

## **CANTERBURY PARK**

1100 Canterbury Road Shakopee, MN 55379

## Lady Canterbury Stakes and Mystic Lake Mile Attract Full Fields

Saturday's 10-race program includes three stakes races

## For Immediate Release:

Thursday, July 11, 2013

Contact: Jeff Maday

Media Relations Manager

(952) 496-6408

jmaday@canterburypark.com

Shakopee, MN -- Saturday's 10-race program is both a slice of Canterbury Park history and a glimpse of the future as the Shakopee, MN track conducts the 21st edition of the \$100,000 Lady Canterbury Stakes and the 26th Canterbury Park Quarter Horse Derby along with a race new to the schedule, the \$125,000 Mystic Lake Mile.

The Lady Canterbury originated in 1986. It was the first race run over the turf course at what was then Canterbury Downs which opened in 1985. The winner was Sauna owned by Allen Paulson and Summa Stables and was ridden by Chris McCarron. The one-mile turf race continued to attract quality fillies and mares from across the country and achieved Grade 3 status in both 1990 and 1991.

The race was discontinued in 1992 and the racetrack closed following that season. Canterbury was purchased by Curtis and Randy Sampson and Dale Schenian in 1994 and taken public. Live racing returned the following year with the Lady Canterbury as the centerpiece of the stakes schedule. Go Go Jack won the 1995 Lady Canterbury in track record time of 1:33 2/5. That record still stands.

With pressure to increase overnight purses, management opted not to run the Lady Canterbury from 1999 through 2002.

This year's rendition attracted a field of 12 headlined by Grade 1 winner Hooh Why. The 7-year-old mare has earnings of more than \$1.2 million and will be ridden by Ronnie Allen Jr., a jockey who rode at Canterbury in the early years, winning 409 races.

The \$125,000 Mystic Lake Mile is an indicator of the importance of the cooperative purse enhancement agreement between Canterbury and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, owners of Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, reached in June of 2012. Due to the agreement, which will add \$75 million to the purse fund over the deal's 10-year span, purses have nearly doubled compared to 2011 and the stakes schedule has grown as well.

"The agreement with SMSC allows us to create new races like the Mystic Lake Mile and continue the tradition of the Lady Canterbury, but more importantly it revived racing in Minnesota," track president Randy Sampson said. "Breeders are back in business in this state. Our stable area is at capacity and field size is growing."

The Mystic Lake Mile has a field of 12 with graded stakes winner Mister Marti Gras drawing the rail. The 6-year-old is owned by Lothenbach Stables Inc.'s Bob Lothenbach of Eden Prairie, MN.

"Owners like Mr. Lothenbach used to race in Minnesota but moved their operations to other states with more lucrative purses," Sampson said. "Now, with the purse enhancement agreement in place they are looking to Minnesota again."

Ten 3-year-olds compete in the \$54,100 Canterbury Park Quarter Horse Derby including three from the barn of Stacy Charette-Hill. Charette-Hill has won 10 of 17 starts. Her horses finished first, second, third and fifth in last week's Mystic Lake Northlands Futurity. Hr Money Maker was the fastest qualifier in the derby trial races held June 29.

Post time Saturday is 1:30 pm. For more information visit <a href="www.canterburypark.com">www.canterburypark.com</a> .

###