



ARAPAHOE PARK

JONATHAN HOROWITZ: Twitter @jjhorowitz / (949) 246-7075 / jjhorowitz@gmail.com

ARAPAHOE PARK RELEASES 2014 STAKES SCHEDULE

Aurora, CO (March 5, 2014) – The purse of the Arapahoe Park Classic has been doubled to \$100,000, and Arapahoe Park will host two \$100,000 stakes races for Thoroughbreds in 2014. The Aurora, Colorado racecourse will also conduct a six-figure Quarter Horse futurity and four graded races for Arabians when its 39-day season begins on May 24. Total purses for 38 stakes races for Thoroughbreds, Quarter Horses, and Arabians will be \$1.6 million.

Because of an increase in wagering handle in 2013, Arapahoe Park hiked the purse of the 1 1/8-mile Arapahoe Park Classic for 3-year-olds and up to its richest level right before last year's running. This year, the race has been moved to August 16. The \$100,000 Gold Rush Futurity for 2-year-olds at 6 furlongs will take place on closing day, August 17. Prior to last year's last-minute increase, the last time Arapahoe Park contested two six-figure Thoroughbred stakes races was 1999.

“We’re excited to offer a richer stakes schedule than we have in the past,” Arapahoe Park plant manager and racing secretary Bill Powers said. “Hopefully having two \$100,000 Thoroughbred races to aim for will attract some new horsemen to race at Arapahoe Park and new fans to follow our races.”

The richest stakes race for Quarter Horses will be the \$130,000 estimated Mile High Futurity at 400 yards for 2-year-olds on August 17. The \$75,000 estimated Mile High Derby at 400 yards for 3-year-olds is scheduled for August 16. Arapahoe Park will also hold qualifying races for the American Quarter Horse Association's Adequan Derby Challenge on June 7 and Merial Distaff Challenge on July 5. The winners those races will advance to the Bank of America Challenge Championships at Prairie Meadows in Iowa on October 18. Three stakes—the Izyk 870, American Flyer, and RMQHA Championship—will be part of the AQHA's Bonus Challenge program for the first time in 2014.

For Arabians, the COBRA Distaff Sprint on June 15 for fillies and mares and the COBRA Sprint on June 22—both \$20,000 stakes races over 6 furlongs—have received Grade 3 status from the Arabian Jockey Club for 2014. They join the 1 1/8-mile, \$25,000 COBRA Distaff Sponsored by Soaring Eagle Ranch on August 16 and the 1 1/4-mile, \$25,000 COBRA Classic Sponsored by Crow Valley on August 17 as Grade 3 stakes races expected to attract some of the best Arabians in the country. New to the Arabian schedule in 2014 will be three races that are part of the Wathba Stud Farm Cup series that takes place in nine countries around the world.

Arapahoe Park is coming off four straight seasons of posting increases in wagering handle. Racing will take place at Arapahoe Park in 2014 from May 24 to August 17 on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, as well as Memorial Day Monday. Post time for the first race each day will be at 1 p.m.