

Uniformity?

In some provinces, horses can be loaded without a jockey – in others not. Surely a starting brief should be uniform nationally under one NHA? Who, after all, dictates the policy?

CLOSE!

After being pipped by Marsha in the Gr1 Coolmore Nunthorpe Stakes at York last Friday, champion Lady Aurelia returns to Keeneland this week. The recent Gr1 King's Stand Stakes winner was full of beans after her narrow loss and trainer Wesley Ward said that he felt that Lady Aurelia – much like her blushing jockey Frankie Dettori – thought she had won the Nunthorpe. Scat Daddy's daughter has her final race of the year in the \$1 million Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint on 4 November at Del Mar.

Goose Flies KZN Flag

Longstanding Vaal trainer Louis Goosen has relocated to Ashburton in KZN in a strategic business move. He attributed the move to his last poor season and the loss of the Vaal sand, amongst other factors. His interview with James Goodman on Monday evening's Winning Ways Show (Dstv 239) is well worth a watch. Go to www.sportingpost.co.za to view it.



Following a nerve wracking loss of ground at her last start, Aussie superstar Winx will wear ear muffs in the Gr2 Chelmsford Stakes to be run over a mile at Randwick on Saturday as she chases her 19th consecutive win. Winx is aiming to create history this spring by joining the legendary Kingston Town as the only horse to win three Cox Plates.



Jockey Wanted

The powerful Sabine Plattner Racing operation is looking for a new jockey after parting ways with Grant van Niekerk. "I still rate Grant highly but he and I didn't really gel as a team in the way we should, and his contract came to an end at the end of last season. At the moment we are freelancing but the job is open and we are looking," trainer Andre Nel told Gold Circle journo Michael Clower.

NO EXCUSES

The US\$2 million Breeders' Cup Distaff is the likely next start for dual Eclipse Award winner Songbird after her shock loss in Saturday's Gr1 Personal Ensign Stakes at Saratoga. In only the second defeat of her career, she was nabbed late by the highly regarded 5YO mare Forever Unbridled. Nice to hear no excuses being tendered!

Who Khan Complain?

Multiple SA champion jockey Mark Khan made a winning comeback to the saddle after a seven year absence last Thursday with a win on the aptly named, Effortless for Gary Alexander. He followed up for the same yard on Saturday on Zest And Zeal.

In an interview with Andrew Bon, Khan answered the doubting lobby in regard to his insurance payout and subsequent return. There are some who have suggested that the 'comeback jocks' are doing a disservice to their colleagues, taking jobs in tough times and increasing insurance premiums.

Watch the interview on www.sportingpost.co.za



VOICE OF AFRICA

It is great news that South African racecaller Trevor Denman, currently in his 34th season at Del Mar, will be inducted into the Southern California Sports Broadcasters Hall of Fame in January.

Quick On the Draws

SA Champion jockey Anthony Delpech called on the authorities after a close call on a fancied runner recently to revisit the start loading procedures that are being done in order of barrier gate position. "It's not fair on the horse. It's not fair on the connections. It's not fair on the punters," he warned. Is anybody going to listen?

Fransie On Fire

Well-travelled SA jockey Francois Herholdt finished his season in Saudi Arabia on Saturday with a winner. Sanooj came home well to win by a length prompting Herholdt to write on Facebook that he has enjoyed riding there. "I have gained a lot of experience. A big thank you to the Alsimaawi stable, my owner Mr Abdulalah Abulaziz Al Mousa, and of course trainer Neil Bruss. It has been an honour working with the whole team. Thank you once again for a successful season." While betting is not permitted, horse racing is one of the few diversions in a country where public cinemas and theatres are banned. Professional sport is limited to football.