

## MIDNIGHT SERENADE & VARIOMETER TAKE JUVENILE HONOURS

Turffontein's Saturday meeting featured two listed events for juveniles, the Storm Bird Stakes and Ruffian Stakes for males and females respectively, both over 1000m.

The Storm Bird went to Midnight Serenade who quickened up nicely when it mattered to dispose of favourite Carlito Brigante with Astro News and Top Of The Chocs in the minor placings.

Midnight Serenade was always prominent, tracking early leader Dawn Light with Tony's Tipple, Astro News, Top Of The Chocs and Carlito Brigante next best.

Dawn Light and Midnight Serenade continued to dispute the lead up until the furlong mark at which point the former weakened, leaving Midnight Serenade a clear leader on the outside. Carlito Brigante was shaken up to go after him but although he made some late progress to the inside, he never really looked like getting on terms.

The winner looks like a smart sort in the making, having been up with the pace throughout and still finding another gear when the pressure was on. There should be a lot more to come from him.

Carlito Brigante was second best on the day but was not disgraced as he was conceding 2kg to the winner. He appeared to take a while to get going and may well be looking for an extra furlong or so.

The Ruffian Stakes was a start-to-finish affair for Variometer who was soon in the vanguard and never relinquished her lead. Midnight Dragon and Jica Action were also prominent early on with Hidden Beauty a couple of lengths off the pace with Extraordinaire and Kinematic Countess further back.

Variometer continued to roll entering the final 200 m as Hidden Beauty tried to make inroads to her inside and Kinematic Countess started to find her feet. However, Variometer kept finding and won comfortably enough in the end, with Kinematic Countess shading Hidden Beauty for second and Extraordinaire completing the quartet.

Jockey Deon Sampson and trainer Louis Goosen (pictured) were reprising their victory with Waywest Goddess in this event last and Variometer certainly seems in a similar mould, having early speed to burn and showing a good kick at the business end.

