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SUNLAND PARK RACETRACK & CASINO

# **SUNLAND PARK RACETRACK & CASINO**

Live racing season begins Friday, January 5, 2024. \$400,000 Sunland Derby (Gr. III) set for Sunday, February 18, 2024.

The 64th season of live horse racing at Sunland Park Racetrack and Casino begins on Friday, January 5, 2024.

Post time during the 55-day season will be 12:25 p.m with racing on all but opening week being held on a Thursday through Sunday basis, with closing day to be held on Sunday, April 7. The opening day program will feature two thoroughbred stakes races, the \$100,000 New Mexico State Racing Commission Handicap as well as the \$65,000 KLAQ Handicap.

Loaded with rich stakes races, Sunland Park offers some of the most attractive races for Thoroughbreds and Quarter Horses in the Southwest. The \$16 million dollar season will dish out over \$275,000 in purses per race day.

The sparkling jewel of the lucrative season is the \$400,000 Sunland Derby (Gr. III) to be run on Sunday, February 18, 2024. The Kentucky Derby prep race offers 20 qualifying points to the winner for entry to the 2024 Run for the Roses. The 19th edition of the one and one-sixteenth mile classic anchors a huge day worth over \$1 million in purse money. The \$250,000 Sunland Park Oaks, as well as the \$100,000 Bill Thomas Memorial Stakes, the \$100,000 Harry W. Henson Handicap, the \$100,000 Enchantress Stakes and the \$100,000 Red Hedeman Mile are also part of Sunland Park's biggest day.

2023 Sunland Park Oaks winner Flying Connection had a tremendous campaign for trainer Todd Fincher, capped off by victories in the Charles Taylor Derby at Albuquerque Downs and the Zia Park Oaks last fall. The daughter of Nyquist won four races from eight starts as a 3-year-old with earnings of more than \$492,000. The 2019 Sunland Derby day program handled an all-time New Mexico State record all-sources handle of over \$4.8 million. This year's Sunland Park Oaks will also offer 20 qualifying points to the winner for entry to the 2024

Kentucky Oaks at Churchill Downs.

Both the Sunland Derby (Gr. III) and Sunland Park Oaks will be Lasix-free events. Additionally, all Thoroughbred stakes races will be Lasix-free.

State-breds will be in the spotlight when Sunland Park presents the \$250,000 New Mexico Breeders' Derby and \$250,000 New Mexico Breeders' Oaks will be run on Friday, March 29.

Among the top races for Quarter Horses this season are the \$350,000 Championship at Sunland Park (Gr. III), which will be run on Sunday, Jan. 7. The world's best quarter horses will collide in 22nd running of this 440-yard feature on opening weekend. The \$150,000-added New Mexican Spring Futurity and \$100,000-added Grade II West Texas Futurity for two-year-old quarter Horses will be showcased on Saturday, April 6 as part of an enormous program which also features the \$100,000 New Mexico Horse Breeders Association Quarter Horse Stakes, a restricted Grade II event.

Some of the region's top 3-year-olds will compete in the \$100,000 Riley Allison Derby at one mile on Friday, Jan. 19 in a prep race for the Grade III Sunland Derby. Three-year-old fillies will prep for the Sunland Park Oaks in the \$65,000 Borderplex Stakes on Friday, Jan. 19.

Six figure stakes races are plentiful throughout the season. On a stellar closing day, the \$100,000 Peppers Pride Stakes, the \$100,000 New Mexico State University Stakes, the \$125,000 Mine That Bird Derby, the \$125,000 Peppers Pride Stakes will be featured along with the 63rd running of the enriched \$200,000 Sunland Park Handicap at 9 furlongs on Sunday, April 7. Last year, Mine That Star rolled to a 3 and 1/2 length victory in the traditional closing day headliner.

## HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF SUNLAND PARK



- Built in 1959 for an original cost of \$4 million, Sunland Park Racetrack opened to great fanfare and large crowds. Located just 10 minutes west of Downtown El Paso, Texas, Sunland Park enjoyed positive early results. Withing four years, the track was firmly established and in the black.
- ➤ For decades, Sunland Park was a gateway to the East and West for top race horses. Stakes stars like Winsham Lad, Curribot, Prince Astro, Nevada Phil, Bold Liz, Easy Jet, Dash for Cash and First Moonflash ran at Sunland Park.
- The 1980 Riley Allison Futurity winner Bold Ego finished a gallant second to Pleasant Colony in the 1981 Preakness Stakes. Racing giants Willie Shoemaker, Jerry Bailey, Garrett Gomez, Pat Valenzuela, Mike Smith, D. Wayne Lukas and Bob Baffert have all competed at Sunland Park.
- ➤ In 1999, Sunland Park opened its casino and sparked a new era of unparalleled success. Powered by over 700 slot machines, Sunland Park Racetrack and Casino offers a daily purse distribution of over \$275,000, a far cry from the \$35,000 average from the early 1990's.

- ➤ 2005 WinStar Derby winner Thor's Echo won the 2006 Breeders' Cup Sprint (Gr. I) and was named the Eclipse Award winner as Champion Sprinter.
- ➤ The legendary mare Peppers Pride completed her unbeaten 19-race career at Sunland Park in 2008.
- ➤ In 2009, former Sunland Park campaigner Mine That Bird shocked the world by winning the Kentucky Derby at 50-1 odds.
- On Sunday, March 22, 2015, a record crowd of 19,081 fans roared as Firing Line won the \$800,000 Sunland Derby (Gr. III). Firing Line went on to finish second to Triple Crown winner American Pharoah in the 2015 Kentucky Derby.
- The 2019 Sunland Derby (Gr. III) day card generated a new track and New Mexico State record allsources handle of over \$4.8 million. That benchmark broke the previous record of nearly \$4.3 million wagered on the 2018 Sunland Derby (Gr. III) day program. Nearly \$2 million was bet on the 2019 Sunland Derby (Gr. III) alone.
- ➤ The 2024 Sunland Derby (Gr. III) worth \$400,000 will be run on Sunday, February 18.





# **SUNLAND DERBY (GR.III)**

19th running to be held on Sunday, February 18, 2024 \$400,000 • One Mile & One-Sixteenth • 3-Year-Olds

## WILD ON ICE SHOCKS THEM IN \$600,000 SUNLAND DERBY (GR. III)

Trainer Joel Marr and jockey Ken Tohill scored an improbable win aboard 35-1 Wild On Ice, who posted a shocking upset in the 18th running of the \$600,000 Grade III Sunland Derby.

Wild On Ice, a well-beaten third in the Mine That Bird Derby in his most recent start, sat behind a grueling pace duel set by Henry Q and Hard To Figure. Those two battled through an opening six furlongs in 1 minute, 10.64 seconds. Finding room along the rail turning for home, Tohill guided the Texas-bred son of Tapizar to the lead, holding off a belated rally from Low Expectations and jockey Mario Gutierrez to earn the 1 1/4 length victory, and perhaps a start in the May 6 Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs. Wild On Ice ran the 1 1/8 miles in a final time of 1:51.39.

Wild On Ice was a non-factor in his most recent pair of starts, finishing ninth earlier this season in the Riley Allison Derby. Prior to that, Wild On Ice won each of his first two starts as a 2-year-old at Zia Park. The win in the Sunland Derby (Gr. III) pads his career bankroll to more than \$405,000.

The winner of the Sunland Derby (Gr. III) earns 50 qualifying points on the road to the Kentucky Derby. The win will likely make Wild On Ice eligible for a start in the Run for the Roses. Wild On Ice, owned by Frank Sumpter, Sr., is not currently nominated for the Triple Crown series, though Marr indicated those plans may change.

"We weren't really thinking about that coming in here, but we'll see what happens," Marr said. For both Marr and Tohill, the win with Wild On Ice is their first winner in the history of the Sunland Derby (Gr. III). Tohill is the all-time leading jockey at Sunland Park and a winner of nearly 4,100 races with purses topping \$70 million in his 40-plus year career.

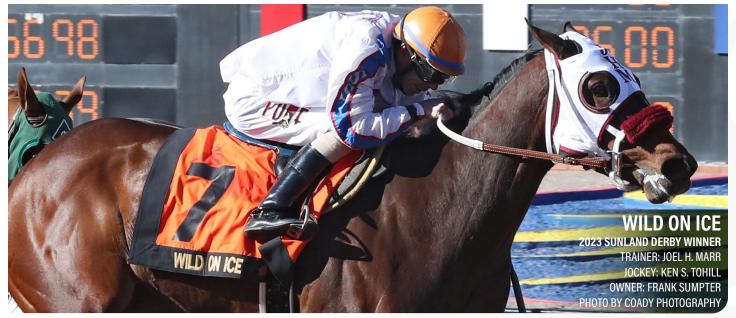
Marr, a winner of nearly 1,400 career races and nearly \$30 million in purses, is perhaps best known for his work with the unbeaten New Mexico-bred race mare Peppers Pride, a winner in all 19 career starts.

Sent off as the longest shot in the field at odds of 35.40-to-1, Wild On Ice paid \$72.80. The \$2 exacta with Low Expectations came back with a \$1,096 return on investment.

Henry Q, a romping winner last time out in the Mine That Bird Derby, was a well-beaten third under Edwin Maldonado, with How Did He Do That rounding out the top four finishers.

Post time favorite Hard To Figure, sent off at odds of 1-to-2 and coming off a second-place finish in the Grade III Robert B. Lewis Stakes at Santa Anita Park, faded at the top of the lane under jockey Flavien Prat and finished last in the six-horse field.





YEAR	WINNER	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	DISTANCE	TIME	VALUE
2023	Wild On Ice	Frank Sumpter	Joel H. Marr	Ken S. Tohill	1 1/8 miles	1:51:39	\$600,000
2022	Slow Down Andy	Reddam Racing, LLC	Doug O'Neill	Mario Gutierrez	1 1/8 miles	1:50:16	\$500,000
2019	Cutting Humor	Starlight Racing	Todd Pletcher	John Velasquez	1 1/8 miles	1:46.94 (NTR)	\$800,000
2018	Runaway Ghost	Joe Peacock	Todd Fincher	Tracy Hebert	1 1/8 miles	1:49.20	\$800,000
2017	Hence	Calumet Farm	Steve Asmussen	Alfredo Juarez, Jr.	1 1/8 miles	1:47.37	\$800,000
2016*	Collected	Speedway Stable	Bob Baffert	Martin Garcia	1 1/8 miles	1:48.90	\$415,000
2015	Firing Line	Arnold Zetcher	Simon Callaghan	Gary Stevens	1 1/8 miles	1:47.39	\$800,000
2014	Chitu	Tanma Corporation	Bob Baffert	Martin Garcia	1 1/8 miles	1:47.88	\$800,000
2013	Govenor Charlie	Mike Pegram	Bob Baffert	Martin Garcia	1 1/8 miles	1:47.54	\$800,000
2012	Daddy Nose Best	Cathy & Bob Zollars	Steve Asmussen	Julien Leparoux	1 1/8 miles	1:48.59	\$800,000
2011	Twice The Appeal	Edward Brown, Jr., Victor Flores & Harry Henderson	Jeff Bonde	Christian Reyes	1 1/8 miles	1:50.91	\$800,000
2010	Endorsement	WinStar Farm LLC, Bill Casner et al.	Shannon Ritter	Robbie Albarado	1 1/8 miles	1:48.46	\$800,000
2009	Kelly Leak	Blahut Racing, Dennis Avila & Dave Johnson	Michael Machowsky	Mike Smith	1 1/8 miles	1:50.02	\$900,000
2008	Liberty Bull	Kenneth Maier	Thomas Amoss	Gerard Melancon	1 1/8 miles	1:49.82	\$600,000
2007	Song Of Navarone	George Coleman	Henry Dominguez	Victor Espinoza	1 1/8 miles	1:49.53	\$600,000
2006	Wanna Runner	Mike Pegram	Bob Baffert	Victor Espinoza	1 1/8 miles	1:48.88	\$600,000
2005	Thor's Echo	Suarez Racing, Inc. & Royce Jaime Racing	Doug O'Neill	Corey Nakatani	1 1/8 miles	1:49.59	\$500,000
2004	Hi Teck Man	Hassel & Bonnie and Spraberry	Johnnie Nall	Ricardo Jaime	1 1/16 miles	1:43.20	\$500,000
2003	Excessivepleasure	Ty & Leroy Leatherman	Doug O'Neill	Pat Day	1 1/16 miles	1:42.84	\$500,000

<sup>\*</sup>Because of EHV-1 virus outbreak, the 2016 (Gr. III) was canceled and replaced by the Sunland Park Festival of Racing Stakes. NTR denotes New Track Record. The 2020 and 2021 Sunland Derbies (Gr. III) were canceled.







# **SUNLAND PARK OAKS**

21st running to be held on Sunday, February 18, 2024 \$250,000 Guaranteed • One Mile • Fillies • 3-Year-Olds

# FLYING CONNECTION ROMPS IN \$300,000 SUNLAND PARK OAKS

Sunland Park's leading trainer Todd Fincher and Flying Connection scored a resounding win in the 20th running of the \$300,000 Sunland Park Oaks.

Ridden to victory by Alfredo Juarez, Jr. Flying Connection raced gate-to-wire in the Sunland Park Oaks, drawing clear entering the lane before being geared down to a 2 1/4 length win, racing 1 1/16 miles in a final time of 1 minute, 43.90 seconds.

Flying Connection raced on a short lead down the backstretch, hounded by post time favorite Doinitthehardway through an opening half-mile in 46.09 seconds. Flying Connection began to shake loose of that one midway around the far turn before cruising to an insurmountable lead passing the furlong pole.

"That other filly really pushed her today," Fincher said. "She showed a lot being able to put her away like she did. She's a real tough-minded filly."

Flying Connection gives Fincher his first win in the Sunland Park Oaks. Currently the leading thoroughbred trainer at the meet, Fincher has saddled 32 winners this season with purses topping \$1.5 million.

Owned by Brad King, G. Randy Andrews, G. Chris Coleman and Jim Cone, Flying Connection earned her third stakes win. The daughter of 2016 Kentucky Derby winner Nyquist was coming off an equally impressive performance last month in the Island Fashion Stakes. She also scored a win last

November at Zia Park in the Zia Princess Stakes. Sunday's win gives her four trips to the winner's circle from seven career starts and pads her career bankroll to more than \$294,200.

Fincher indicated after the race that if the filly comes back well, the next stop for her may be a spot in the starting gate for the Grade I Kentucky Oaks at Churchill Downs.

"That's the plan right now," Fincher said. "We're really proud of her effort."

Sent off as the second choice in the wagering at odds of 1.30-to-1, Flying Connection paid \$4.60 to her winning backers. Longshot Love Tank finished second with Ken Tohill aboard. The \$2 exacta returned \$54.60. Don't Get Pickled was a well-beaten third with Una Palabra rounding out the top four finishers.





YEAR	WINNER	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	DISTANCE	TIME	VALUE
2023	Flying Connection	Brad King, Randy Andrews, Chris Coleman, Jim Cone, Suzanne Kirby and Lee Lewis	Todd Fincher	Alfredo J. Juarez Jr.	1 1/16 miles	1:43.90	\$300,000
2022	Cleopatras Charge	Samuel Henderson	Scott Young	Floyd Wethey Jr.	1 1/16 miles	1:46:33	\$300,000
2019	Chasing Yesterday	Summer Wind Equine	Bob Baffert	Drayden Van Dyke	1 1/16 miles	1:43.18	\$200,000
2018	Blamed	Cleber Massey	Joel Marr	Ken Tohill	1 1/16 miles	1:43.32	\$200,000
2017	Ghalia	Sumaya U.S. Stable	Todd Pletcher	Jose Ortiz	1 1/16 miles	1:44.24	\$200,000
2016*	Thrilled	Michael Tabor	Todd Pletcher	Javier Castellano	1 1/16 miles	1:43.35	\$200,000
2015	Maybellene	Natalie J. Baffert	Bob Baffert	Victor Espinoza	1 1/16 miles	1:42.90	\$200,000
2014	Awesome Baby	Khaleem Shah, Inc.	Bob Baffert	Mike Smith	1 1/16 miles	1:43.80	\$200,000
2013	Midnight Lucky	Watson, Pegram & Weitman	Bob Baffert	Rafael Bejarano	1 1/16 miles	1:41.06	\$200,000
2012	Princess Arabella	Peachtree Stable	Bob Baffert	Martin Garcia	1 1/16 miles	1:43.52	\$200,000
2011	Plum Pretty	Peachtree Stable	Bob Baffert	Martin Garcia	1 1/16 miles	1:43.18	\$200,000
2010	Harissa	Gem, Inc.	David Hoffmans	Tyler Baze	1 1/16 miles	1:42.90	\$200,000
2009	Gabby's Golden Gal	Arnold Zetcher	Bob Baffert	Victor Espinoza	1 1/16 miles	1:43.31	\$200,000
2008	Sky Mom	Arnold Zetcher	Steve Asmussen	Garrett Gomez	1 1/16 miles	1:44.50	\$200,000
2007	Tough Tiz's Sis	Watson or Weitman Performances, LLC.	Bob Baffert	Victor Espinoza	1 1/16 miles	1:45.18	\$200,000
2006	Sweet Fourty	Michael House	Jeff Mullins	Victor Espinoza	1 1/16 miles	1:43.73	\$250,000
2005	Cee's irish	Merv Griffin Ranch, Co.	Doug O'Neill	Corey Nakatani	1 1/16 miles	1:44.66	\$259,000
2004	Speedy Falcon	Chris Coleman	Henry Dominguez	Ricardo Jaime	1 mile	1:36.57	\$260,193
2003	Island Fashion	Everest Stable, Inc.	Nick Canani	Ignacio Puglisi	1 mile	1:36.29	\$256,450
2002	No Turbulence	Frank Lewkowitz & Dennis & Norine Grenier	Eric Kruljac	Daryl Montoya	1 mile	1:38.11	\$77,700
2001	Gems and Gold	Anthony & Aimee Trujillo	Ramon Gonzalez	Daryl Montoya	1 mile	1:38.30	\$42,300

<sup>\*</sup>Because of the EHV-1 virus outbreak, the 2016 Sunland Park Oaks was canceled and replaced by the Plum Pretty Stakes.

# THE CHAMPIONSHIP AT SUNLAND PARK (GR. I)

22<sup>nd</sup> running to be held on Saturday, January 7, 2024 \$350,000 Guaranteed • 440 Yards • 4-Year Olds and up

### DANJER COMES THROUGH IN THE CLUTCH TO WIN \$350,000 CHAMPIONSHIP AT SUNLAND PARK (GR. 1)

Under a strong ride from James Flores, Danjer rallied down the center of the track to post a convincing win the Saturday's 21st running of the \$350,000 Grade 1 Championship at Sunland Park.

Breaking smartly from the gate, the 6-year-old multiple stakes winning son of Fdd Dynasty raced close to the early lead before motoring to the front inside the last 200 yards. He held off a late run from KJ Desperado to win by three-quarters of a length, crossing the wire in a very fast final time of 20.62 seconds, just a shade off the 440-yard track and world record set by First Moonflash in 2009.

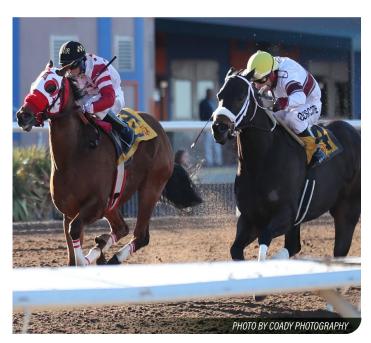
Danjer, trained by Dean Frey, who is also part of the ownership group with Downtime Enterprises LLC and Billy G. Smith, earned his fifth stakes win in 2022. He was victorious in stakes races across the country this year, including at Albuquerque Downs, Horseshoe Indianapolis, as well as Canterbury Park and Remington Park. Saturday's win in the Championship at Sunland Park adds to his already impressive resume, as he has 20 wins from 33 career starts.

The \$157,000 winner' share of the purse pads
Danjer's career bankroll to more than \$2,240,000.
Sent off as the second choice on the board at odds
of 8-to-5, Danjer returned \$5.40 to his winning
backers.

KJ Desparado closed well in the final yards but came up just short under rider Adrian Ramos. The son of Apollitical Jess nearly capped off a remarkable 2022 campaign with his seventh win of the year. Sent off as the 3-to-2 post time favorite, KJ Desparado finished his year having never finished worse than second in eight starts.

The \$2 exacta with the top two finishers returned \$10. Wes Giles' star trainee went on to win the 2023 All American Gold Cup at Ruidoso Downs and the Refrigerator Handicap at Lone Star Park.

Flash Bak and Instygator rounded out the top four finishers. Flash Bak went on to win the 2023 Downs at Albuquerque Fall Quarter Horse Championship and the Champion of Champions at Los Alamitos.





YEAR	WINNER	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	DIST.	TIME	VALUE
2023	Danjer	Downtime Enterprises LLC and Billy G. Smith	Dean Frey	James Flores	440 yards	:20.62	\$350,000
2022	Instygator	Barboza Racing Corp	Santos Carrizales, Jr.	Juan Pulido	440 yards	:21.313	\$350,000
2019	Valiant Tiberias	Sergio Holguin, Clifton Nielsen & Felix Rodriguez	Wes Giles	James Flores	440 yards	:20.907	\$350,000
2018	Jessies First Down	Ted Abrams	James Padgett	Rodrigo Vallejo	440 yards	:21.156	\$350,000
2017	Tf Im That Guy	Victor Diaz	Lorenzo Vega	Manuel Gutierrez	440 yards	:21.490	\$350,000
2016	Jessies First Down	Ted Abrams	Judd Kearl	Rodrigo Vallejo	440 yards	:21.232	\$350,000
2015	Zoomin Effortlessly	Perrett Telesforo	Edelmiro Carrizales	Santos Carrizales	400 yards	:19.349	\$350,000
2014	Rcj Major Storm	Alfredo Sanchez	Alfredo Sanchez	Jesse Levario	400 yards	:19.140	\$350,000
2013	Feature Mr Bojangles	R.D. Hubbard & Heysol Howlet	Paul Jones	Cody Jensen	400 yards	:19.612	\$350,000
2012	Prospect to the Top	Joel Taverez	Brandon Muniz	Oscar Rincon	400 yards	:19.033	\$350,000
2011	Cold Cash 123	T. Bill Stables, Inc.	C. Dwayne Gilbreath	Roy Baldillez	400 yards	:18.730	\$350,000
2010	Noconi	R.D. Hubbard & John T.L. Jones, Jr.	Paul Jones	Jacky Martin	400 yards	:19.130	\$350,000
2009	First Moonflash	Amestoy & Gonzalez	Andres Gonzalez	Alejandro Medellin	400 yards	:19.057	\$350,000
2008	First Moonflash	Amestoy & Gonzalez	Andres Gonzalez	Alejandro Medellin	400 yards	:18.735	\$400,000
2007	Ketel Won	R.D. Hubbard	Paul Jones	Freddie Martinez	400 yards	:18.936	\$400,000

#### CRAFTY MONEY DRAWS CLEAR LATE TO WIN \$250,000 N.M. BREEDERS' OAKS



Judge Lanier Racing's Crafty Money put away her competition at the head of the lane and cruised to an impressive win in the 13th running of the \$250,000 New Mexico Breeders' Oaks.

Ridden by Leandro Goncalves for trainer Nancy Summers, Crafty Money dueled on the lead for much of the first six furlongs of the contest with post time favorite Doer Not A Faker, which was contested in a moderate time of 1 minute, 13.27 seconds. As the tempo quickened, Crafty Money put away her nearest rival and inched clear, winning by 2 1/2 lengths, stopping the clock in a time of 1:45.04 for 1 1/16 miles.

The 3-year-old daughter of Conquest Mo Money earned not only her first stakes win with her victory in the New Mexico Breeders' Oaks, but broke her maiden at the same time. She previously was third in her most recent start, a maiden event here on March 5. Prior to that, she was a close second in the Enchantress Stakes over this course on Feb. 19. Sunday's win pads her lifetime earnings to nearly \$175,000 while winning for the first time in four starts.

Sent off as the third choice in the wagering at odds of 2.70-to-1, Crafty Money paid \$7.40 to win. Tiz A Journey rallied late under Ken Tohill to be second. The \$2 exacta with the top two finishers paid back \$20. Doer Not A Faker tired late and finished third with Moonlight Warrior crossing the wire a distant fourth.

# DEAN'S LIST UP IN NICK OF TIME TO SCORE VICTORY IN \$100,000 BILL THOMAS MEMORIAL



Judge Lanier Racing earned its second stakes win of the day, as did jockey Leandro Goncalves, guiding Dean's List to a narrow victory in a thrilling rendition of the 32nd running of the \$100,000 Bill Thomas Memorial Stakes.

Dean's List, trained by H. Ray Ashford, Jr., was always within contention, not far behind dueling leaders Minister of Soul and Hollywood Henry. Those two raced almost

as a pair through a moderate opening half mile timed in 46.03 seconds. Dean's List battled on between horses as the field turned for home, fending off a pair of late challenges from Bye Bye Bobby and Truth Seeker to win by a neck, stopping the timer in 1:16.76 for 6 1/2 furlongs.

A 4-year-old gelded son of Speightstown, Dean's List earned his fifth win from eight career starts. He came into the Bill Thomas Memorial Stakes off a pair of optional claiming wins at Sam Houston Race Park. Prior to that, he was second in the \$100,000 Long Branch Handicap last spring at Monmouth Park in Oceanport, New Jersey. Sunday's win pads Dean's List's career bankroll to more than \$261,000.

Sent off as the third choice on the board at odds of 2.70-to-1 on the board, Dean's List paid \$7.40. Truth Seeker, ridden by Alfredo Juarez, Jr., finished second, just in front of 8-to-5 post time favorite Bye Bye Bobby, with Goddard rounding out the top four finishers.

# VALENTINO WHO POSTS MASSIVE UPSET IN \$250,000 N.M. BREEDERS' DERBY



Valentino Who, owned by Juan Carlos Gutierrez, posted a massive upset under Jose Vasquez in the 18th running of the \$250,000 New Mexico Breeders' Derby.

The son of Comfort, dismissed on the toteboard at odds of nearly 45-to-1, rallied late down the center of the track

and slipped past Still In The Trap in the shadow of the wire to earn the half-length victory, stopping the clock in a time of 1 minute, 45.46 seconds.

Trained by Jose A. Gonzalez, Valentino Who finished sixth in the Red Hedeman Mile last time out on Feb. 28. Prior to that, he beat claiming company here on Feb. 12 just one race after breaking his maiden at Zia Park on Nov. 21. The win in the New Mexico Breeders' Derby pads the career bankroll for Valentino Who to more than \$188,000.

Valentino Who returned \$91.80 to his winning backers. Still In The Trap, ridden by Felipe Valdez and sent off as the 9-to-5 post time favorite, finished a length clear of the rest of the field when second best. The \$2 exacta with the top pair paid a whopping \$663.80. Smartsrealgood and jockey Francisco Amparan finished third, with George Who rounding out the top four.

#### CITYONTHENILE SCORES UPSET VICTORY IN \$100,000 HARRY HENSON HANDICAP



Amanda Sweeten's Cityonthenile earned the first stakes win of her career, posting an upset score in the 29th running of the \$100,000 Harry Henson Handicap.

Ridden to victory by Francisco Amparan for trainer Andres S. Gonzalez, Cityonthenile dueled for the early lead with Unique Babe through an opening half mile of 47.43 seconds. The Kentucky-bred daughter of Temple City had a clear lead midway around the far turn and held off a belated rally from Yankee Dollar and jockey Harry Hernandez before crossing the wire a half-length in front, stopping the clock for a mile in 1:38.64.

Cityonthenile finished first or second in each of her last four starts, most recently finishing a close second in an optional claiming sprint on Jan. 31. Cityonthenile was claimed by Sweeten on Mar. 1, 2022 for \$6,250. Since that time, the 6-year-old mare has won five of her next nine starts. Her win in the Harry Henson gives her 13 wins from 36 career starts, padding her bankroll to nearly \$210,000.

Sent off at 11-to-1 on the board, Cityonthenile paid \$24 to her winning backers. The \$2 exacta with runner-up Yankee Dollar returned \$116.20. Lady Commissioner rallied after a slow start under jockey Glenn Corbett and finished third as the 11-to-10 post time favorite, with Brave Cinderella rounding out the top four finishers. Eda, who was the morning line favorite, as well as Miss Hard Knocks were both scratched earlier in the day, reducing the field to seven runners in the Harry Henson Handicap.

#### I THINK I'M HERE POSTS MINOR UPSET IN \$120,000 N.M. STATE UNIVERSITY STAKES



I Think I'm Here, owned by Charles Dunleavy III, rallied late to take the 20th running of the \$120,000 New Mexico State University Handicap under Alfredo Juarez, Jr.

The son of Marking chased a rather moderate tempo set by longshot All Chrome, ridden by Oscar Ceballos. All Chrome had had a slight lead over Strawberry Whisky through an opening six furlongs of 1 minute, 11.8 seconds.

MINE THAT STAR ROLLS TO VICTORY IN 62ND RUNNING OF \$150,000 SUNLAND PARK HANDICAP



Judge Lanier Racing's Mine That Star turned in a virtuoso performance, drawing away from his rivals at the head of the lane on his way to a devastating win in the 62nd running of the \$150,000 Sunland Park Handicap.

Ridden to victory by Ken Tohill for trainer Nancy Summers, Mine That Star hounded pacesetting Limonite and jockey Luis Rodriguez down the backstretch, stalking that one through moderate early fractions. Juarez got busy on the outside of the dueling leaders aboard I Think I'm Here and found his way in front passing the furlong marker on the way to a 1 3/4 length win, racing 1:42.37 seconds for a mile and 70 yards.

I Think I'm Here was coming off an eighth-place finish Feb. 28 in the Albert and Henry Dominguez Memorial Handicap in his most recent start. Prior to that, he had won back-to-back races here and at Zia Park. I Think I'm Here earned his fourth win from 13 career starts and has amassed \$192,000 in total earnings.

I Think I'm Here was sent off at odds of 10.30-to-1 and paid \$22.60 to his winning backers. Jet N G rallied late to finish second under Jorge Carreno. The exacta with the top two finishers returned \$59.60. All Chrome weakened late but held on for third, ahead of McMercelus to round out the top four finishers.

Elliot, ridden by Gabriel Arredondo, lost all chance after dumping the rider just out of the starting gate.

Approaching the far turn, Mine That Star raced up alongside his rival and gradually found himself on a loose lead entering the stretch. The 6-year-old son of Pioneerof the Nile crossed the wire 3 1/4 lengths in front of late-running Zestful at the wire, racing 1 1/8 miles in 1 minute, 49.5 seconds.

Mine That Star earned the eighth win of his 20-race career in the Sunland Park Handicap. His last trip to the winners circle came last November at Zia Park when he won the Veterans Stakes by eight lengths. Sunday's win pads Mine That Star's career bankroll to nearly \$425,000. Mine That Star is a half-brother to 2009 Kentucky Derby winner Mine That Bird.

The win is another important milestone for Tohill, who last weekend captured his first career victory in the \$600,000 Grade III Sunland Derby aboard 35-to-1 longshot Wild On Ice. Tohill, the all-time winningest jockey at Sunland Park, finishes this season in third place in the thoroughbred jockey standings behind Luis Fuentes and Alfredo Juarez, Jr.

Sent off as the 17-to-10 post time favorite, Mine That Star returned \$5.40 to his winning backers.

# KJ LITTLE DUCE COUP SCORES THRILLING WIN IN GRADE 2 \$282,925 WEST TEXAS FUTURITY



Sunland Park's leading quarter horse trainer Wes Giles put another stamp on his outstanding season, sending out Kj Little Duce Coup and jockey Adrian Ramos to a thrilling victory in the 63rd running of the \$282,925 Grade 2 West Texas Futurity. Owned by John Lee, W. Kathy Lee and I. Ruben Mares, Kj Little Duce Coup dueled on the front end with Lets Leave and Kj Flying Cowgirl. The 2-year-old Arizona-bred gelding by Apollitical Jess got his nose down on the wire, winning by a neck with a final time of 15.21 seconds for 300 yards. Kj Little Duce Coup earned an Equibase Speed Index of 97.

Kj Little Duce Coup won his trial heat here in his career debut on March 11. Saturday's win keeps his record intact after two lifetime starts with earnings approaching \$140,000.

Sent off at odds of 3.30 to 1, Kj Little Duce Coup returned \$8.60 to win. Lets Leave narrowly held the place. The \$2 exacta combining both runners paid \$31.20. Kj Flying Cowgirl finished third with Rayenare rounding out the top four finishers.

Giles clinched the quarter horse training title last weekend and now has 19 winners on the season, well ahead of James J. Gonzales III, Alfredo Gomez and Eric Valenzuela.

#### CRISPYN HOLDS OFF LATE RALLY TO WIN 27TH RUNNING OF THE \$365,727 N.M. SPRING FUTURITY



In the richest quarter horse race of the season, trainer
Manuel Rodriguez sent out Crispyn and jockey Alan
Hernandez to an impressive win in the 27th running of the
\$365,727 New Mexican Spring Futurity, a restricted Grade 2
event for New Mexico-bred juveniles.

Owned and bred by MRB Racing, LLC, Crispyn battled on

the lead throughout and held off a late rally from post time favorite Miss Hi Tide to win by a neck, racing 300 yards in a final time of 15.21 seconds while earning an Equibase Speed Index of 97.

The son of A Royal Jess was the fastest qualifier for the New Mexican Spring Futurity when trials were held here on March 10. He has now won both of his career starts, with earnings topping \$182,000.

Sent off as the second choice on the board at odds of 3.20-to-1, Crispyn paid \$8.40 to his winning backers. The \$2 exacta with Miss Hi Tide came back \$30.60. Wood Be Bad finished third with Who U Daddy rounding out the top four finishers.

## **LEADING THOROUGHBRED** TRAINERS



#### **TODD FINCHER**

It has been a remarkable past two years for trainer Todd Fincher, who has amassed earnings approaching \$10 million since the start of 2022. He has finished atop the trainer standings in each of the last two seasons at Sunland Park, reaching the winners circle 30 times in the 2021-22 season, then following that up with 35 wins and earnings of more than \$1.8 million in the 2022-23 season. He scored stakes wins last season with Mama Was A Rocket in the La Senora Stakes, as well a pair of stakes wins with Thruthestorm, in both the Corrallito Steak House Stakes and the Red Hedeman Mile. He saddled Cheese Tray to a pair of stakes victories in the Jamison Memorial Handicap and the Albert and Henry Dominguez Memorial Handicaps. Perhaps his biggest achievements at Sunland Park last season

came with Flying Connection, who won both the Island Fashion Stakes and the \$300,000 Sunland Park Oaks. Fincher scored multiple stakes wins during the Zia Park meet this past season, including a romp by Flying Connection in the \$300,000 Zia Park Oaks, as well as Community Leader, winner of the \$150,000 New Mexico Classic Cup Juvenile Championship. Flncher also saddled Doer Not A Faker to a win in the New Mexico Classic Cup Oaks and Candy Aisle to victory in the Zia Park Princess Stakes. After saddling Senor Buscador to victory last season in the Curribot Handicap, he also sent that runner to victory last summer in the Grade 2 San Diego Handicap at Del Mar. Fincher was the leading trainer last season at Albuquerque Downs and Ruidoso Downs, combining for 41 wins at those tracks with notable victories for Community Leader in the Rio Grande Senor Thoroughbred Futurity at Ruidoso Downs, as well as with Bye Bye Bobby in the Downs at Albuquerque Handicap. In his 25-year career as a trainer, Fincher has won more than 1,430 races with purses money topping \$42.3 million. Some of Fincher's past major stakes stars include 2018 Sunland Derby winner Runaway Ghost as well as nine-time stakes winner Diabolical Dame.



#### JOEL MARR

Best known as trainer of undefeated racemare Peppers Pride, Marr has won nearly 1400 races with earnings topping \$30.5 million in a career dating back to 1990. Peppers Pride retired after winning all 19 of her lifetime starts, breaking the North American record for most consecutive wins (earlier held by Citation, Cigar, Mister Frisky and Hallowed Dreams). Last season, Marr finished in a tie for fifth place in the standings at Sunland Park, recording 13 winners from 82 starts. Marr's biggest score last season was with Wild On Ice, who posted an upset score in the Grade 3 Sunland Park Derby. He also found stakes success last summer at Albuquerque Downs, saddling Let Him Be to a win in the Casino at the Downs Thoroughbred Derby. Among his leading runners last season were Jet Set Warrior, winner

of the Red Hedeman Mile. He also saddled Let Him Be to a win at Zia Park last fall in the New Mexico Classic Cup Derby Championship Stakes. Marr was fourth in the standings at Zia Park during their most recent season, and finished in the top ten at Ruidoso Downs last summer. Among his recent stakes winners were Sarge, who won the Steve Prather Stakes at Zia Park in 2020, as well as Effort N Results, who won the 2020 Casino at the Downs Thoroughbred Derby at Albuquerque and Next Affair, who captured the Land of Enchantment Handicap at Ruidoso. In addition to Peppers Pride, Marr has saddled numerous multiple stakes winners like That's Who, Ol Windrinker Who and Lefty Who.



#### NANCY SUMMERS

Enjoying an enormous career as both a jockey and trainer, Summers won more than 1400 career races in the saddle, including highlight victories aboard Treacherously, who nearly won the quarter horse Triple Crown in 1993 in Ruidoso. She was a leading rider at San Juan Downs in 1989 and 1990 and also was victorious in the West Texas Futurity and Derby. As a trainer, Summers had a strong season at Sunland Park last winter, winning 13 races from 68 starters. She won a pair of stakes races last season, with Crafty Money in the New Mexico Breeders Oaks, as well as with multiple stakes winning Mine That Star, who was victorious in the Sunland Park Handicap last season. Mine That Star continued his extraordinary campaign last summer, winning the Budweiser Special Stakes at Albuquerque

Downs before capping off the year with a win in the Zia Park Championship Stakes. Summers was the leading trainer at the Zia Park season in 2020, highlighted by stakes wins with Mindofmyown in the New Mexico Classic Cup Distaff Sprint Championship Stakes as well as Line Call in the New Mexico Classic Cup Lassic Championship Stakes and Lariat, winner of the New Mexico Classic Cup Derby Championship Stakes. In just eight years as a trainer, Summers has saddled nearly 260 winners with purse monies approaching \$6 million.



#### DICK CAPPELLUCCI

A mainstay on the New Mexico circuit for more than 30 years, Dick Cappellucci was the second leading trainer last season at Sunland Park, winning 26 times with 107 starters. Among his leading runners last season were Competitive Idea, who won the Ft. Bliss Stakes. In addition to his strong season at Sunland Park, Cappellucci was the third leading trainer last summer at Ruidoso Downs and also won seven races last summer at Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie, Texas. In 2022, Cappellucci won 84 races and enjoyed his best year with earnings of more than \$1.6 million. In his training career, which began in the early 90's, Cappellucci has scored nearly 775 victories with earnings approaching \$12 million. Among the top horses in Cappellucci's barn have been multiple stakes winner Ciento, a

20-time winner and earner of more than \$816,000 including eight stakes victories from 2002 through 2004 as well as Silver Expression, a multiple stakes winner and earner of more than \$337,000 from 2006 through 2008.

## **LEADING THOROUGHBRED** TRAINERS



#### MARTIN VALDEZ-CABRAL JR.

One of the rising stars on the training scene, Valdez-Cabral Jr. had a strong season at Sunland Park last winter, winning 23 times from 128 starts and earnings of more than \$433,000. In just five years as a trainer, Valdez-Cabral Jr. has won more than 200 races with earnings of more than \$3.6 million. Among his leading runners are Blazing Navarone, a multiple stakes winner and earner of more than \$621,000. He also trained Diabolical Ruler, an 11-time winner with earnings of more than \$322,000. Cabral finished second in the trainer standings last spring at SunRay Park and Casino with nine winners from 50 starters, then parlayed that success into the summer at Ruidoso Downs, where he won 15 times from 63 starters.



#### **GREG GREEN**

Over the past 10 years, Green has become of the region's leading conditioners, with annual purse earnings of more than \$500,000 nine times since the year 2013. Green finished fourth in the trainer standings last season at Sunland Park, winning 16 times from 59 starters and earnings of more than \$270,000. Green finished third in the standings at Albuquerque Downs, winning seven times including a stakes victory with Milk It, who captured the New Mexico State Fair Thoroughbred Futurity. Green, who began his training career in 2000, has won more than 680 career races, collecting earnings of more than \$12.1 million. Among his leading runners are Cowboy Cool, a 15-time winner as well as Tight Fiittin Jeans, an earner of more than \$264,000 while winning six times from 29 career starts.



#### **CASEY LAMBERT**

Lambert scored a pair of impressive stakes wins in 2023 with Ancient Land, winning both the Land of Enchantment Stakes last summer at Ruidoso Downs before finishing the campaign with an upset score in the Rocky Gulch New Mexico Classic Cup Championship Stakes. Lambert saddled nearly two dozen winners in 2023, with earnings of more than \$620,000. Lambert was fourth in the trainer standings last summer at Ruidoso Downs with eight winners. Among Lambert's former top runners was Sunscreen, a multiple stakes winner as a 2-year-old and also victorious in the New Mexico Breeders' Derby in 2019. In all, Lambert has saddled nearly 320 winners with purses approaching \$5 million.

# **LEADING THOROUGHBRED JOCKEYS**



#### LUIS FUENTES

Arguably one of the hottest riders in the country, Luis Fuentes had a spectacular season at Sunland Park in 2022, easily topping the thoroughbred standings with 39 winners with purse winnings of more than \$1.2 million. Among his stakes winners last season at Sunland Park with Corralito Steak House Stakes winner Thruthestorm, who later came back to win the Red Hedeman Mile. Fuentes also found success with Cheese Tray, who won both the Albert and Henry Dominguez Memorial Handicap and the Jamison Memorial Handicap. In all, Fuentes rode 13 stakes winners in 2023, including Bye Bye Bobby in the Inaugural Handicap at SunRay Park and Casino. Fuentes capped off his banner year with three stakes wins at Zia Park, including an upset win aboard Two Rivers Over in the \$300,000 Zia Park

Derby. During the 2021-22 Sunland Park season, Fuentes won 38 times from 153 starts with purses topping \$1 million. In addition to his work in New Mexico, Fuentes was one of the leading riders in 2023 at Remington Park, where he was in the top ten of the standings with nearly 30 winners to his credit. Fuentes has become one of several go-to riders for leading trainer Todd Fincher, riding three stakes races during Land of Enchantment Day at Zia Park in 2022, where he finished atop the standings with 45 winners. At press time Luis Fuentes was battling Christian Ramos for the top spot at Zia Park in 2023. The 23-year-old El Paso native has nearly 475 career wins and earnings of more than \$11.7 million.



#### ALFREDO JUAREZ JR.

Alfredo Juarez, Jr. had another solid campaign at Sunland Park last season, earning a strong second place finish in the standings with 29 winners and more than \$1.1 million in earnings. In stakes races at Sunland Park last year, Juarez found the winners circle aboard New Mexico State University Handicap winner I Think I'm Here. He won the Bold Ego Handicap aboard Ari Oakley and scored a pair of wins aboard Flying Connection, winning the Island Fashion Stakes and Sunland Park Oaks for trainer Todd Fincher. At SunRay Park, Juarez won a division of the Jack Cole Stakes aboard Massive Roar. In the 2021-22 season at Sunland Park, Juarez also finished second in the overall standings with 31 wins from 141 mounts and earnings topping \$720,000. Juarez won the thoroughbred riding titles

at both SunRay Park and Albuquerque Downs in 2022. At Sunland Park in 2019, Juarez rode 43 winners from 204 starts. A winner of more than 3,360 races in his illustrious career that dates back to 1996, Juarez has amassed earnings over \$62.2 million dollars. He has enjoyed successful ventures in the past at Arlington Park, Lone Star Park and Turf Paradise. In Chicago, he rode eventual 2003 Kentucky Derby winner War Emblem to two victories. Alfredo is joined at Sunland Park by his wife Lisa and daughter Ashley.

## **LEADING THOROUGHBRED** JOCKEYS



#### **KEN TOHILL**

The veteran rider who first broke into the business in 1979 has been enjoying a banner couple of years, coming off a solid third place finish in the jockey standings at Sunland Park last year with 23 wins from 144 mounts. Tohill, the all-time leading rider at Sunland Park, capped off his massive season last year with his first career win in the Grade 3 Sunland Derby aboard Wild On Ice for trainer Joel Marr. Tohill followed up his solid season at Prairie Meadows in Iowa, where he rode 52 winners with earnings of more than \$1.6 million, including stakes wins aboard My First Pearl in the Prairie Rose Stakes and aboard Minecraft Maniac in the Cyclones Handicap. Tohill found the winners circle multiple times this past year with Mine That Star, winning the Sunland Park Handicap as well as the Zia Park

Championship. Tohill is currently ranked in the top 70 of all-time leading jockeys in thoroughbred racing, with more than 4150 winners and earnings of more than \$73 million.



#### CHRISTIAN RAMOS

A 19-time winner from 76 quarter horse races last season at Sunland Park, Ramos also won 10 races from 92 mounts in thoroughbred races, making him one of the more successful crossover riders of the season. He earned a stakes win at SunRay Park and Casino aboard Bye Bye Matty P for trainer Andres Gonzalez in a division of the \$100,000 Jack Cole Stakes. He also found stakes success at Ruidoso Downs, riding Holottalute to victory in the Sierra Starlet Stakes for trainer Bart Hone. Ramos won 11 quarter horse and 11 thoroughbred races at SunRay Park and Casino, finishing near the top of the standings in both categories. Ramos catapulted to the top of the thoroughbred jockey standings, winning 30 races while also winning 22 quarter horse races at the same meet. Ramos won 10 quarter

horse and five thoroughbred races at the Albuquerque Downs meet. In all, Ramos won more than 120 races in 2023 with earnings of more than \$3.3 million. Overall, Ramos has won more than 260 career races with earnings of nearly \$7 million.



#### FELIPE VALDEZ

Valdez ranked as one of the top ten riders last season at Sunland Park, earning 16 wins from 115 mounts and earnings topping \$590,000. Among his leading runners last season were La Senora Stakes winner Mama Was A Rocket and Evacuee in the Mt. Cristo Rey Handicap. Valdez followed up his strong campaign at Ruidoso Downs last summer, where he rode Todd Fincher-trained Community Leader to wins in both the Mountain Top Thoroughbred Futurity and the Rio Grande Senor Thoroughbred Futurity. Valdez was the second-leading rider at Ruidoso Downs, then finished third at Albuquerque Downs with stakes victories aboard Flying Connection in the Charles Taylor Derby as well as with Better Believe in the Petticoat Stakes and Candy Aisle in the Manzano Stakes. Valdez finished the 2023

calendar year strong, riding a pair of stakes winners at Zia Park, again aboard Community Leader in the New Mexico Classic Cup Juvenile Championship and Candy Aisle in the Zia Park Princess Stakes. Valdez has battled back from serious injuries throughout his career which began in 1997. He captured the riding title at Portland Meadows in 2001 and was among the top jockeys at Hastings Racecourse for several seasons. Valdez is best known for piloting Dancewithavixen to victory in the Grade 3 Ballerina Breeders' Cup Stakes in 2003. After returning from a spill in 2016, Valdez has come back strong with the best year of his career. He has more than 810 winners with earnings of more than \$13.7 million.



#### ALEJANDRO MEDELLIN

Medellin achieved top ten status at last year's Sunland Park season, riding 13 winners from 130 starts with earnings of more than \$408,000. Medellin followed up that season by winning the riding title at SunRay Park and Casino, riding 19 winners from starts including aboard New Mexico Jeremy in the Dine Stakes. Medellin again finished in the top ten of the standings at Ruidoso Downs. In a career that dates back to 2003, Medellin has been one of New Mexico's top crossover riders, with more than 1130 thoroughbred wins with more than \$21 million in earnings, while also earning more than 580 quarter horse wins with earnings of more than \$12.6 million. His biggest wins have come aboard multiple stakes winning First Moonflash, winner of the Championship at Sunland Park in 2009. He also won

multiple stakes races aboard Cattleman Prospect, including the 2008 Jack Cole Handicap at SunRay Park and the 2009 Johnie L. Jamison Handicap at Sunland Park.



#### LUIS VALENZUELA

Luis Valenzuela started 2023 as one of the top riders at Turf Paradise, where he won 31 races with earnings of more than \$484,000. From there, he took his talents to Canterbury Park in Minnesota, where he won 15 races with earnings in excess of \$371,000. He broke onto the scene last summer at Albuquerque Downs, where he rode 11 winners including a stakes triumph aboard Mine That Star in the Budweiser Special Stakes. Valenzuela came onto the scene in 2019, and is on pace to have the most successful year of his career. To date, Valenzuela has nearly 220 winners with earnings of more than \$4.2 million. Valenzuela's top career earners have been Pepper Spray, winner of the 2022 Charles Taylor Derby at Albuquerque Downs, as well as Annie's Boy, a multiple stakes winner at Turf Paradise,

Arapahoe Downs and Arizona Downs from 2020 through 2022.

## **LEADING THOROUGHBRED** OWNER

#### JUDGE LANIER RACING



The team of Tom and Sandy McKenna, longtime breeders in the state of New Mexico, have also achieved tremendous success as owners, particularly in recent years. Judge Lanier Racing has dominated the scene the past few years at Sunland Park, including the most recent season, winning seven races with 35 starters and earnings topping \$402,000 when the season came to a close. They scored a pair of stakes victories last season, reaching the winners circle with Crafty

Money in the \$250,000 New Mexico Breeders' Oaks and in the \$150,000 Sunland Park Handicap with Mine That Star. While also winning the Budweiser Special Stakes last summer at Albuquerque Downs and then finishing off the season with a win in the Zia Park Championship Stakes, Mine That Star became Judge Lanier Racing's second-highest earning racehorse with purses topping \$557,000. In 2023, Judge Lanier Racing captured a total of 13 wins with earnings of more than \$724,000. The pair's most successful racehorse, African Rose, was an eight-time stakes winner with earnings of more than \$586,000 during a career that spanned from 2012 through 2017, Judge Lanier Racing Stables has been a perennial leading owner of race horses in New Mexico. Since 2005 the stable has had earnings of \$11.2 million. Based out of Taiban, New Mexico, Judge Lanier Racing has been at or near the top of the owners standings at nearly all five tracks in the Land of Enchantment, winning season ending titles at Zia Park, Sunray Park and Casino as well as the Downs at Albuquerque. The McKenna's began their racing program in New Mexico in the early 2000's, with their first starter in 2004. 2017 brought them national recognition when Conquest Mo Money earned a berth in the Preakness Stakes after winning the Mine That Bird Derby, and subsequent second-place finishes in both the Sunland Park Derby and the Arkansas Derby.

# **LEADING QUARTER HORSE TRAINERS**



#### ERIC VALENZUELA

The barn of trainer Eric Valenzuela continued to put up strong numbers in 2023, particularly at Sunland Park, where he finished third in the standings with 12 winners from 55 starters, earning more than \$313,000, topped by a stakes win with Bigg Shades of Gray in the New Mexico Spring Fling Stakes. Valenzuela had a strong meet at Ruidoso Downs last summer, recording 18 winners including the Grade 1 Zia Futurity with Call Me Jessiecartel and the Grade 1 Ruidoso Futurity with Lets Leave. Valenzuela broke through in a big way in 2022, earning the training title at Sunland Park with 18 winners from 74 starts and earnings amassing \$573,000. Among his stakes winners at Sunland Park in 2022 were Wente, who scored in the Shue Fly Stakes, as well as Daddys Mony in the Sunburst Stakes, and victories

in the West Texas Juvenile Stakes with Apollitical Jet and in the New Mexican Spring Fling Stakes with Cartel Racer. Valenzuela went on to win stakes races across the state, including the New Mexico Breeders Futurity at SunRay Park last spring and the New Mexico State



Fair Juvenile Stakes at Albuquerque with Mr Tres Effort. Valenzuela's win total of 44 in 2022 eclipsed the combined number of wins he had in each of the last seven years. Valenzuela-trained runners have recorded more than 113 with earnings approaching \$4.3 million.

#### JAMES J. GONZALES III

In just three years as a licensed trainer, Gonzales has established himself as one of the strongest trainers in the region. He scored with 12 winners at last year's Sunland Park, including a win in the Shue Fly Stakes with My Heart Jess Runs. Gonzales also achieved stakes-winning status at Remington Park in 2023 with Dak, who would later come

back to win the Bill Reed Memorial Stakes at Ruidoso Downs, where Gonzales won 12 races last summer. Gonzales won 14 races at Lone Star Park last Autumn, scoring a pair of stakes wins with Vytaliti. At Albuquerque Downs last summer, Gonzales found the winners circle with Wood Be Bad in the New Mexico State Fair Juvenile Stakes. The red-hot trainer has had a massive amount of success in just a short amount of time. In the 2021-22 Sunland Park season, he finished second in the trainer standings, saddling stakes winners like Colby James in both the Grade 2 Red or Green Stakes and the Dona Ana County Handicap, as well as Bigg Dee, who won the Grade 2 Mesilla Valley Speed Handicap. Gonzales also scored stakes victories at Sunland Park with Wish Bigg in the NMHBA Quarter Horse Stakes as well as Jesses Wish in the New Mexican Spring Futurity. Bigg Dee would later come back to win the Grade 2 Zia Stakes at Ruidoso Downs last summer. Gonzales also earned a stakes win at SunRay Park and Casino with Mr Red White N Blue, who finished in a dead heat for the win in the Four Corners Futurity. In total, Gonzales scored 30 wins in 2022, with earnings approaching \$1.3 million. In three short years, Gonzales is approaching 100 winners with purses topping \$3.1 million.

# **LEADING QUARTER HORSE** TRAINERS



#### **WES GILES**

Arguably one of the most successful quarter horse trainers of all-time, Giles ranks ninth in the history of the sport with more than 1350 winners in a career that spans back to 1991. Last season at Sunland Park, Giles scored the training title with 19 winners and earnings of more than \$780,000. He highlighted the meet with Kj Daddys Money in the Sunburst Stakes and with Kj Little Duce Coup in the Grade 2 West Texas Futurity. Giles also won the training title at Ruidoso Downs last summer, winning 24 races including the Mountain Top Derby with Cruzin for Chickz and the All American Gold Cup Stakes with Kj Desperado. The son of Apollitical Jess, who won the 2021 All American Futurity, would later eclipse \$3 million in lifetime earnings when he won the Refrigerator Stakes at Lone Star, becoming the

richest quarter horse in the history of the sport. At Albuquerque Downs last summer, Giles sent out Bella De Ball, winner of the \$1.2 million New Mexico State Fair Futurity, the richest state-bred race of its kind in America. Giles also found stakes success at Zia Park in the Fall with Chicka Boom Babe, who won the Grade 2 New Mexico Classic Futurity. Giles-trained runners have earned more than \$3 million in each of the last three years.

# **LEADING QUARTER HORSE JOCKEYS**



#### ADRIAN RAMOS

Last season's co-leading rider with 21 wins from 106 starts, Ramos scored success in stakes races last season aboard Kj Daddys Money in the \$100,000 Sunburst Stakes. His mounts earned more than \$860,000 during the 2022-23 season. He followed up the success at Sunland Park with a fourth place finish in the rider standings at SunRay Park and Casino. Ramos won 25 races while finishing second in the standings at Ruidoso Downs, including stakes wins with Ezee Monee in the Rainbow Oaks as well as in the Grade 1 All American Gold Cup aboard Kj Desperado. Ramos guided KJ Desperado to victory in the Grade 1 Refrigerator Handicap at Lone Star Park last November, making that horse the first to ever win more than \$3 million in earnings. At Zia Park last November, Ramos guided Chicks Boom

Babe to victory in the Grade 2 New Mexico Classic Cup Futurity. In 2022, Ramos won 15 times during the 2022 Zia Park season. Ramos finished third in the 2021-22 season at Sunland Park, winning 16 races from 113 starts and purses topping \$491,000. The veteran rider logged his biggest career victories aboard KJ Desperado in both the Grade 1 All American Futurity at Ruidoso Downs and the Grade 1 Texas Classic Futurity at Lone Star Park and was the leading rider in the 2021 season at Turf Paradise. In 2022, Ramos was second among the leading riders at Ruidoso Downs, with stakes wins aboard KJ Desperado in the Grade 1 Ruidoso Derby as well as aboard River Flash in the Zia Derby. At Albuquerque Downs, Ramos was a seven-time winner, with stakes wins aboard River Flash in the New Mexico State Fair Derby, as well as aboard The Big Favorite, winner of the La Fiesta Derby. The journeyman who began his riding career in 2011 has recorded nearly 680 wins from a bit more than 5200 mounts with earnings topping \$20.6 million.



#### NOE GARCIA, JR.

One season after rolling to the quarter horse riding championship, Garcia had another strong season at Sunland Park, winning 15 times from 87 mounts and earnings of more than \$410,000. Among his stakes winners in 2023, Garcia rode Doing Something Good to victory in the Zia Derby at Ruidoso Downs for trainer Fred Danley. Garcia and Danley also teamed up for victory with No Mires a La Luna in the First Moonflash Maturity at Albuquerque Downs. Garcia scored one of his biggest career wins when he rode White Lightenin to victory in the New Mexico Classic Cup Derby at Zia Park last November. Garcia began his professional riding career in 2018 and has logged more than 280 wins with earnings over \$8.3 million. His biggest career victory came in 2019 at Ruidoso Downs aboard All American

Derby winner Rustys Miracle.



#### FRANCISCO CALDERON

One of the nation's leading quarter horse riders in 2023, Calderon was the top money-earning rider at Remington Park this past spring, as his 25 winners earned more than \$1.2 million. Calderon had an amazing summer campaign at Ruidoso Downs, winning 35 races and over \$2 million in earnings, the bulk of which came aboard of runners trained by Santos Carrizales Jr., Dark NME in the \$1 million Rainbow Futurity and Sicario V in the \$800,000 Rainbow Derby. Calderon and Dark NME reunited last November at Lone Star Park for a victory in the Grade 1 Texas Classic Futurity. Calderon had a strong season at Albuquerque Downs, winning eight times from 18 starts and earnings of more than \$770,000 including stakes wins aboard Dynasty Star V for trainer Wes Giles in the La Fiesta Derby and

Flying Sophia in the Grade 3 La Fiesta Futurity. Calderon recently scored a victory at Los Alamitos in the Golden State Million Futurity aboard Heath Taylor's Trane Station V and is among the leading riders in 2023 at Lone Star Park. The veteran rider began his career in 2011 and has since become one of the nation's leading quarter horse jockeys, with 880 winners from a bit more than 5000 career mounts and purses totaling more \$21.2 million. Calderon completed a record setting year aboard Trane Station V in the Los Alamitos \$2 million Futurity.

# **LEADING QUARTER HORSE JOCKEYS**



#### EMILIO TAPIA

Enjoyed the best year of his career in 2023, finishing a close second behind co-leaders Adrian Ramos and Hector Aldrete in the quarter horse jockey standings at Sunland Park. His 20 winners included stakes wins aboard Bigg Shades of Gray in the New Mexico Spring Fling Stakes. At SunRay Park, Tapia found the winners circle aboard Big Crush BB in a division of the Grade 3 Jimmy Drake Stakes. Tapia had three stakes winners at Ruidoso Downs last summer, twice with Big Crush BB in the Jess Burner Stakes and the Grade 2 Zia Stakes, and with First Flashin in the Rita Danley Distaff Stakes. Tapia rode more than 45 winners in 2023 with earnings well over \$1.3 million. Among his biggest career victories was aboard River Flash, when he won the 2022 Mountain Top Derby for trainer Wes Giles.

In a career that dates back to 2012, Tapia's runners have earned more than \$4.3 million while winning 277 races.



#### SERGIO BECERRA, JR.

Becerra appears to be well on his way to having a better year in 2023 than he did just one year prior, when he won 60 races in 2022. At Sunland Park last season, Becerra finished with 16 winners and earnings of more than \$497,000. Becerra achieved a strong 44 percent win ratio last season at Albuquerque Downs, winning eight of 18 starts during the season including a stakes win aboard Doin Something Right in the New Mexico State Fair Sophomore Stakes for trainer Marco Flores. Becerra's biggest season in 2023 came at Ruidoso Downs, where he won 24 times, including one of the biggest wins of his career aboard Lets Leave, winner of the Grade 1 Ruidoso Futurity. That was Becerra's second win in that race, having earlier scored aboard Cyber Monday in the 2020 renewal of that race. Becerra also

earned a Grade 1 win aboard Eagle Coast in the 2019 Rainbow Derby. A veteran rider since 2010, Becerra has won nearly 400 career races with purses topping \$12.6 million.



# **2024 STAKES SCHEDULE**

**KLAQ HANDICAP** 33rd Running \$65,000 4-Year Olds & Older 5 Furlongs Friday, January 5 Guaranteed

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**NEW MEXICO STATE** RACING COMMISSION

23rd Running Friday, January 5 \$100,000

Fillies & Mares

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Guaranteed 4-Year Olds & Older **Furlongs** 

**HANDICAP** 

Registered New Mexico Bred. Lasix not permitted per HISA Rule 4212(d). \$50,000 (est.) from NMHBA Purse Enhancement Fund. Balance of added money from Sunland Park Purse Fund. Free to nominate; \$600 to enter. Nominations Close Thursday, December 28.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP AT 22nd Running \$350,000 4-Year Olds & Older 440 **SUNLAND PARK GRADE 1** Sunday, January 7 Guaranteed Yards

Added money-\$250,000 from Sunland Park Purse Fund; An invitational stake with invitations released on Friday, December 15, 2023. \$10,000 (includes all fees) due at time of entry. Full refund of fees to any nominee who is excluded by order of preference.

**RED OR GREEN STAKES** 

26th Running

\$100,000

4-Year Olds & Older

400 Yards

Guaranteed RG II Sunday, January 14

Registered New Mexico Bred. \$50,000 (est.) from NMHBA Purse Enhancement Fund. Balance of added money from Sunland Park Purse Fund. Free to nominate; \$600 to enter. Nominations Close Friday, January 5.

**CORRALITO STEAK HOUSE STAKES** 

23rd Running Thursday, January 18

\$100,000 Guaranteed 3-Year Olds

6 **Furlonas** 

Registered New Mexico Bred. Lasix not permitted per HISA Rule 4212(d), \$50,000 (est.) from NMHBA Purse Enhancement Fund. Balance of added money from Sunland Park Purse Fund. Free to nominate; \$600 to enter. Nominations Close, Wednesday, January 10

LA SEÑORA STAKES

23rd Running Thursday, January 18

\$100,000 Guaranteed

3-Year Old Fillies

6 **Furlongs** 

Lasix not permitted per HISA Rule 4212(d). \$50,000 (est.) from NMHBA Purse Enhancement Fund. Balance of added money from Sunland Park Purse Fund, Free to nominate; \$600 to enter, Nominations Close Wednesday, January 10,

**BOLD EGO HANDICAP** 31st Running \$65,000 Fillies & Mares 5 & One-Half **Furlongs** 

Friday, January 19 4-Year Olds & Older Guaranteed Lasix not permitted per HISA Rule 4212(d). Free to nominate; \$500 to enter. Nominations Close Thursday, January 11.

**RILEY ALLISON DERBY** 60th Running \$100,000 3-Year Olds

Friday, January 19 Added 1 Mile

Lasix not permitted per HISA Rule 4212(d). Free to nominate; \$600 to enter, Preference by lifetime earnings,

Nominations Close Thursday, January 11.

6 & One-Half **BORDERPLEX STAKES** 26th Running \$65,000 3-Year Old Fillies Friday, January 19 Guaranteed **Furlongs** 

Lasix not permitted per HISA Rule 4212(d). Free to nominate; \$500 to enter. Nominations Close Thursday, January 11.

FT. BLISS STAKES 4-Year Olds & Older 19th Running \$75,000 6 Friday, January 19 Guaranteed **Furlongs** 

Lasix not permitted per HISA Rule 4212(d). Free to nominate; \$600 to enter. Nominations Close Thursday, January 11.

**LOU WOOTEN - SYDNEY** 23rd Running \$100,000 Fillies & Mares 400 VALENTINI HCP RG II Sunday, January 21 Guaranteed 4-Year Olds & Older Yards Registered New Mexico Bred. \$50,000 (est.) from NMHBA Purse Enhancement Fund. Balance of added money from Sunland Park Purse Fund. Free to nominate; \$600 to enter. Nominations close Friday, January 12. 21st Running Fillies & Mares LA CONEJA STAKES \$100,000 Friday, February 2 Guaranteed 4-Year Olds & Older **Furlongs** Registered New Mexico Bred. Lasix not permitted per HISA Rule 4212(d). \$50,000 (est.) from NMHBA Purse Enhancement Fund. Balance of added money from Sunland Park Purse Fund. Free to nominate; \$600 to enter. Nominations close Thursday, January 25. THE SHUE FLY RG II 51st Running 3-Year Olds 400 \$100,000 Sunday, February 4 Added Yards Registered New Mexico Bred. Added Money - \$50,000 from Sunland Park Purse Fund. \$50,000 (est.) from NMHBA Purse Enhancement Fund. Nominations Close November 3,2023 upon payment of \$950. \$1000 due at time of entry into trials Supplemental nomination \$10,000 at time of entry into trials (includes all fees). TRIALS TO BE HELD SATURDAY, JANUARY 13. \$100,000 STARR WESTERN WEAR 18th Running 4-Year Olds & Older 870 **STAKES** Sunday, February 4 Guaranteed Yards Registered New Mexico Bred. \$50,000 (est.) from NMHBA Purse Enhancement Fund. Balance of added money from Sunland Park Purse Fund. QH Preferred. Free to nominate; \$600 to enter. Nominations close Friday, January 26. WINSHAM LAD 47th Running \$65,000 4-Year Olds & Older 1 Mile **HANDICAP** Friday, February 9 Guaranteed Lasix not permitted per HISA Rule 4212(d). Free to nominate; \$500 to enter. Nominations Close Thursday, February 1. JAMISON MEMORIAL 21st Running \$100,000 4-Year Olds & Older 6 & One-Half Friday, February 9 **HANDICAP** Guaranteed **Furlongs** Registered New Mexico Bred. Lasix not permitted per HISA Rule 4212(d). \$50,000 (est.) from NMHBA Purse Enhancement Fund. Balance of added money from Sunland Park Purse Fund. Free to nominate; \$600 to enter. Nominations Close Thursday, February 1. PEPSI COLA HANDICAP 21st Running 4-Year Olds & Older 350 \$100,00 Saturday, February 17 RG II Guaranteed Yards Registered New Mexico Bred. \$50,000 (est.) from NMHBA Purse Enhancement Fund. Balance of added money from Sunland Park Purse Fund. Free to nominate; \$600 to enter. Nominations Close Friday, February 9. SUNLAND DERBY Gr. III 19th Running \$400,000 3-Year Olds 1 Mile & Sunday, February 18 Guaranteed 1/16th Lasix not permitted per HISA Rule 4212(d). First preference will be preferred by lifetime graded earnings. Second preference will be by total lifetime earnings. Any horse excluded at time of entry will receive full refund of payments. Colts & Geldings to carry 123 lbs; Fillies to carry 118 lbs. Free Nominations close February 1, 2024 entry fee of \$5,000;. Late Supplemental nomination of \$10,000 at time of entry, February 12. After payment of 1% to all owners of horses finishing sixth thru last, 60% of the remaining purse paid to the owner of the winner, 22% to second, 10% to third, 5% to fourth and 3% to fifth. SUNLAND PARK OAKS 21st Running 3-Year Old Fillies \$250,000 1 Mile Sunday, February 18 Guaranteed Lasix not permitted per HISA Rule 4212(d). Free to nominate; \$1000 to enter. Late Supplemental Nomination of \$10,000 at time of entry. Nominations close Thursday, February 8. HARRY W. HENSON 30th Running \$100,000 Fillies & Mares 1 Mile Sunday, February 18 Guaranteed 4-Year Olds & Older **HANDICAP** Lasix not permitted per HISA Rule 4212(d). Free to nominate; \$600 to enter. Nominations Close Thursday, February 8. **BILL THOMAS MEMORIAL** 33rd Running \$100,000 4-Year Olds & Older 6 & One-Half

Guaranteed

Sunday, February 18

Lasix not permitted per HISA Rule 4212(d). Free to nominate; \$600 to enter. Nominations Close Thursday, February 8.

STAKES

**Furlongs** 

THE ENCHANTRESS 14th Running \$100,000 3-Year Old Fillies 1 Mile STAKES Sunday, February 18 Guaranteed

**Registered New Mexico Bred. Lasix not permitted per HISA Rule 4212(d).** \$50,000 (est.) from NMHBA Purse Enhancement Fund. Balance of added money from Sunland Park Purse Fund. Free to nominate; \$600 to enter. Nominations close Thursday, February 8.

RED HEDEMAN MILE	21st Running	\$100,000	3-Year Olds	1 Mile
	Sunday, February 18	Guaranteed		

**Registered New Mexico Bred. Lasix not permitted per HISA Rule 4212(d).** \$50,000 (est.) from NMHBA Purse Enhancement Fund. Balance of added money from Sunland Park Purse Fund. Free to nominate; \$600 to enter. Nominations close Thursday, February 8.

WEST TEXAS DERBY Gr III 60th Running \$65,000 Added 3 Year Olds 400 Saturday, March 2 Yards

Nominations Close December 1, 2023, upon payment of \$600; \$800 due at time of entry into trials. Supplemental nomination - \$3,000 (plus remaining fees) due January 1, 2024 or \$6,000 (includes all fees) at time of entry into trials.

TRIALS TO BE HELD SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10.

SUNBURST STAKES RG III	14th Running	\$100,000	3-Year Old Fillies	350
	Sunday March 3	Guaranteed		Yards

**Registered New Mexico Bred.** \$50,000 (est.) from NMHBA Purse Enhancement Fund. Balance of added money from Sunland Park Purse Fund. Free to nominate; \$600 to enter. Nominations close Friday, February 23.

CURRIBOT HANDICAP 23rd Running \$75,000 3-Year Olds & Older 1 Mile & Friday, March 8 Guaranteed 1/16th

Lasix not permitted per HISA Rule 4212(d). Free to nominate; \$600 to enter. Nominations Close Thursday, February 29.

ALBERT AND HENRY 19th Running \$100,000 4-Year Olds & Older 1 Mile & DOMINGUEZ Friday, March 8 Guaranteed 1/16th MEMORIAL HANDICAP

**Registered New Mexico Bred. Lasix not permitted per HISA Rule 4212(d).** \$50,000 (est.) from NMHBA Purse Enhancement Fund. Balance of added money from Sunland Park Purse Fund. Free to nominate; \$600 to enter. Nominations Close Thursday, February 29.

MT. CRISTO REY

18th Running

\$100,000

3-Year Olds & Older 5 & One-Half

HANDICAP

Friday, March 22

Guaranteed

Furlongs

**Registered New Mexico Bred. Lasix not permitted per HISA Rule 4212(d).** \$50,000 (est.) from NMHBA Purse Enhancement Fund. Balance of added money from Sunland Park Purse Fund. Free to nominate; \$600 to enter. Nominations Close Thursday, March 14.

NEW MEXICO	14th Running	\$250,000	3-Year Old Fillies	1 Mile &
BREEDERS' OAKS	Friday, March 29	Guaranteed		1/16th

**Registered New Mexico Bred. Lasix not permitted per HISA Rule 4212(d).** \$125,000 (est.) from NMHBA Purse Enhancement Fund. Balance of added money from Sunland Park Purse Fund. Free to nominate; \$1000 to enter. Nominations close Thursday, March 21.

NEW MEXICO 19th Running \$250,000 3-Year Olds 1 Mile & BREEDERS' DERBY Friday, March 29 Guaranteed 1/16th

**Registered New Mexico Bred. Lasix not permitted per HISA Rule 4212(d).** \$125,000 (est.) from NMHBA Purse Enhancement Fund. Balance of added money from Sunland Park Purse Fund. Free to nominate; \$1000 to enter. Nominations close Thursday, March 21.

WEST TEXAS MATURITY	35th Running	\$65,000 Added	3-year olds & older	400
GR III	Sunday, March 31			Yards

Nominations Close January 15, upon payment of \$675; \$750 due at time of entry into trials. Supplemental payment of \$3,000 due at time of entry into trials (includes all fees). TRIALS TO BE HELD SUNDAY, MARCH 10.

NMHBA QUARTER 31st Running \$100,000 3-Year Olds 400 HORSE STAKE RG II Saturday, April 6 Guaranteed Yards

**Registered New Mexico Bred.** \$50,000 (est.) from NMHBA Purse Enhancement Fund. Balance of added money from Sunland Park Purse Fund. Free to nominate; \$600 to enter. Nominations Close Friday, March 29.

NEW MEXICAN 28th Running \$150,000 Added 2-Year Olds 300 SPRING FUTURITY RG II Saturday, April 6 Yards

Registered New Mexico Bred. \$75,000 from Sunland Park Purse Fund; \$75,000 (est.) from NMHBA Purse Enhancement Fund. Nominations close December 15, 2023 upon payment of \$600; \$800 due February 2, 2024, \$1000 due at time of entry into trials. Supplemental Payment of \$2,500 due February 2, 2024 (plus remaining payments.) Supplemental payment of \$12,500 due at time of entry into trials (includes all fees). TRIALS TO BE HELD SATURDAY, MARCH 16.

NEW MEXICAN 18th Running \$50,000 Purse 2-Year Olds 300 SPRING FLING Saturday, April 6 Yards

Up to \$50,000 from the New Mexican Spring Futurity. Two year olds that started in the trials of the New Mexican Spring Futurity and failed to qualify for the final. Fastest times from the trials preferred. Ten monies. \$50 to nominate.

WEST TEXAS 64th Running \$100,000 Added 2-Year Olds 300 FUTURITY GR II Saturday, April 6 Yards

Nominations close November 17, 2023, upon payment of \$400; \$600 due January 26, 2024; \$850 due at time of entry into trials. Supplemental payment of \$2,500 due January 26, 2024 (plus remaining payments) or \$10,000 (includes all fees) at time of entry into trials. TRIALS TO BE HELD SUNDAY, MARCH 17.

WEST TEXAS JUVENILE 20th Running \$50,000 Purse 2-Year Olds 300 STAKES Saturday, April 6 Yards

Up to \$50,000 from the West Texas Futurity. Two year olds that started in the trials of the West Texas Futurity and failed to qualify for the final. Fastest times from the trials preferred. Ten monies. \$50 to nominate.

SUNLAND PARK 63rd Running \$200,000 3-Year Olds & Older 1 Mile & HANDICAP Sunday, April 7 Guaranteed 1/8th

Lasix not permitted per HISA Rule 4212(d). Free to nominate; \$1000 to enter. Nominations Close Friday, March 29.

THE ISLAND FASHION 18th Running \$125,000 3-Year Old Fillies 1 Mile & STAKES Sunday, April 7 Guaranteed 1/16th

Lasix not permitted per HISA Rule 4212(d). Free to nominate, \$800 to enter. Nominations Close Friday, March 29.

MINE THAT BIRD DERBY 23rd Running \$125,000 3-Year Olds 1 Mile & Sunday, April 7 Guaranteed 1/8th

Lasix not permitted per HISA Rule 4212(d). Free nominations; \$800 to enter. Nominations close Friday, March 29.

THE PEPPERS PRIDE 17th Running \$100,000 Fillies & Mares 1 Mile STAKES Sunday, April 7 Guaranteed 4-Year Olds & Older

**Registered New Mexico Bred. Lasix not permitted per HISA Rule 4212(d).** \$50,000 (est.) from NMHBA Purse Enhancement Fund. Balance of added money from Sunland Park Purse Fund. Free to nominate; \$600 to enter. Nominations Close Friday, March 29.

NEW MEXICO STATE 21st Running \$100,000 4-Year Olds & Older 1 Mile & UNIVERSITY STAKES Sunday, April 7 Guaranteed 70 Yards

**Registered New Mexico Bred. Lasix not permitted per HISA Rule 4212(d).** \$50,000 (est.) from NMHBA Purse Enhancement Fund. Balance of added money from Sunland Park Purse Fund. Free to nominate; \$600 to enter. Nominations Close Friday, March 29.



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