

Sports

Suffolk Downs opens live racing season on Preakness Saturday

Opening Day of the 2010 live racing season at Suffolk Downs is this Saturday, May 15, Preakness Stakes Day. Gates open at 10:00 a.m. and first post time for the nine-race program is 1:15 p.m. The track is offering free admission as it opens the gates for its 75th anniversary season. In addition to live racing, the track will simulcast the 135th running of the Preakness Stakes from Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore, MD, where Kentucky Derby winner Super Saver will continue his quest for racing's elusive Triple Crown. Wagering on the Preakness Stakes will be available both Friday and Saturday.

On Opening Day, patrons can purchase a 2010 season pass for just \$5, with all proceeds supporting the track's Thoroughbred retirement programs. Patrons can have their picture taken with a racehorse and jockey at the Fan Photo Experience located at the main Clubhouse entrance (12:45-2:45, weather permitting). Family Fun activities will take place near the outdoor playground. The Grandstand apron will feature a variety of food and beverage options, including Firefly's BBQ and The Sausage Guy.

After Opening Day, the following two weeks of live racing will consist of two race days each. These dates are Wednesday, May 19; Sunday, May 23 (Phantom Gourmet Safari); Wednesday, May 26; and Saturday, May 29. Starting Memorial Day, May 31, the track will conduct a Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday-Saturday racing schedule until the conclu-

sion of the meet on Saturday, November 13. Usual first race post time is 12:45 p.m.

Suffolk Downs will celebrate its 75th anniversary throughout the season. Built by 3,000 workers in just 62 days, the historic track opened on July 10, 1935 and has been a showcase for some of the most famous names in Thoroughbred racing history.

"We are very proud of our 75 years of history," said Bill Mulrow, Chairman of Suffolk Downs. "This is a great opportunity for us to pay tribute to the significant events that have taken place here while saluting the thousands of dedicated employees who have made it all possible over the years."

The legendary Seabiscuit first

raced at the track in its inaugural season and would return in 1937 to win the track's signature race, the Massachusetts Handicap. Champion racehorses War Admiral, Whirlaway, John Henry and Cigar have all competed at Suffolk Downs, as have Hall of Fame jockeys Eddie Arcaro, Chris McCarron, Angel Cordero and Jerry Bailey.

The track's rich tradition extends beyond Thoroughbred racing. On August 18, 1966, the Beatles took the stage on the racetrack for an historic performance, one of their last official concerts as a group. Over 25,000 fans packed the house to witness what would prove to be the Beatles' final Boston appearance.