HOLLYWOOD bets DURBAN JULY
AFRICA'S GREATEST HORSE RACING AND SOCIAL EVENT
SATURDAY 4 JULY 2026
HOLLYWOODBETS GREYVILLE
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It's all building towards a spectacular day on July 4

THE past week has seen some big choices for the Hollywoodbets Durban July – both for the on-course hopefuls looking to claim the record purse on July 4, and for the aspiring track-side fashionistas wanting to make their mark in the Young Designer Award competition.

After a game-changing few weeks of high quality racing action, the highly anticipated second official log for the R10-million 2026 Hollywoodbets Gr 1 Durban July has been published.

While an initial 63 entries were received for the 2200m contest on April 20, the landscape has altered dramatically in the ensuing weeks – with some new names stepping into the picture for the big race.

After nine scratchings and with two supplementary entries in the shape of last weekend's feature winners Zeitz and Aladdin's Lamp, at the second declaration stage on Monday a total of 29 thoroughbreds remain in the mix for the July 4 showdown.

The Hollywoodbets Durban July log functions as the official ranking tool used to determine which horses are most likely to be selected for the prestigious race.

It is compiled by Race Coast's five-man panel in consultation with the handicappers, with the top 20 horses listed in order of preference, reflecting their likelihood of selection at the time of publication. The remaining nine entries are shown below the top 20 in alphabetical order. A final field of 20 – including two reserve runners – will be announced on Tuesday, June 23.

On the fashion ramp, Saturday was a key day for the contestants in the Hollywoodbets Durban July Young Designer Award. The 25 semi-finalists' diverse interpretations of the theme were whittled down to the 10 finalists.

Held at Hollywoodbets Greyville Racecourse against the vibrant backdrop of the Hollywoodbets Gold Challenge, the semi-final judging once again blended the world of fashion and the "Country Allure" theme with exciting horse racing to create the perfect setting for South Africa's emerging design talent to shine.

Hollywoodbets Durban July Invited Designer and accomplished fashion designer in her own right, judge Sibu Msimang said selecting the final top 10 from the 25 semi-finalists proved exceptionally challenging due to the outstanding standard of work presented.

"I was incredibly impressed by the designers, some of whom had very interesting and unique interpretations of the theme. We saw exceptional garments and I was particularly impressed by how they translated their concepts and storyboards into finished creations," said Msimang.

For Umgungundlovu TVET College, the judging marked a particularly proud moment, with four students securing places in the coveted Top 10 – a first for any one institution.

"Our continued participation in the Hollywoodbets Durban July Young Designer Awards is something we strongly encourage and embrace at our institution for many reasons," said Martin Steenkamp, head lecturer in fashion and textiles at the college.

"This platform broadens our students' horizons and exposes them to the culture of the fashion industry, from established invited designers to fellow creatives. We are incredibly proud of our students. To have four in the Top 10 is truly remarkable – it is a real feather in our cap."

The 10 finalists in the Hollywoodbets Durban July Young Designer Award:

- Lungelo Cele (Esayidi Fashion School)
- Siphelele Ngcobo (Umgungundlovu TVET)
- Thato Selekane (DUT)
- Dalisu Vumase (iGoda Incubator)
- Kiyaan Pillay (PMB School of Fashion)
- Dumile Shozi (iGoda Incubator)
- Aphiwe Dlamini (Umgungundlovu TVET)
- Mandisa Matsinye (Umgungundlovu TVET)
- Nomfundo Mdlalose (Umgungundlovu TVET)
- Mlungisi Ndlovu (DUT)

All the fashion pillars of the Hollywoodbets Durban July will come together on June 26 designers in the Hollywoodbets Durban July Invited Designer Showcase presented by Durban Fashion Fair, DFF Rising Stars Collection and Young Designer Award show off their creations.

And then everything culminates on July 4 when these three design elements combine with the raceday fashion competitions as well as the on-course excitement in an explosive display of creativity, innovation, style and fast-paced sporting action.

ELEGANT ALLURE: Mzwandile Mathonsi (centre) has gone for "country with a modern twist" as his interpretation of Hollywoodbets Durban July's Country Allure theme for the Invited Designer Showcase. Modelling his outfits are Pammy Mdlalose (top), Cebile Hlela (left) and Pamela Chapeta (right). | Sean Laurenz / Race Coast

LABEL: ZWANDYY

ZWANDYY has become one of Durban's exciting rising fashion brands, driven by the creativity and determination of designer Mzwandile Mathonsi. Hailing from KwaMashu, his passion for fashion began at an early age while watching his grandmother sew on her old machine.

He spent his childhood sketching outfit ideas and dreaming of one day building his own label.

Although he briefly studied business management after school, Mathonsi soon realised his true calling lay in fashion. He later received hands-on mentorship from renowned designer Buhle Bethu, who helped sharpen his skills and industry knowledge.

In 2014 he joined one of Durban Fashion Fair's first mentorship programmes, before being selected for an international fashion experience in Italy a year later. Today, the award-winning designer is the reigning Durban Designer of the Year and has showcased collections at both Namibia Fashion Week and London Fashion Week.

MY COUNTRY ALLURE INSPIRATION:

"As per this year's theme, I was inspired by my icon Dolly Parton, a musician I grew up listening to and love.

"Her dress style is country with a modern twist. I also incorporated the view of county landscapes with the greens and browns of mountains and horses."

Instagram @Zwandyy08closet
Tiktok @Zwandyy

HOLLYWOODbets DURBAN JULY

LOG AS OF 09 JUNE 2026

1	STAR MAJOR	(3C)	James Crawford	122
2	WISH LIST	(3F)	Justin Snaith	117
3	MOCHA BLEND	(4F)	Frank Robinson	117
4	HAZY DAZY	(3F)	Corne Spies	117
5	LEGAL COUNSEL	(4G)	Justin Snaith	128
6	GLADATORIAN	(6G)	Stuart Ferrie	127
7	NOTE TO SELF	(3G)	Justin Snaith	118
8	HAPPY VERSE	(3G)	Justin Snaith	119
9	KING PELLES	(5G)	Gareth van Zyl	122
10	NATIVE RULER	(4G)	Justin Snaith	121
11	VIVA'S LIBERTE	(3G)	Candice Bass	114
12	THE ULTIMATE KING	(4G)	Tony Peter	117
13	ZEITZ	(4G)	Andre Nel	110
14	OLIVIA'S WAY	(4F)	Roy Magner	114
15	I SALUTE YOU	(4G)	Peter Muscutt	113
16	ISIVIVANE	(4G)	Peter Muscutt	108
17	CHOISAANADA	(4G)	Erico Verdonese	121
18	MINOGUE	(5M)	Candice / Tammy Dawson	116
19	ALADDIN'S LAMP	(5G)	Mike / Mathew de Kock	110
20	REGULATION	(4G)	Justin Snaith	106

NEXT 9 IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

CHRONICLE KING	(3C)	Candice / Tammy Dawson	115
COPPER EAGLE	(3G)	Robyn Klaasen	110
CURIOUS GIRL	(3F)	Mike / Mathew de Kock	100
ENFLAME	(4G)	Candice / Tammy Dawson	112
FIELD MARSHAL	(4G)	Nathan Kotzen	110
HOLDING THUMBS	(5G)	Glen Kotzen	119
LA PULGA	(4G)	Candice Bass	105
SHOOT THE RAPIDS	(5G)	Nathan Kotzen	117
TENPENNY	(4G)	Patrick Kruyer	105

#HDJ2026

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AFRICA'S GREATEST HORSE RACING AND SOCIAL EVENT
SATURDAY 4 JULY 2026
FOUR FASHION EVENTS
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INVITED DESIGNER SHOWCASE
YOUNG DESIGNER AWARD