

JUNE 2015

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NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE ASSOCIATION | 400 FAIR HILL DRIVE, ELKTON, MD 21921

Suffolk, Kentucky Downs Join Summer Jump-Racing Showcase

American Steeplechasing will tour race-tracks in the East and Midwest, including new stops at Suffolk Downs and Kentucky Downs, as part of the 2015 Summer Jump-Racing Showcase.

In all, purses could exceed \$1.5-million from the 17 Summer Showcase dates.

Historic Saratoga Race Course will be the host to 12 steeplechase races, following the same schedule as 2014. Jump racing will be featured on Wednesdays and Thursdays throughout America's premier summer race meet.

The Saratoga schedule includes the \$150,000 New York Turf Writers Cup (Gr. 1) on Aug. 27 and the A. P. Smithwick Memorial (Gr. 1), whose purse has been increased 25% to \$125,000. The Smithwick on Aug. 6 will be part of the second full week of Saratoga racing.

The Summer Jump Racing Showcase comes to a rich conclusion at Belmont Park on Thursday, Sept. 24, when \$225,000 will be at stake in the \$75,000 William Entenmann Novice Stakes and the \$150,000 Lonesome Glory (Gr. 1).

The two Suffolk dates, July 11 and Aug. 8, are part of the effort to revitalize racing at the East Boston track, which closed last fall after the track was denied a gaming license. The dates are subject to approval by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission. The two Suffolk dates tentatively will offer at least \$160,000 in steeplechase purses.

Kentucky Downs, near the Tennessee border, originally was a steeplechase race course when it opened in April 1990 as Dueling Grounds Race Course. It now offers an all-turf September racing festival, and jump races would be staged on Saturday, Sept. 5.

The Summer Jump-Racing Showcase kicks off on Friday, June 19, at Monmouth Park in New Jersey. After the visit to the Boston area on July 11, jump racing returns to its summer



Dogwood Stable founder Cot Campbell was one of the featured speakers at the inaugural Owner Symposium and Steeplechase Auction, a project of the NSA's Promotion and Growth Task Force, at Shawan Downs on April 12.

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home at Saratoga Race Course, with a full schedule of stakes races, allowance hurdles, and optional allowance hurdles.

The Saratoga schedule begins on July 29, and the following program features the \$75,000 Jonathan Kiser Novice Stakes. Novices—the sport's rising stars division for horses in their first seasons of competition over

fences—also will be in action on Aug. 20 in the Michael G. Walsh Novice Stakes.

Fillies and mares will be featured in the \$75,000 Mrs. Ogden Phipps on Aug. 12 and the \$75,000 Mrs. Walter M. Jeffords on Sept. 3 as the jump-racing sport wraps up its Saratoga summer.

Top Irish jockey Danny Mullins makes an impression in whirlwind, two-week taste of American jump racing

Danny, we hardly got to know you.

It was that kind of whirlwind visit, for a mere two racing dates, and Danny Mullins was gone. A busman's holiday, and hardly time to see all the sights.

But Mullins, newly turned 23 and one of the brightest rising stars in Irish racing, certainly made a big impression on American Steeplechasing over those two April weekends.

By the time he headed back to Ireland, he had four wins from only seven starts over fences, plus a win in a training flat race. At the conclusion of his brief stay, he stood atop the jockey standings with four wins, tied by Paddy Young, the four-time champion jockey who made a late start in the 2015 season and quickly went to the head of the class.

The money was good, too. By the time his plane cleared U.S. airspace, he had ridden the winners of \$98,700.

Placed on hot horses by trainer Jack Fisher, Mullins attacked the Atlanta Steeplechase in a style reminiscent of Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman a century earlier.

His first mount, Michael Moran's Dynafortwo, won by 4 1/4. In the second race, he rode Andre Brewster's Hot Sand to a victory in a \$30,000 Sport of Kings maiden hurdle. He then had second-place finishes in a \$25,000 Ratings Handicap and the \$35,000 Georgia Cup before winning the training flat race aboard the appropriately named Happy Landing for owner Marlou C. Gregory and trainer Lilith Boucher.

The following week, he won two more, a Ratings Handicap on Hiwasee Gem for Janet Elliot and the \$75,000 Queen's Cup MPC 'Chase on Sheila Williams' Selection Sunday.

Back home, he had high praise for his American Steeplechasing experience when interviewed after winning the Boylesport Champion Chase (Ire-Gr. 1) aboard Felix Yonger for his uncle, top Irish trainer Willie Mullins.



Danny Mullins awaited the call to the saddling enclosure for the Ratings Handicap Hurdle at the Queen's Cup Steeplechase on April 25. He rode two winners: Ratings Handicap victor Hiwasee Gem and Selection Sunday in the \$75,000 Queen's Cup MPC 'Chase.

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