

Title:

Grand Old Saratoga Opens 36-Day Meeting on July 26

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607

Summary:

Saratoga Springs has been attracting travelers even before the American Revolution when wealth

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Article Body:

Saratoga Springs has been attracting travelers even before the American Revolution when wealth

It's where decisive battles were fought during the American Revolution and Civil War. The 1777

During the Civil War, America's oldest thoroughbred racetrack opened on Aug. 26, 1863. The Sar

New York Racing Association (NYRA) officials have announced across-the-board purse increases f

^There are a lot of changes on this schedule, including some purse reductions or eliminations

^This helps NYRA strike a better balance with dollars allocated to stakes and overnight races,

While the NYRA usually boosts purses each year at Saratoga, Nader said, this year ^the increas

Overnight stakes will carry purses of \$70,000, a hike of \$5,000. New York-bred races will see

The NYRA will also continue to raise the purse of any race with at least eight horses that's m

The prestigious \$500,000 Woodward for 3-year-olds and up at 1 1/8 miles was moved to Saratoga

There's at least one stakes on every live racing program and two on eight days during the meet

For handicap horses, the summer/fall schedule from Saratoga through Belmont Park's meeting, in

^We placed four Grade 1 stakes on Labor Day Weekend,~ Nader pointed out. ^We also brought back

Highlight of the meeting is the 137th Travers, oldest American stakes race named for the found

Expected to show up on Aug. 26 at the historic track 180 miles north of New York City are:

Bernardini, winner of the Preakness; Jazil, who captured the Belmont; Bluegrass Cat, runner-up

Kentucky, owned by Travers, won the inaugural running in 1864 when the purse was only \$2,940.

The largest margin of victory was recorded in '67 by Damascus: 22 lengths. Seven times a nose

By Greg Melikov

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