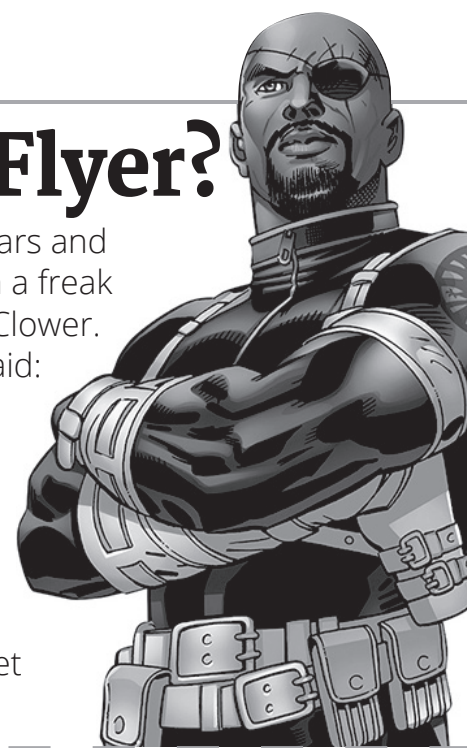


5

That is the number of individual first crop winners for Highlands Farm's young sire Pathfork. His son Starflash won impressively at Kenilworth on Sunday. The Connemara Stud bred looks a smart sort in the making. He is out of the Jallad mare Star Safari and was a R250 000 buy from last year's March Yearling Sale. The former Irish Champion 2yo Pathfork has made an exceptional start to his stud career and is currently SA's Leading First Crop Sire by individual winners and by prize money.

A Noordhoek Flyer?

Cape trainer Mike Stewart is in the wars and he came close to losing his left eye in a freak accident a week ago, writes Michael Clower. The Noordhoek based conditioner said: "I was leading a horse into the pens at Philippi. I don't know exactly what happened, whether I was kicked or what, but I managed to drive myself home. I went to the optometrist and I was operated on the next day. I have torn the retina but I hope to get back most of my sight."



GET STUFFED!

Probably the most famous words uttered by Melbourne Cup winning lady rider Michelle Payne, who overcame a career-threatening injury to become the only female rider to win Australia's most famous race. She apparently directed that instruction to chauvinists.

Exciting news is that she has a best-selling autobiography in the pipeline and her life story is being made into a movie. Her mother died when she was six months old, she has lost two of her siblings and another has Down syndrome. "I've packed in a fair bit in the 30 years I've had on earth," says the girl from Down Under.

6

The age of champion US mare Beholder who picked up where she left off last year when cruising to an easy win in the \$100 000 Gr3 Adoration Stakes at Santa Anita Park on Sunday. Carrying the familiar orange and purple silks of B. Wayne Hughes' Spendthrift Farm, Beholder scored by 2.5-lengths to register her seventh straight victory. Her remarkable record now reads 16 wins from 21 starts for \$4 496 600 in earnings.

Rocking Zim

The former Geoff Woodruff-trained Rock The Country, now trained by Gokhan Terzi, won the 54th renewal of the \$30 000 Castle Tankard run over 2 000m at Borrowdale Park on Saturday. Ridden by SA jockey Hennie Greyling, the Hallmark Thoroughbreds bred son of Western Winter beat a field of fourteen at any old price. The Castle Tankard Horse is the oldest sponsored race in Africa. The race was called by Nico Kritsiotis.

Powerhouse

Last year's Champion Australian 2yo Vancouver faces a race against time if he is to be seen to advantage in his brief stay in Europe this summer. The Golden Slipper winner, described by Aidan O'Brien as "a powerhouse" and "massive", has been at Ballydoyle only around 7 weeks and has to go into quarantine in preparation for his return to Australia just 24 hours after the Darley July Cup. However, if all goes well he will have three races while under O'Brien's care.

Tote Bored?

Paul Reeves' loyal owner Paul Barrett asked a good question after his Var filly Navarone had won the first race at Kenilworth on Tuesday. "When are we getting a new tote board?" he asked. The infield indicator board, a relic of bygone days, seems to be stood down more than it works these days - and we were wondering the same.



12

The number of months disqualification dished out to a New South Wales-based trainer - the latest to be disqualified for a cobalt related breach of Australian racing rules. Wyong Gr1 winning trainer Stephen Farley "pleaded guilty to a charge under AR178 of having brought Di's Diamond to the Taree racecourse for the purposes of engaging in a race when a prohibited substance was detected in a sample taken from that filly prior to it running in the race."

10 000 000

That is the near total in rands of current SA champion trainer Sean Tarry's lead with just under ten weeks left of the 2015-16 racing. On Champions Day his charges won a total of over R5 million - his four winners earning close to R4 million of that plunder. With Tarry's embarrassment of choices to attack the loot in the Vodacom Durban July and the Champions Cup, even that most diehard of competitors Justin Snaithe may have given up the chase - although just 13 winners adrift.

