



MONDAY REPORT

A weekly recap from the National Steeplechase Association

Monday, March 18, 2019

Welcome to your new Monday Report

Welcome to the Monday Report, a new National Steeplechase Association feature that will be available every Monday during the spring and fall racing seasons as well as the summer racetrack season.

The Monday Report is an Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) product that will focus on what happened the previous weekend and what is in store for the coming weekend. This issue, of course, will be exclusively looking ahead to the start of another season of exciting steeplechase racing.

The Monday Report will strive for a complete review of each race, and the words will be complemented by photos from steeplechasing's talented photographers, including NSA official photographer Tod Marks, a 2016 Eclipse Award winner.

The look-ahead section will highlight upcoming meets and nominations for major races.

If you have suggestions for improving Monday Report or features that you'd like to see, please email NSA Director of Communications Don Clippinger at dclippinger@korotkinenterprises.com.



Skip Crawford's Senior Senator, ridden by Eric Poretz, jumped to victory in the 2018 Maryland Hunt Cup and is among 24 nominees to the April 27 timber classic. (Douglas Lees photo)



Aiken Spring is a family activity, although some younger fans are more intent than others on watching the on-course action. (Tod Marks photo)

Aiken Spring makes Southern Strides in opening NSA season

The Aiken Spring Steeplechase styles itself as Southern Strides, and the National Steeplechase Association strides into an exciting new season at the always-stylish race meeting in South Carolina on Saturday.

As always, Aiken Spring is sold out, and preparations are wrapping up for the 53rd edition of the meet now run at the Aiken Horse Park. First post time will be 1 p.m. for a program of five or six races.

Aiken Spring is wholesome fun for the whole family, and Event Coordinator Jessica Miller noted that an activities tent for the youngest racegoers has been added for this year. Also on the program are the carriage parade, two divisions of the best hat contest (most elegant and spring-themed), the crazy pants contest, and a drawing for an elegant centerpiece at the conclusion of the races.

Like most race meets, Aiken Spring is driven by its bounty of volunteers, and beneficiaries of the meet have been Aiken charities such as Helping Hands Inc., Hitchcock Woods Foundation, The Cumbee Center, Public Education Partners, CanHope, Aiken S.P.C.A., Aiken Rescue Squad, Aiken Public Safety Horse Rescue Squad, National Steeplechase Association Injured Jockeys Fund, and the Aiken Thoroughbred Hall of Fame.

Entries for the Aiken Spring races will be taken today, and race officials intend to split the training flat race if sufficient entries allow. One division would be for maidens, and the other for winners.

Aiken Spring's featured race will be the \$30,000 Budweiser Imperial Cup, a ratings handicap for horses ranked at 120 or lower. All Aiken hurdle races are at two miles.

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