

CANTERBURY PARK

1100 Canterbury Road Shakopee, MN 55379

Wagering Increases As Canterbury Park Closes 2013 Season

Mac Robertson wins ninth training title, sets single-season earnings record

For Immediate Release:

Saturday, September 14, 2013

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Shakopee, MN -- Canterbury Park's 69-day racing season, the longest since 2006, concluded today with gains in average handle and attendance. Off-track wagering, dollars bet on Canterbury races at other tracks and through internet sites, increased by 46.7 percent while average daily on-track wagering was up 4.8 percent. Average daily attendance was 6,656, a Canterbury Park record.

"We set a couple of goals this season," Canterbury Park CEO Randy Sampson said. "First, we wanted to improve the quality of our racing product by attracting new stables and more horses. We knew if that happened we could accomplish our second goal which was to increase our national exposure and wagering handle."

Canterbury's races were broadcast by TVG, a national horse racing television network, on Thursdays and Fridays. Total off-track wagering on those nights increased by 80.3 percent. Average field size, 8.36 starters per race, was up this season as well which aided the wagering increase. The quality and depth of those fields also improved, witnessed by favorites winning at a 35 percent rate compared to 45 percent last year.

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For the first time since 1991, Canterbury's 1,600 stalls were filled by racehorses as several new trainers tried the Shakopee, MN racetrack for the first time. Purses this season were more than double what they were in 2011 due to a joint purse enhancement and marketing agreement signed in June of 2012 with the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community. The agreement will add \$75 million to horsemen purses over the life of the 10-year deal. A record of \$12,453,268 in purse money was paid this season.

The increased purses attracted Midwest Thoroughbreds Inc., the leading owners in the nation for the past three years, to Canterbury for the first time. Their stable was handled by trainer Roger Brueggemann who won 28 races making Midwest Thoroughbreds the meet's leading owner.

"This year was a great step toward what we hope to accomplish with our live racing," Sampson said. "Prominent horsemen find our purse structure attractive and horseplayers across the country are taking notice as well."

Mac Robertson won his ninth consecutive training title with 51 victories. He set a single-season earnings record of \$1,340,429.

Dean Butler won the riding title for the fourth time. He finished the season with 67 wins, two more than Alex Canchari.

Heliskier was voted Horse of the Year for the second consecutive season. The 4-year-old Minnesota-bred gelding won three of five starts including the \$50,000 10,000 Lakes Stakes and the \$55,000 Crocrock Minnesota Sprint Championship. Heliskier is owned by Marlene Colvin of Ethan, SD and is trained by Robertson. Heliskier also earned divisional titles in the categories of Sprinter and Older Horse.

Stacy Charette-Hill won the quarter horse training title with 19 wins from 37 starts. Her starters finished in the top three at a 92 percent rate. Charette-Hill won Canterbury's two most prestigious quarter horse races, the \$54,100 Canterbury Park Quarter Horse Derby and the \$133,525 Mystic Lake Northlands Futurity. Jorge Torres was the leading quarter horse jockey with 20 wins. Brenda Reiswig of Bismarck, N.D. repeated as leading quarter horse owner with eight wins. Stone Cottrell, winner of the Skip Zimmerman and Dash In A Flash Stakes, was named quarter horse of the meet. He is trained by Charette-Hill.

Canterbury's 2013 divisional champions:

- Horse of the Year Heliskier (owner: Marlene Colvin; trainer: Mac Robertson)
- Sprinter Heliskier (owner: Marlene Colvin; trainer: Mac Robertson)
- Older Horse Heliskier (owner: Marlene Colvin; trainer: Mac Robertson)
- Three-Year-Old Colt or Gelding Dorsett (owner: Terry Hamilton; trainer: Michael Stidham)
- Three-Year-Old Filly Badge of Glory (owner: Richard Bremer and Cheryl Sprick; trainer: Bernell Rhone)
- Grass Horse Dontrattlemycage (owner: Nicholas Raver; trainer: Nevada Litfin)
- Older Filly or Mare Second Street City (owner: Al and Bill Ulwelling; trainer: Gary Scherer)
- Two-Year-Old Appeal to the King (owner: Wayne Simon; trainer: Robert Johnson)
- Claimer Machorina (owner: Emerald Bay Stables; trainer: Michael Biehler)
- Quarter Horse Stone Cottrell (owner: Terry Riddle; trainer: Stacy Charette-Hill)