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### “ARAPAHOE INVADERS”

**Aurora, CO (September 17, 2015)** – Arabian horses who raced in Colorado at Arapahoe Park during the summer have traveled around the country to win some of the biggest national races. In one month since the end of Arapahoe Park’s 2015 season, So Big Is Better won the \$50,000 Grade 1 Delaware Park Arabian Classic on September 12, Dc Willeys Song ran away with the \$40,000 Grade 1 Buzz Brauning Arabiian Distaff at Delaware Park on September 5, and Paddys Day broke the track record at Retama Park in Texas for 1 1/16 miles in the \$20,000 Grade 3 Texas Arabian Derby on August 29.

“We have a deal now. We’re ‘Arapahoe invaders,’” said Travis Wales, the Arapahoe-based jockey of Dc Willeys Song. “That’s what the announcer [at Delaware Park] said. It’s a plug for our track.”

So Big Is Better, the 2013 Darley Award winner as the Arabian Horse of the Year in the United States, continues to defy Father Time as an 11-year-old horse winning Grade 1 races. The gray owned and trained by Mark Powell stalked the pace in the 1 1/4-mile Delaware Park Arabian Classic before taking charge at the top of the stretch and pulling away for a three-length win under jockey Robert Paz.

“I thought it was incredible that he shipped from Arapahoe and going that distance, sat back there, and took off,” Powell said about his stable star who retired after his 2013 Horse of the Year campaign and returned to racing in 2015. “It kind of reminded me of how he won at the [2013] Breeders’ Cup. I’m pretty happy with him, especially being 11-years-old. He’s starting to get back in his form. With that long layoff, it’s taken that long to get back in his old form.”

Groom Maranda Rose painted “Age Don’t Matter” and “Big Is Better” on the horse’s hips because “he was older than the other horses and had a lot of class,” she said.

In Delaware Park’s Grade 1 race for female horses, jockey Wales flashed his same “silence-the-crowd” celebration aboard Dc Willeys Song before the finish line that he also used when the mare won the COBRA Distaff Sponsored by Soaring Eagle Ranch at Arapahoe Park on August 15. In Delaware, Dc Willeys Song, who is owned by Jon Henningsgard, dominated the 1 1/8-mile race by 10 1/2 lengths.

“I think the accomplishment beating these horses on their home turf says something,” Wales said. “We went against the norm. It was really fun because we’re all on the same team out here, kind of out of our element.”

Paddys Day, the winner of the 2015 COBRA Classic Sponsored by Crow Valley Ranch and the Jerry Partin COBRA Sprint Sponsored by Quarter Moon Ranch, eclipsed a nine-year-old Retama Park track record for 1 1/16 miles in a two-length win in the Texas Arabian Derby in 1:55.70. The previous record was 1:56.59 by Tour De France in the 2006 Texas Arabian Derby. Paddys Day is owned by the Quarter Moon Ranch of Lori Powell, husband trainer Scott Powell, Jim Schleimer, and Nicki Forbes Robinson and was ridden by Kelsi Purcell.

The victories by Paddys Day and Dc Willey Song put both horses over the \$100,000 mark in career earnings. Paddys Day and So Big Is Better have traveled to Southern California to race at Los Alamitos Race Course on Saturday in the Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Cup, the third leg of the new Arabian Triple Jewel series.

“It used to be that Delaware was the best horses,” Mark Powell said, “but Arapahoe Park is changing very fast and producing some of the best horses in America.