



2

Past Met winning trainers have runners in Saturday's race. Sean Tarry won it in 2005 with Alastor, while Brett Crawford scored with Angus in 2003 and Futura in 2015. Both have two runners on Saturday.

7

The age of the oldest horse to win the Met this century. That was the Silvano gelding Martial Eagle who shocked in 2013 for trainer Yogas Govender and owner Sabine Plattner. He never won another race.

41

Just to make you feel old. That's how many years it's been since Garth Puller won his first Met in 1976 aboard Gatecrasher

for trainer Herman Brown. The 'Head Waiter' won it again in 1994 aboard Pas De Quoi and in 2005 on Alastor. Those 29 years must be something of a record between first and last wins in any Gr1!



24

That's how many years ago it was that big race favourite Legal Eagle's rider Anton Marcus won his first Met. Marcus won the race again in 2014 on Hill Fifty Four and goes for his hat-trick on Saturday.

60

The highest weight carried by a Met winner this century. That was Dynasty's son Futura who won for Brett Crawford in 2015.

Short Memories

5000

Jockey Robby Albarado joined an elite group at Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots on Sunday where he rode his 5000th victory. The 43yo became the 33rd

rider to reach the milestone and has won 201 graded stakes, including 35 Gr1's. His top victories have been the Preakness Stakes and Breeders' Cup Classic aboard Curlin in 2007, as well as the Dubai World Cup aboard the two-time Horse of the Year the following season.

Dual Gr1 winner French Navy has been backed from 40-1 to 25-1 for Saturday's Sun Met following Sean Tarry's comments about the horse at last Thursday's draw ceremony. The champion trainer told Michael Clower:

"People in this game have short memories but just look at his last Grade 1 race in Jo'burg. He has come along nicely and I was very happy with his run in the Queen's Plate. I think he is a value bet for a place."



QUICKSILVER

Super sire Var, who enjoyed another good sale at the weekend, had a smart winner when his son, Quicksilver, won in Singapore on Friday. Ridden by former SA based rider Nuresh Juglall, the Ricardo Le Grange trained gelding bolted clear to romp home by 1.8 lengths over 1400m. It was a third Singapore win for Quicksilver, who was bred by Boland Stud. Out of the Caesour mare Calpurnia, Quicksilver was a R280 000 buy from the 2013 Emperors Palace National Yearling Sale.

4

The number of Pick 6s punters can lose in one go if they get the Met winner wrong. Racing operators have included the Met in the racecards for meetings at Kenilworth (the real venue), Greyville and Turffontein (the ghost venues).

Future Perfect

The New Zealand Racing Board has announced an additional \$4.77 million in funding to improve prize money levels, address ageing infrastructure, and to encourage the entry of young people to racing. More than \$2.8 million will be made available to boost stakes for a greater return to owners, trainers, jockeys and drivers and in turn attracting higher quality racing and improving the overall race experience for industry people and punters alike.

The Youth Development Fund will aim to help build the next generation of racing participants by applying more than \$645,000 to encouraging the development of career paths into and through the industry.

Knuckleheads

The British Professional Jockeys Association is considering use of legal action in response to the growing trend of social media abuse of its members by internet trolls. The use of social media has been in the news recently with the criticism of jumps jockey Ciaran Gethings following him being unseated in a race while another jumps jockey, Tom Scudamore, has made public this week that a critic wished him dead. "It is an unfortunate reality of modern day life that the anonymity afforded

by social media empowers a small number of knuckleheads to behave in a way they otherwise wouldn't, including saying things and making serious allegations that they'd never dream of saying to someone's face," said Paul Struthers of the PJA.

