

THOROUGHBRED TIMES[®]

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Thoroughbred Racing

www.thoroughbredtimes.com

Suffolk celebrates Seabiscuit's 70th anniversary

Suffolk Downs was scheduled to present the movie *Seabiscuit* to its on-track audience after the races on August 18 as a way of commemorating the Horse of the Year's 70th anniversary of his victory in the Massachusetts Handicap.

The East Boston track not only showed the Academy Award nominee for Best Picture but also the original footage of Seabiscuit's victory in the August 7, 1937, MassCap. Seabiscuit raced eight times at Suffolk, including once as a two-year-old just five days after the track opened.



Chin Boft photo

SEABISCUIT MARKER

A bronze historical marker detailing the important role Suffolk played in Seabiscuit's career is located at the track's clubhouse entrance, with a lawn jockey bearing owner Charles S. Howard's silks standing nearby.

Seabiscuit was Horse of the Year in 1938, and he earned champion handicap male honors in '37 and '38. He won stakes races from 1935-'38 and again in '40, when he completed in an improbable sweep of the Santa Anita and San Antonio Handicaps at age seven.

That 1940 Big 'Cap victory was Seabiscuit's most lucrative during a career in which he won 33 of 89 starts, including 26 stakes, and earned \$437,730. Before that, however, his victory in the \$50,000 MassCap was his most lucrative.

Suffolk discontinued the MassCap after the 2004 season but new owner Richard Fields has reinstated the race this year, scheduled for September 22 with a \$500,000 purse.