



CANTERBURY PARK

1100 Canterbury Road
Shakopee, MN 55379

Live Horse Racing Begins At Canterbury Park May 4 and 5

70-day season runs through Sept. 15; Basset Hound races added to promotional schedule

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Shakopee, Minn. -- Canterbury Park's 70-day horse racing season begins May 4 and 5 and coincides with the 144th running of the Kentucky Derby from Churchill Downs, the most famous race in the U.S. that draws hundreds of thousands of fans to racetracks across the country to watch and wager on the 'most exciting two minutes in sports.' Canterbury Park is no exception. Last year, a crowd of more than 20,000 attended the races on the first Saturday in May. Kentucky Derby Day traditionally attracts more wagering dollars at the Shakopee, Minn. racetrack than any other.

Friday racing begins at 6:30 p.m. The Saturday, May 5, live program begins at 12:45 p.m. The Derby is scheduled to be run at 5:50 p.m. Advance wagering will be available beginning May 3.

"After a long winter everyone is ready to get outside and enjoy a day at the races," company president Randy Sampson said. "Long-time fans and those new to horse racing flock to the track on Kentucky Derby Day for a unique experience. Derby Day is a huge party at Canterbury Park." Sampson said. This season Canterbury is expected to pay a record \$15 million in purses. "We expect to see new trainers and jockeys here again this season," Sampson said. "The response to our racing program has been tremendous and the competition on the racetrack will reflect that."

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Weeknight racing in 2018 begins at 6:30 p.m. Racing on weekends and holidays will begin at 12:45 p.m. with a few exceptions. Saturdays, June 23 and August 25 will have 6:00 p.m. post times. The Tuesday, July 3 racing program will begin at 4:00 p.m. followed by the annual Fireworks Spectacular and live music at dusk.

Entertaining dog races have become a tradition at Canterbury Park with Corgis, Dachshunds, and Bulldogs drawing large crowds over the past several years. Those breeds, competing between horse races, return to Canterbury Park this summer along with the addition, by popular demand indicated through social media polling, of Basset Hounds on Aug. 18. Bulldogs race on Memorial Day, May 28, Wiener Dogs on July 28, while Corgis return June 30 with an encore performance July 4. The top 12 dogs from each of those days will race Labor Day, Sept. 3, for the Bark In The Park Championship.

“In addition to great horse racing, the added events we offer introduce people to Canterbury Park,” marketing director Shyla Howell said. “People unfamiliar with our sport might attend an event like Corgis & Cupcakes and realize that our venue is unique, friendly to families, and very entertaining. Canterbury Park then becomes an annual must-visit destination.”

Other promotions include Extreme Day, with camel, ostrich and zebra races, on July 14, and Indian Horse Relay, a daring display of bare back racing, Aug. 23 through 25. The entire promotional schedule can be found at www.canterburypark.com.

Sunday race days are again Pepsi Family Day and Thursdays are Buck Night with \$1 admission and \$2, \$3, and \$4 food and beverage specials.

In August, racing will be held on the first four Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and there will be no Sunday racing that month.

Race fans will notice a facelift to the north end of track level of the grandstand. New betting windows, concession stands redesigned for efficiency and variety, and a renovated indoor/outdoor bar will be completed in advance of opening day. These improvements are the initial stage of a multi-phase project intended to renovate much of the grandstand’s first level.

Big Thrill Factory will again operate a smaller version of its popular entertainment venue called “Little” Big Thrill Factory. The indoor-outdoor space, open on live racing days, offers an edited assortment of amusements for all ages including arcade games, miniature bowling, a wipeout trampoline, and new this year competitive axe throwing .

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General admission to Canterbury Park is \$7, with an additional charge for reserved seating. There are 11 designated Premium Days when general admission is \$9. Children 17 and under are admitted free. General parking is free. For additional information and to purchase tickets, call the Canterbury Box Office at (952) 445-7224 or visit www.canterburypark.com. The live race meet runs through Sept. 15.

Live Race Dates: May 4 through Sept. 15

Racing Days and Times

Thursdays beginning June 7 - 6:30 p.m.

Fridays – 6:30 p.m.

Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays – 12:45 p.m. except June 23 and Aug. 25 at 6:00 p.m.

July 3 – Special 4:00 p.m. post time

Wednesdays in August – 6:30 p.m. first post. No racing Wednesday, August 29.

Significant Dates

Friday, May 4 – Opening Night with 6:30 p.m. racing

Saturday, May 5* - Kentucky Derby Day. Live racing begins at 12:45 p.m.

Monday, May 28* – Memorial Day racing at 12:45 p.m. featuring the Running of the Bulldogs & BBQ Festival.

Sunday, June 17* – Father’s Day – Super Dads and Superheroes

Saturday, June 23 – Mystic Lake Stars of the North Racing Festival benefitting the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund

Saturday, June 30* - Corgi Races & Cupcake Festival

Tuesday, July 3* – 4:00 p.m. racing. Fireworks Spectacular and live music presented by Kwik Trip after the races.

Wednesday, July 4* - Independence Day with Corgi Dog Race Encore

Saturday, July 14* – Extreme Race Day with camel, ostrich, and zebra races.

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Saturday and Sunday, July 21-22 – Street Art Festival featuring graffiti, chalk and other unique art from local and regional artists.

Saturday, July 28* - Wiener Dogs & Donuts

Saturday, August 18* - Basset Hound Racing

Thursday – Saturday, August 23-25 – Indian Horse Relay

Sunday, September 2 - \$500,000 Minnesota Festival of Champions – the best state-bred horses compete.

Monday, Sept. 3* – Bark In The Park Championships

Saturday, Sept. 15 – Final day of Live Racing.

*indicates Premium Day

About Canterbury Park

Visit Canterbury Park in RiverSouth—Land of Big Fun! RiverSouthSM is a collaboration promoting premier entertainment destinations just minutes south of Minneapolis. With four of Minnesota's biggest attractions just four miles apart, there's fun around every bend. Partners include Canterbury Park, Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, Valleyfair, and the Renaissance Festival. The suburban Minneapolis racetrack originally opened in 1985 as Canterbury Downs but closed shortly after the 1992 season concluded. Randy Sampson, his father Curtis, and businessman Dale Schenian purchased the track and surrounding property in 1994 and re-opened for simulcast racing in May of that year. With a new name, Canterbury Park, and a business plan that included year-round simulcasting, special events, and the notion of land development in the future, live horse racing returned to the state in the summer of 1995. This year marks the 24th live racing season under the current ownership.

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