing Liza. The latter is a half-sister to former G1 winner Eldoriza.



SEAL WINS SA DERBY

The Gavin van Zyl trained Seal caused something of an upset when he landed the spoils in the R1.5 million G1 SA Derby on Champions Day. Backed into 10-1 from 25's, Seal was facing his strongest task yet in the Derby, having to contend with the likes of Top Seller (Investec Cape Derby), English Garden (SA Classic) and Perana (Victory Moon Stakes).

Coming into the race off a runner up finish in the Derby Trial, Seal benefitted from a strong ride from MJ Odendaal, who sent the gelding into the lead with two furlongs to go. The result was never in doubt thereafter, with Seal going onto score a two and a quarter length race.

Galileo's Destiny got up to dead heat for second place with English Garden, with Top Seller another four and three quarters lengths away in fourth place.

The winner has clearly improved with a step up in class, and looks one to follow in some of the bigger races to come.

FILLY BEATS THE BOYS IN G1 SPRINT

Once defeated filly, Val de Ra, put up a scintillating performance to beat some of the country's top sprinters in the R1 million Computaform Sprint, run on Champions Day.

The G1 sprint, run over 1000m, had attracted a strong field of sprinters, which included Cape Flying Championship winner What A Winter, promising 3yo Shea Shea and the smart performer Magico. Val de Ra got a flying start, and from there she proceeded to pull clear of her field. At the 500m mark, the filly was still cruising, whilst her rivals were off the bit. Val de Ra remained clear, and ran out a comfortable 1.25 length winner.

Runner up, What A Winter, looked somewhat unlucky as he didn't get the best of breaks, losing ground at the start, but ran on strongly to get second place. Shea Shea ran third, with Magico further back in fourth position.

For trainer Gavin van Zyl it was a first G1 success, and he was understandably thrilled with the result. He admitted, however, to being slightly surprised by the result, saying, "I didn't know if he was up to the class, but he's got heart."

Owned by Afrilek Drives (Pty) Ltd, Seal was bred by Dr Ian Heyns. He has now won three races for prize money in excess of R1 million.

Seal gave his sire, Silvano, his 11th individual G1 winner. Silvano is also the sire of 2008 SA Derby winner Kings Gambit. The Derby winner is out of the unraced Rambo Dancer mare, Prestine Performer.

Seal is from a powerful family which includes the ill fated champion Face North and J&B Met winner Polo Classic. He was a R210 000 purchase at the 2009 Sibaya Yearling Sale, which now looks a terrific bargain.

Val de Ra had been bought up from Natal by her trainer Dennis Drier. It was a great training feat for Drier to bring the filly back from near fatal illness to win a race of such stature as the Computaform.

Drier was emotional after the race, stating, "I knew how good she was, but we nearly lost her."

After the race, jockey Alec Forbes, was stunned by the filly's speed, saying, "I didn't know she was this brilliant."

Val de Ra, is bred and owned by Avontuur Farm, has now won eight of her nine starts. The flying filly has earned over R1 million, with the promise of plenty more to come before she retires to the paddocks. The second G1 winner for her sire Var, Val de Ra is out of the Elliodor mare, Minelli. The Computaform winner is a half-sister to Mitra, whose five wins include the Listed Jo'Burg Spring Challenge.



NEW VENUE FOR KZN SALE

The 2011 Kwa-Zulu Natal Yearling Sale will be held at the Suncoast Casino for the first time. The sale, which will be held on the 30th June and 1st of July, will be held the day prior to the 2011 Vodacom Durban July.

The Durban Sale has 250 yearlings included in the catalogue and can be accessed on www.tba.co.za. The KZN mare, weanling & HIT Sale will take place on 5 July in Mooi River.

This will be the first time that the TBA has joined forces with the Suncoast Casino, and it looks to be an exciting partnership for the future.

KENTUCKY DERBY GLORY FOR TEAM VALOR



Team Valor, who are such strong supporters of the South African breeding and racing industry, recently enjoyed their first win in the G1 Kentucky Derby. Their colt, Animal Kingdom, scored a late running, 2.75l victory in the ten furlong classic. Animal Kingdom, who was making his dirt debut in the 137th Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands, was coming into the race off a score in the G3 Vinery Racing Spiral Stakes.

2YOS TAKE BONUSES

A number of 2yos earned bonuses offered by Bloodstock South Africa recently. In the Ruffian Stakes, eight of the fillies entered in the race qualified for the R30 000 bonus, which fell to the winner. The Ruffian, a Listed race over five furlongs, was won by Variometer, who had won her only previous outing. Variometer, bred by Backworth Stud, is trained by Louis Goosen and was partnered by Deon Sampson.

A daughter of speed sire Var, Variometer is out of the Hennessy mare, Lady Electric. She was a bargain buy at R140 000 at the 2010 Sibaya Yearling Sale, where she was snapped up by Circle Seven Trading. Variometer is owned by Messrs P Lee Chung, C M Comaroff, C Klopper, B K Parker, A B Lansdell, D Badal, GM Chetty and Ms L Watt.

The colt was given a great ride by top US jockey, John Velazquez. He kept Animal Kingdom well off the pace, set by eventual fourth place finisher, Shackleford. Velazquez bought the colt with a ran at the top of the home straight, and the pair powered past Arkansas Derby runner up Nehro and G3 Risen Star winner Mucho Macho Man to win the Derby by 2.75 lengths going away.

Team Valor's Barry Irwin was understandably ecstatic after the race, saying, "I've only won a couple of really big ones, and it when it happens, it's just surreal. You see it and you know what happened, but it's hard to process."

Team Valor had previously sent out Captain Bodgit

to finish a close second in the 1997 Kentucky Derby. Animal Kingdom, trained by Graham Motion, is a son of former Eclipse champion Leroidesanimaux – a son of Candy Stripes. The latter is well known in South Africa through the exploits of such horses as Ilha da Vitoria, Pablo Zeta and Eventuail.

Animal Kingdom, out of German mare Dalicia (Acatenango), is likely to run next in the G1 Preakness Stakes – the second leg of the US Triple Crown.

In the G2 SA Fillies Nursery on Champions Day, the winning filly, Hidden Beauty, earned a handsome bonus of R75,000 for her owner, breeder, trainer and jockey.

A daughter of the ill fated Victory Moon, Hidden Beauty ran out an easy winner of the Fillies Nursery, winning by over three lengths. Her owner, Fred Crabbia, picked up an extra R48,750 for the win, with winning trainer Paul Matchett earning an extra R5,250 and jockey Felix Coetzee the same.

Bred by Maine Chance Farms, Hidden Beauty, who looks an exceptional prospect with the promise of many more wins to come, was a R400 000 purchase at the 2010 Emperors Palace National Yearling Sale. She is out of the National Assembly mare Hidcote Blue.

Depardieu earned his connections a handsome R50,000 when he picked up the G3 Betting World Cape Nursery, ran on May 7th. Trained by Dean Kannemeyer, Depardieu had previously finished a close second in the Listed Betting World Somerset 1200. Partnered in the Nursery by veteran Cape jockey Karl Neisius, Depardieu produced a fine turn of foot to mow down his opposition to win by two and a half lengths. Owned by Bernard Kantor and Markus Jooste, Depardieu was bred by the Normandy Stud. By Dupont out of the Trigger Finger mare Diva, Depardieu was a R250 000 buy at the 2010 Emperors Palace National Yearling Sale.

Princess Victoria stamped herself as the best 2yo filly out when she won the G1 Allan Robertson Fillies Championship at Scottsville. She earned her owners, Maine Chance

Farms, Peter de Beyer, and Ms G Jaffee and Messrs M, C and L Jaffee, a R65,000 bonus, when she defeated Up Front and favourite Hidden Beauty.

Her trainer, Glen Kotzen earned a bonus of R7,000, while winning breeders Maine Chance Farms earned an additional R20 000. Jockey Andrew Fortune, who described the filly as "the best 2yo I have ridden", picked up a bonus of R7,000.

Only once beaten in four starts, Princess Victoria looks likely to be named Equus Champion 2yo filly. She is unlikely to race again this season. By the ill-fated Victory Moon, out of Rakeen mare Platinum Princess, Princess Victoria was a R325 000 buy at the 2010 Emperors Palace National Yearling Sale.

RIVER GAME IN DEFEAT

The South African bred mare, River Jetez, put up a great run when a narrow second in the recent Singapore Airlines International Cup at Kranji. The 7yo daughter of Jet Master ran on strongly, despite having a rough trip, and found only the US G1 winner Gitano Hernando (Hernando) too strong. River Jetez, ridden by regular partner Bernard Fayd'Herbe, was not disgraced in defeat, as she was bulked several times in the race, and flew up late to finish half a length off the winner. Behind her came the likes of international G1 winners Presvis and Chinchon, as well as the likes of Irian and Wigmore Hall.

It was the second time that River Jetez has finished second in a major international Gr1 race, having previously run a close up second in the Dubai Duty Free on Dubai World Cup night. Nonetheless, River earned owners Mr and Mrs Amm and Marsh Shirliff a handsome \$607 500 for her runner up berth.

Bred by the Out of Africa Stud, River Jetez is likely to be aimed next at the G1 Beverly D Stakes in the USA.

THE CAPE MARE AND WEANLING SALE

The annual Cape Mare and Weanling Sale was held at Sandringham Farm on 26th May. The sale saw increases in both the average and aggregate from last year. The aggregate increased from R3 662 000 to R5 452 000, while the average went up marginally from last year's R53 080 to R54 520.

Of the 179 lots catalogued, 36 were withdrawn and 43 failed to make their reserves.

The sale was topped by lot 21. Escapology, a multiple G3 winning daughter of Jet Master, was consigned by Drakenstein Stud. Tested in foal to leading US sire Trippi, she was knocked down to Nutfield Stud for R540 000.

Full results are available at www.tba.co.za.

SA CHAMP WINS G3 RACE IN BRITAIN

Former South African Equus Champion, Kings Gambit, was duly rewarded for his consistency when he won his first group race in Britain recently. The 7yo landed the G3 Gordon Richards Stakes at Sandown racecourse. Prior to his most recent victory, Kings Gambit, who is owned by Mrs Fitri Hay and trained by Tom Tate, had been second or third in his last six outings.

In the Gordon Richards, Kings Gambit was given a great ride by Jamie Spencer, who took the gelding to the front and the partnership led all the way. He gamely held off a late charge from Black Spirit, but held on to win by

a short head. Third placed Shamali was a further 2.5 lengths away.

Both Kings Gambit and Black Spirit are sons of Maine Chance stallions – Kings Gambit being by Silvano and Black Spirit by Black Minnaloushe.

Kings Gambit, bred by Danika Stud, is by Silvano out of the G1 winning Al Mufti mare, Lady Brompton. Now a six time winner, Kings Gambit was a R600 000 purchase at the 2006 Emperors Palace National Yearling Sale.

Leading breeders by stakes as of 31/05/2011

1. Summerhill Stud	R11 059 750
2. Klawervlei Stud	R9 472 785
3. Maine Chance Farms	R6 521 125
4. Highlands Farms	R5 995 268
5. Lammerskraal Stud	R5 179 930
6. Graystone Stud	R5 102 845
7. Varsfontein Stud	R4 326 800
8. Wilgerbosdrift	R4 308 785
9. Scott Bros	R4 292 722
10. D Cohen & Sons	R4 174 560

Leading sires by stakes as of 31/05/2011

1. Jet Master	R11 096 943
2. Captain Al	R10 599 138
3. Silvano	R9 766 840
4. Western Winter	R8 862 402
5. Kahal	R6 254 488
6. Al Mufti	R5 677 380
7. Var	R5 633 065
8. Fort Wood	R5 402 310
9. Windrush	R5 313 820
10. National Emblem	R5 040 575

Leading Trainers by Stakes as of 31/05/2011

1. MF de Kock	R17 415 625
2. JS Snaith	R10 590 832
3. MW Bass	R10 496 875
4. CS Laird	R7 537 095
5. J Ramsden	R7 113 764
6. GV Woodruff	R6 402 700
7. GD Smith	R5 842 138
8. St John Gray	R5 535 425
9. PF Matchett	R5 408 988
10. AC Greeff	R5 361 900

SA Winners Overseas

USA



Pointing North

Allowance Optional Claiming

7g Joshua Dancer – Compass Point

Bred by Northwood Stud

28th April 2011

SINGAPORE



Tekis

Initiation Race

3c Silvano - Jukao

Bred by Cheveley Stud

15 April 2011

Flax

Singapore Airlines Barcelona Stakes

4g Silvano – Bejewelled Spring

Bred by Maine Chance Farms

22 April 2011

BRITAIN



Kings Gambit

G3 Gordon Richards Stakes

7g Silvano – Lady Brompton

Bred by Danika Stud

23 April 2011