



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **SUFFOLK DOWNS UNVEILS PLANS FOR 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY** ***MAYOR MENINO, NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS TO HELP MARK EVENT***

**EAST BOSTON, MA** – Personalities from its historic past, throw-back promotions, a tee shirt giveaway and two \$75,000 stakes races will help Suffolk Downs celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, the East Boston track announced today.

Hall of Fame jockeys Chris McCarron and Jerry Bailey and local favorite Abigail Fuller will return to Suffolk Downs for a special program commemorating great moments from the track's history.

The \$75,000 Seabiscuit Stakes, five furlongs on the turf, and the \$75,000 James B. Moseley Sprint Stakes, six furlongs on the main track, will highlight the racing program.

Buddy Marino of Revere, who attended the track's Opening Day on July 10<sup>th</sup> in 1935, will be on hand for a winner's circle presentation.

The day will feature a series of turn-back-the-clock elements, including a carousel, carnival games, 1930s era street performers, a Dixieland band, bugler, antique cars, and trolley service from the Suffolk Downs MBTA station to the main Clubhouse entrance. A display of photos and memorabilia from throughout the track's history, including an original barbershop chair and a row of authentic 1935 Grandstand seats, will be on display on the first floor of the Clubhouse.

Mayor Thomas M. Menino will present a proclamation commemorating Suffolk Downs' 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Officials from the neighboring communities of East Boston, Revere, Winthrop, and Chelsea and representatives from area Chambers of Commerce and neighborhood groups will join in marking the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

"For 75 years, Suffolk Downs has been a well-known sports venue filled with tradition and rich history," said Mayor Menino. "I am excited to be celebrating the track's 75th anniversary and hope that its history continues to grow."

The first 5,000 fans who pay admission to the track will receive a commemorative tee shirt with the track's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo and all admissions and parking revenue from the day will be donated to local community charities.

"Suffolk Downs has been one of the area's premier sports and entertainment venues since 1935 and we're looking forward to celebrating our legacy with some old friends, our neighbors and racing fans from across New England on July 10<sup>th</sup> as we look ahead to the next 75 years," said Suffolk Downs principal owner Richard Fields.



McCarron, a Dorchester native who began his racing career working on the backstretch at Suffolk Downs, will discuss his riding career and his famous victory aboard hometown favorite Waquoit in the 1987 Massachusetts Handicap immortalized by track announcer Jim Hannon's call at a kick-off event at the track on Thursday, July 8<sup>th</sup>.

McCarron, who retired in 2002 as the all-time leader in career purse earnings among jockeys, recorded 7,141 wins, including two each in the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes and Belmont Stakes. He was inducted into Thoroughbred racing's Hall of Fame in 1989. McCarron is currently the Executive Director of the North American Racing Academy in Lexington, KY. McCarron founded the school in 2006 to teach aspiring jockeys the horsemanship and life skills needed to become a successful jockey.

Bailey, currently the color analyst for ESPN's horse racing telecasts, won the MassCap four times in a seven-year span, including consecutive triumphs aboard the legendary Cigar in 1995 and 1996 as part of Cigar's record-tying 16-race win streak. Bailey, who was inducted into racing's Hall of Fame in 1995, retired in 2006 with 5,893 wins, capturing each of the three Triple Crown races twice.

Fuller, the daughter of prominent local businessman and horse owner Peter Fuller, began her career as a jockey in 1982 and competed at Suffolk Downs for two decades, gaining national acclaim in 1985 when she went out of town to ride Mom's Command to New York's prestigious Filly Triple Crown for her father and trainer Ned Allard. Mom's Command was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2007. Fuller also served as a racing analyst at Suffolk Downs and has continued to work with horses in various capacities.

"So many people have made their mark on our great history and we are privileged to welcome some of them back to help us celebrate this special occasion," said Chip Tuttle, Chief Operating Officer of Suffolk Downs. "Chris, Jerry and Abby are just three of the countless prominent racing personalities who have put their considerable talents on display for our loyal racing fans over the last 75 years."

Built by 3,000 workers in just 62 days, the historic track opened on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1935 and has been a showcase for some of the most famous names in Thoroughbred racing history, including Seabiscuit, Whirlaway, John Henry, Cigar and Skip Away.

The track's rich tradition extends beyond Thoroughbred racing. On August 18<sup>th</sup>, 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.