



ARAPAHOE PARK

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ARAPAHOE ARABIANS PROMINENT IN DARLEY AWARD NOMINATIONS

Aurora, CO (February 19, 2014) – The nominations for the 27th annual Darley Awards honoring the top Arabian racehorses from 2013 are filled with faces that will be familiar to Arapahoe Park fans. The winners of every Arapahoe Park stakes for Arabians last year received a nomination. So Big Is Better, the winner of the Crow Valley Ranch Classic in August 2013, is up for horse of the year and top older horse. Mahra T, who captured the Soaring Eagle Ranch Distaff by 13 3/4 lengths in August and the COBRA Sprint in June in a 6-furlong track-record time, is nominated for top 4-year-old filly. Ms Dixie, victorious in the COBRA Distaff Sprint in June, received a nomination for top older mare. A total of seven nominees—also including Sand On Fire (4-year-old filly), Ttt Tiny Tina (4-year-old filly), Dc Willeys Song (older mare), and Lil Rich Girl (older mare)—raced at Arapahoe Park in 2013.

Scott Powell, the leading Arabian trainer at Arapahoe Park in 2013, is nominated for trainer of the year. The Quarter Moon Ranch of Lori Long and Powell, the leading Arabian owner at Arapahoe Park in 2013, is nominated for owner of the year. Organized by the Arabian Racing Cup and sponsored by HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Flat Racing Festival, the Darley Awards will be presented at a Hollywood-themed awards dinner on April 4 at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, California.

So Big Is Better retired at the age of 9 in November 2013 with a victory in the \$150,000 Grade 1 President of the United Arab Emirates Cup over 1 1/16 miles at Santa Anita in California by 7 1/4 lengths. That victory came in the first ever Arabian race held on the Breeders' Cup card against some of the best Arabians in the world. At Arapahoe, So Big Is Better won the 1 1/4-mile, \$25,000 Grade 3 Crow Valley Ranch Classic by 4 1/4 lengths.

“He’s travelled from the West Coast to the East Coast, and he’s won in most of his venues,” said Powell, who trained So Big Is Better at the end of the year, while his brother Mark conditioned the horse at Arapahoe. “We’re probably never going to equal it.”

Mahra T capped a breakout 2013 season at Arapahoe Park with a 13 3/4-length domination of the 1 1/8-mile, \$25,000 Grade 3 Soaring Eagle Ranch Distaff. Owned by the Quarter Moon Ranch and trained by Powell, she came to Arapahoe Park as a maiden and won four races last season, including a track-record performance in the 6-furlong, \$20,000 COBRA Sprint.

“Bless her heart because when I had her in Delaware [at the beginning of 2013] she always had these little things going on, and it just took me forever to go forward,” Powell said. “What a great horse. She’s retired as a broodmare. We’re breeding her overseas with the best of the best, and in the future we’re going to have some great horses coming.”

Quarter Moon Ranch stablemate Ms Dixie, the winner of Arapahoe's 6-furlong, \$20,000 COBRA Distaff Sprint in 2013, won the Darley Award for top 4-year-old filly last year. So Big Is Better is also a reigning Darley Award champion in the older horse division.

"Ms Dixie—her best year is coming," Powell said after this year's nominations were announced. "She's training better than ever now."

Among other Arapahoe Park-based horses nominated for the Darley Awards, Ttt Tiny Tina, up for top 4-year-old filly, ran more than any other horse at Arapahoe last season. Ttt Tiny Tina made nine starts at the Aurora, Colorado racecourse for owner and trainer Kenny Massey. She won two races at Arapahoe Park and then re-rallied for victory in the 6-furlong Arabian Derby at the Barretts Race Meet at Fairplex in California in September.

"Once we got to Arapahoe, she turned it on and kept getting better," Massey said. "The harder you push her, the better she gets."

In addition to the Darley Awards on April 4, Powell and Long said they will also get married in Southern California on April 3.