Mike de Kock-trained Hawwaam, winner of the recent Premier’s Champions Challenge at Turffontein, has moved up to joint ninth position on the Longines World’s Best Racehorse Rankings. Topping the log with a rating of 125, are the three superstars Beauty Generation (NZ), City Of Light (USA) and Winx (AUS).

Although Winx is now retired, she remains on the official listing of the world’s best racehorses for three-years-olds and upwards which raced between 1st January and 5th May 2019.

Santa Ana Lane (AUS, 124) moves into fourth spot. Santa Ana Lane previously was rated at 120, but improved to 124 off of his victory in the Aquis T J Smith Stakes (G1). He pulled away to a 3 ½-length victory in the sprint contest at Randwick.

Completing the top 5 is Happy Clapper (AUS, 123). From France, Waldgeist (GB, 122) joins the rankings after he won the Prix Ganay (G1) by 4 ½ lengths at ParisLongchamp in his first start of the year.

Additionally, a number of horses from around the world share the ninth position with a rating of 120. Australia’s Hartnell (GB) and South Africa’s Hawwaam both improved to 120 off of previous ratings of 119, while Magical (IRE) joins the rankings after she easily took the Alleged Stakes (G3) in Ireland.

In the United States, Maximum Security (USA, 120) is ranked off of his effort in the Kentucky Derby (G1). The same weekend at Churchill Downs, Mckinzie (USA, 120) won the Alysheba Stakes presented by Sentient Jet (G2) by 4 ¾ lengths, and Mitole (USA, 120) took the Churchill Downs Stakes presented by Twinspires.com (G1) by 3 ½ lengths.

Meanwhile, in Hong Kong, Win Bright (JPN, 120) proved victorious in the FWD Queen Elizabeth II Cup (G1) over Exultant (IRE, 120).

The Longines World’s Best Racehorse Rankings are compiled by the LONGINES World’s Best Racehorse Rankings Committee and published by the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA).

After his heroic performance in the Premier’s Champions Challenge on Champions Day at Turffontein, Hawwaam now also tops the log of stake winners for this season in South Africa. The Hamdan Al Maktoum-owned colt has earned R4,378,125 in his six runs this season, with five victories and a second place.

He is followed by Cirillo (R4,150,000), Rainbow Bridge (R3,370,000) and One World (R3,065,625).
Many people wonder what happens to racehorses in South Africa when they are no longer able to compete. The well-bred entires (ungelded male horses) who have done well in racing go on to perform stallion duties at stud. The same is true for many fillies and mares who have good bloodlines, often irrespective of how well they did on the track. But many male horses are gelded and if they cannot produce on the track, they get sold. Some go to riding schools and find a second life in showjumping. The 2013 winner of the Premier’s Champion Challenge at Turffontein, Heavy Metal, is one of those. Following that victory, he moved on to contest the Vodacom Durban July at Greyville and made history when he beat Run For It by a neck, making S’manga Khumalo the first black jockey to win South Africa’s premier race. As a gelding, the son of champion sire Silvano had no future at stud, so his connections decided to try him on the international stage and sent him to Dubai. He raced there three times but, sadly, could not replicate his excellent South African form. Heavy Metal returned to South Africa where he raced eight more times but the best he could do was run fourth on three occasions. As he was already...
seven years old, Heavy Metal was retired and sent to a stable in Kyalami.
A year later, Amy Coxon Gilliatt was in Johannesburg to participate in the South African Showjumping Championships and won the eventing title.
“My mom met his owner. He asked us to have a look at Heavy Metal because he felt he still had so much more to give.
“I went to the yard and got on him. He had only been ridden a couple of times in the indoor arena and had not done a jump in his life. So I took him over a small jump and he did it easily. He was so calm about it. He did so well,” said Coxon Gilliatt.
They were so impressed with his whole demeanour that they decided to take him.
Coxon Gilliatt, 17, is currently a Grade 11 pupil at St Anne’s Diocesan College in Hilton, just outside Pietermaritzburg, where she is boarder.
“I have been riding since I was about seven and have two horses. I love riding. My main discipline is eventing.”
Having a former Durban July winner as one of her horses has attracted far more attention than Coxon Gilliatt ever imagined.
“It’s surprising how many people have bet on him. Even all the grooms know who he is because S’manga was the first black jockey to win the July.”
One of the common practices of showjumpers is to give their horses a nickname. But not Heavy Metal. “He hasn’t been nicknamed because if we did, he’d just be another horse. Everybody just knows him as Heavy Metal.”
Coxon Gilliatt admits he did come to them a little later than most horses and, while he is good jumper, he has not taken that well to the other disciplines. “He’s probably too old for eventing as he is now 10. For showjumping he’s a good age.
“He came to us with no training at all but when I teach him new things, he is really intelligent.”
There is still much of the old racehorse left in this former champion of the turf. “He is a little tricky when it comes to competition. A lot of thoroughbreds are taught to run but now he has to concentrate on other things and that took him a long time.
“Most racehorses who move to showjumping stop racing when they are three or four. He raced a lot longer and had a lot of adrenalin going into a race. But now he concentrates and performs when he has to.
“But he does have a wonderful temperament. He is so calm. When he sleeps you can lie down next to him and he is very relaxed.”
Coxon Gilliatt points out that many racehorses move into other sports. “Thoroughbred horses do well in another events. Lots move into polo or polocrosse. “We have four ex-racehorses and we really love them. My sister is the highest-ranked junior and she also rides thoroughbreds.
“Warmbloods are heavier and harder to get fit.”
Pocket Power, winner of the Durban July, the Met in Cape Town and four Queen’s Plates, was another who changed to showjumping after retiring, but it did take his new riders a while to get used to his quirky habits.
English Garden – winner of the Grade 1 SA Classic and, like Pocket Power, also trained by Mike Bass in Cape Town – has also performed remarkably well as a showjumper.
Work riders were given centre stage at Turffontein’s Standside track on Saturday afternoon and Joe Gwingwizha – with an impressive 116 points – left the arena grinning from ear-to-ear after winning the Work Riders’ Challenge and taking home R20 000 in cash! The Challenge sees work riders compete on three race days annually for prize money totalling R50 000.

Gwingwizha had a rather comfortable lead coming into the last leg of the competition with 82 points, his closest rival Charles Ndlovu (67 points) needing to make up 15 points. But Gwingwizha gave him absolutely no chance, riding a runaway four-length winner in tote favourite Slay The Dragon, three seconds and a third. The competition rules are very simple, this is a point-based contest where whoever rides a winner gets 10 points, runner-up gets 7, third 5 and fourth place 3. The winner of each of the three meetings receives R5 000 and the overall winner receives R20 000.

Phumelela, Racing Association and the Thoroughbred Horseracing Trust also rewards the work rider who finishes second with R10 000 and R5 000 for the rider who finishes third. If there were a man of the match accolade in horseracing, it would have easily gone to Samuel Mosia on the day.

He had only 47 points coming into this last leg, but an impressive three winners, close-up 0.05-length second aboard Royal Pursuit and a third saw him conclude the challenge with 92 points. Ndlovu was third on 82.

Work rider Joe gets the dough

BIG PAYDAY. Work rider Joe Gwingwizha receives his cheque for R20,000 for winning the Work Riders’ Challenge from James Maree. Picture: JC Photographics
With less than three months to go in the current racing season, Muzi Yeni is leading the charge in the race to be crowned Champion Jockey.

The man with the contagious smile has not only recorded the most victories this season (163), but he is also the jockey who has saddled up the most runners at 1367.

Defending champion Lyle Hewitson is currently in second place with 157 winners from 1070 runners.

Hewitson has shot up the rankings after missing almost two months at the start of the season due to injury and then spending five days in Singapore competing in the International Jockey Challenge with Yeni and Aldo Domeyer the other members of Team SA.

In third place is Anton Marcus with 155 wins from 513 races while Gavin Lerena is in fourth, having ridden 139 winners in 542 races.

Although not quite in the running to win this year’s Championship Jockey Title, Richard Fourie is the highest ranked South African jockey on the current Longines World’s Best Jockey rankings with 18 points.

The Longines World’s Best Jockey award is given annually to the jockey who earns the most points in the 100 highest-rated Group 1 and Grade 1 races as established for the year by the Longines World’s Best Racehorse Rankings Committee. The scoring incorporates races from 1 December of the previous year until 30th November of the current year. Jockeys are assigned points riding the 1st, 2nd and 3rd horses.

Topping this ranking is Australian Hugh Bowman with 80 points, followed by Zac Purton on 76 and Joao Moreira on 50.

Frenchman Christophe Patrice Lemaire is inn fourth position on 40 points while Karis Teetan completes the top 5 with 24 points.

Other jockeys making the top 60 so far include Anton Marcus (12 points), Barend Vorster (12), Bernard Rene Fay d’Herbe (4) and Keagan Dion De Melo(4).

There’s a new tipster in town, and judging by his early form, he could be the one to follow.
His name is Futsolo and he is the face of Artificial Intelligence.
Futsolo is a dedicated Premier Futsal League tipster who provides free selections for the loyal customers on a daily basis, and he does this for every single game.
Created by SPORTSLIVE, the new in-house television channel which broadcasts daily in all TAB and Betting World shops in Gauteng and North West, Futsolo has already made quite a name for himself.
In the month of April alone, Futsolo correctly predicted the outcome of 133 of the 189 futsal games played. Pretty impressive.
Most people bet with emotion, wagering some cash on their favourite soccer team or even their favourite players. The beauty of Futsolo is that he eliminates emotion and only follows the in-form teams.
He is a tipping engine – basically a machine – who predicts the future by dissecting past match results, and only after this is thoroughly dissected, does he decide who the best teams to follow are, on form.
One lucky Futsal punter recently won R29,264 playing Futsal and now that you have Futsolo in your arsenal, you could be the next big winner.
For the tenth consecutive year, Port Elizabeth trainers could not break the grip Western Cape raiders have on the World Sports Betting East Cape Derby (Listed) over 2400 meters at Fairview, but once again they gave a good account of themselves. The race was won by Brett Crawford’s St Vladimir (87-20) with Corne Orffer in the saddle. PE runners Drop Kick (18-1) and Just Chaos (30-1) finished second and third respectively.

The big favourite and talk of the town, Cedar Man from the Greg Ennion yard, ran a poor race with Gavin Lerena in the saddle, finishing in fifth, 6.05 lengths behind the winner.

It was St Vladimir’s fourth win from eight starts, but he had to pull out all the stops as Drop Kick (Chase Maujean) became a big runner with 250m to go. Drop Kick gave it his all, but was beaten by 1.50 lengths.

Just Chaos, the only filly in the race, was in the same boat with her betting dropping from 16-1 to 30-1 while many believed she could be the surprise package of the race.

Just Chaos, who had Louie Mxothwa in the irons for the inform Sharon Kotzen yard, also proved bookmakers wrong when she finished 1.55 lengths behind St Vladimir.
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