



CANTERBURY PARK

1100 Canterbury Road
Shakopee, MN 55379

2011 Live Race Season Ends With Optimism

Average Attendance Increases As On-Track Wagering Remains Flat

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Shakopee, MN -- Canterbury Park concluded its live thoroughbred and quarter horse racing season on Sunday. Final handle and attendance numbers are cause for optimism among Canterbury officials, but the damage caused by a state government shutdown which left the Shakopee, MN racetrack and card casino shuttered for 20 days will have a lasting effect.

Average attendance increased for the third consecutive year to a Canterbury Park record 6,143. The meet had originally been scheduled for 62 days but was shortened to 56 due to the shutdown. On-track wagering remained flat, a positive considering that two of the largest wagering days over the Fourth of July weekend were lost. Import handle, the money bet on Canterbury races online and from tracks in other states, increased by 6.3%.

“Overall the numbers are encouraging,” track president Randy Sampson said. “Fans continue to enjoy horse racing and that shows in the attendance increase. We also offered a number of special events in conjunction with the races this year that drew large crowds. Many first-time visitors discovered the excitement of a day at the track.”

The loss of 20 days of revenue from July 1 through July 20 will impact the horsemen’s purses next season. “It is likely we will have to run fewer race days or offer lower purses,” Sampson said. “Neither option is good for the racing industry and the state of Minnesota.”

(MORE)

Tubby Time, a 5-year-old Minnesota-bred owned by Jeff Larson of Hudson, WI, was named Horse of the Meet. He won four races from five starts, including the \$50,000 Blair's Cove Stakes and the \$35,000 Minnesota Turf Championship. Tubby Time is trained by Mac Robertson.

Robertson, who won three races Sunday, was the leading thoroughbred trainer for the seventh consecutive season. He finished the meet with 43 victories. Jockey Dean Butler rode 83 winners and captured the riding title for the third time. Al and Bill Ulwelling of Elk River, with 15 wins, were the leading thoroughbred owners for the second consecutive year.

Bob Johnson, winning his first title at Canterbury, was the leading quarter horse trainer. Johnson had 11 wins. Tom Wellington was leading quarter horse rider with 12 wins and J K Running Horses were leading owners.

Sunday's feature race, the \$35,000 Shot of Gold Stakes at six furlongs on the main track, was won by Grade 3 winner Atta Boy Roy. Rusty Shaw was aboard for trainer Valorie Lund and owners R.E.V. Racing.

2011 Divisional Champions

- Horse of the Year- Tubby Time (owner: Jeff Larson; trainer: Mac Robertson)
- Older Horse - Tubby Time (owner: Jeff Larson; trainer: Mac Robertson)
- Grass Horse – Tubby Time (owner: Jeff Larson; trainer: Mac Robertson)
- Older Filly or Mare – Sheso Dazzling (owner: Eric Von Seggern and Kurt Kindschuh; trainer: Mac Robertson)
- Three-Year-Old Colt or Gelding – Wild Jacob (owner: Stanley Mankin; trainer: Stanley Mankin)
- Three-Year-Old Filly – Polar Plunge (owner: Camelia Casby; trainer: Gary Scherer)
- Two-Year-Old – Heliskier (owner: Marlene Colvin; trainer Mac Robertson)
- Sprinter – Just Jebicah (owner: Lonnie Arterburn and Ron Stolich; trainer: Lonnie Arterburn)
- Claimer – Just Jebicah (owner: Lonnie Arterburn and Ron Stolich; trainer: Lonnie Arterburn)
- Quarter Horse – Cruzin the Wagon (Terry and Mary Louise Pursel; trainer Brent Clay)

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