

RACE BY RACE PREVIEWS: VAAL CLASSIC@2026.02.10

Vaal Classic, 10.02.2026, Race 1, Gallops, 2000m, Turf, R150.000, 11:40GMT+2

Race Summary: ARISTOTLE stayed on gamely from a handy position to win an 1800m Listed race last time. He is 6kg worse off with BAKWENA but is more likely to appreciate this extended trip than that rival. The latter is the best-weighted runner in the race and the removal of the blinkers should help her see out the extra 400m. Consistent KUDZU and rating-dropper CHESTNUT BOMBER complete the shortlist.

Selections:

#1 Aristotle, #6 Bakwena, #3 Kudzu, #4 Chestnut Bomber

Vaal Classic, 10.02.2026, Race 2, Gallops, 1000m, Turf, R105.000, 12:15GMT+2

Race Summary: SLENDER SILHOUETTE has been sparingly raced as a 3yo but she won't need to improve much after a 14-week absence to make a winning reappearance. EL ZANI will likely fight out the finish with natural improvement expected after a promising debut 2nd over track and trip. MASTER'S LADY wouldn't be winning out of turn and her rider's 4kg allowance will aid her cause. MYSTICAL BUTTERFLY and stablemate ELEGANT EDGE had excuses for disappointing recent performances, and they could make their presence felt if bouncing back to earlier form.

Selections:

#1 Slender Silhouette, #5 El Zani, #3 Master's Lady, #4 Elegant Edge

Vaal Classic, 10.02.2026, Race 3, Gallops, 1000m, Turf, R120.000, 12:50GMT+2

Race Summary: KING REDOUTE was fancied on debut but showed signs of inexperience. He would have benefitted from that outing so should improve to play a leading role. KAMBATI and POWER OF TIGER have the means to pose a threat, especially with improvement expected of them in first-time blinkers. JAWBREAKER and MRS STORMIATRIX appeal most of the remainder.

Selections:

#4 King Redoute, #6 Power Of Tiger, #1 Kambati, #5 Mrs Stormiatrix

Vaal Classic, 10.02.2026, Race 4, Gallops, 1000m, Turf, R130.000, 13:25GMT+2

Race Summary: UMZINGELI WENYATHI won on the Polytrack in KZN recently and is engaged to run there before this, so his participation has to be monitored. CHAPBOOK won a similar contest over this trip with blinkers fitted last month so it wouldn't come as a surprise were he to play another leading role under similar conditions. AFRICAN PRIDE and TRAJANUS are held on that form but better off at the weights, therefore they should have a say in the outcome. Fillies ALPINE JET and versatile AQUARIUS aren't taken lightly.

Selections:

#3 Trajanus, #1 Umzingeli Wenyathi, #4 Chapbook, #2 African Pride

Vaal Classic, 10.02.2026, Race 5, Gallops, 1000m, Turf, R125.000, 14:00GMT+2

Race Summary: CAROLINE ISLAND finished 2nd over track and trip at a higher level last time, albeit against same-sex opposition, and a repeat of that effort off a slightly higher mark could suffice in this grade. Well-bred STONEYWOOD is progressive and likely to remain competitive on his post-maiden debut, even over a shorter trip. Returning PIVOTAL ROLE impressed when winning a course-and-distance maiden and is open to any amount of improvement after a subsequent absence. Hard-knockers KIA KAHA and HIS LORDSHIP also have the means to stake a claim. SAKETINI continues to improve and can have a say too.

Selections:

#1 Caroline Island, #6 Stoneywood, #8 Pivotal Role, #9 Kia Kaha

Vaal Classic, 10.02.2026, Race 6, Gallops, 1200m, Turf, R135.000, 14:35GMT+2

Race Summary: Highly rated STORMY DAY blotted her copybook on a rain-affected track in a 1400m Grade 3 when last seen but she could be worth another chance reverting to a sprint trip after a subsequent break. PERFECT MIRACLE bounced back to form with a good 4th in a 1200m Listed race last time and a repeat of that performance off a reduced mark should put her right in the mix. However, a chance is taken on older rival TUSCAN ROMANCE who gets weight from those 3yo rivals. The latter has thrived on the Highveld and is unbeaten over track and trip. THERE SHE GOES is in good heart so isn't taken lightly either.

Selections:

#4 Tuscan Romance, #3 Stormy Day, #5 There She Goes, #2 Perfect Miracle

Vaal Classic, 10.02.2026, Race 7, Gallops, 1200m, Turf, R105.000, 15:10GMT+2

Race Summary: SEASON'S GREETINGS ran well to finish 3rd in a Listed race over this trip last time and a 3-point rise for the effort isn't likely to prevent another forward showing. She is held on earlier 1000m form by PLUMBAGO PARK who should also remain competitive on current form. Class-dropper MISS NOVAX will appreciate reverting to 1200m off a lower mark, so she should make her presence felt too in her peak outing. However, it could pay to follow the progress of unexposed LOVABLE who is open to any amount of improvement off a lenient opening mark.

Selections:

#7 Lovable, #4 Plumbago Park, #3 Season's Greetings, #2 Miss Novax

Vaal Classic, 10.02.2026, Race 8, Gallops, 2400m, Turf, R110.000, 15:45GMT+2

Race Summary: Cases can be made for most of these familiar foes, though none appeals more than hat-trick-seeking CARTAGENA who won a similar course-and-distance event last time. She renews rivalry with COPPER PLATE, ARLINGTON ACTION, CHABAL and NUCLEAR FORCE and is weighted to confirm her superiority. Maturing stayers COPPER CLIFF and recent maiden scorer CULTURATI aren't underestimated, nor is BELLEROPHON who could have more to offer over this extended trip. MAJALUN and EUPHRATES have earning potential too over this distance.

Selections:

#7 Cartagena, #1 Arlington Action, #10 Euphrates, #4 Chabal

Vaal Classic, 10.02.2026, Race 9, Gallops, 1800m, Turf, R100.000, 16:20GMT+2

Race Summary: JAFFA was heavily supported but too far out of his ground when a fast-finishing 3rd over 1700m last time. On that evidence, this extended trip should unlock the improvement needed to resume winning ways. Hard-knockers STORM AHEAD, UNSOLVED RIDDLE and PEACE TREATY have both the form and experience at this level to pose a threat. Lightly raced FORCE PUBLIQUE could also have more to offer over this distance, while recent maiden winner NARETOI may be leniently treated off his current mark on handicap debut. Class-dropper STEP INTO IT is dangerous to discount in his peak outing off a reduced mark.

Selections:

#6 Jaffa, #5 Force Publique, #8 Step Into It, #2 Redlightgreenlight

Vaal Classic, 10.02.2026, Race 10, Gallops, 1450m, Turf, R80.000, 16:55GMT+2

Race Summary: NORTHERN KITTEN won at a higher level last time so should remain competitive in

this grade under a 5-point penalty. Last-start winner GOLDEN ASPEN and in-form CAN'T CATCH ME are closely matched on recent form and both have the means to play leading roles too. PEARL IN HER CROWN, SPIRITED GIRL and CONCORDIA will likely make their presence felt too, if building on improved recent efforts.

Selections:

#2 Northern Kitten, #9 Can'T Catch Me, #5 Golden Aspen, #8 Spirited Girl

Best Win: #6 JAFFA

Best Value Bet: #7 CARTAGENA

Best Longshot: #7 CARTAGENA