

Chasing

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

Strong schedule at Saratoga, Colonial on tap through August

August will offer a bumper crop of steeplechase racing with a variety of hurdle races on the schedule at Saratoga Race Course and Colonial Downs.

Saratoga kicked off its jump-racing schedule in mid-July, and the action continues on Wednesday, Aug. 7, with the Mrs. Ogden Phipps Stakes for fillies and mares. The 2 1/16-mile race will offer a \$75,000 purse for its eight running.

Owner-trainer Kate Dalton's Cat Feathers, the 2012 Life's Illusion filly and mare champion, won the Mrs. Phipps that year and in 2014. In 2016, the Mrs. Phipps was won by owner-trainer F. Hill Parker's Get Ready Set Goes, who was the Life's Illusion winner and the novice champion that year.

Colonial kicks off its inaugural season under new ownership on Thursday, Aug. 8, and jump racing will be a mainstay of the Virginia track's Saturday programs for the five-week meet. Scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 10, will be a \$30,000 Sport of Kings maiden hurdle and a \$25,000 ratings handicap for horses ranked at 115 or lower.

Like all steeplechase races at Colonial, those races will be run at 2 1/4 miles on the Secretariat turf course.

The jump-racing action swings back to Saratoga on Wednesday, Aug. 14, for an allowance hurdle for horses who have not won two races. That race will be run at 2 1/16 miles, and a similar allowance hurdle on Wednesday, Aug. 28, will be run at 2 3/8 miles.

Colonial continues its steeplechase schedule on Saturday, Aug. 17, with a \$30,000 maiden hurdle for fillies and mares and a \$20,000 ratings handicap for horses at 110 or lower.



Rosbrian Farm's Optimus Prime won last summer's New York Turf Writers Cup.

TOD MARKS PHOTO

The following week will offer four racing opportunities. Saratoga will feature the \$75,000 Michael G. Walsh Novice Stakes for the sport's rising-star division at 2 3/8 miles on Wednesday, Aug. 21. Bruton Street-US's Moscato won the 2017 edition of the 2 3/8-mile Walsh in his novice-championship season, and Wendy Hendriks' Surprising Soul prevailed last year.

The 75th running of \$150,000 New York Turf Writers Cup Handicap (Gr. 1) on Aug. 22

is Saratoga's signature steeplechase race and attracts the cream of the championship division. Rosbrian Farm's Optimus Prime, currently the sport's top-rated hurdler, won last year's New York Turf Writers in his U.S. debut.

Colonial's jump-racing schedule continues through August and into September. The Saturday, Aug. 24 program feature a \$30,000 Sport of Kings maiden hurdle and a \$25,000

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STEEPLECHASE STANDINGS THROUGH JULY 16



OWNERS BY EARNINGS

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
Bruton Street-US	26	5	6	5	\$285,250
Mrs. S.K. Johnston Jr.	26	6	4	6	163,000
Riverdee Stable	10	2	2	2	145,700
Irvin S. Naylor	33	4	5	5	123,150
Rosbrian Farm	13	3	3	0	108,350
Ballybristol Farm	8	2	2	1	91,250
Irvin L. Crawford II	2	2	0	0	90,000
DASH Stable	5	2	2	1	65,900
KMSN Stable	7	2	0	1	51,950
Jonathan Sheppard	10	1	2	2	45,950

JOCKEYS BY WINS

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
Michael Mitchell	43	16	5	5	\$425,950
Sean McDermott	44	9	5	9	347,400
Jack Doyle	43	7	4	5	245,150
Richard Boucher	13	4	1	1	70,200
Ross Geraghty	28	3	6	3	152,450
Willie McCarthy	30	3	7	3	123,400
Hadden Frost	10	3	2	0	72,550
Eddie Keating	16	3	1	5	74,100
Aaron Sinnott	13	3	1	0	52,000
Gerard Galligan	26	2	5	3	106,350

TRAINERS BY WINS

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
Jack Fisher	76	24	13	8	\$804,450
Jonathan Sheppard	37	7	2	7	192,800
Katherine Neilson	35	6	5	5	155,500
Ricky Hendriks	41	5	5	6	171,150
Leslie F. Young	21	4	4	4	129,500
Lilith Boucher	9	4	1	1	67,900
Joseph G. Davies	16	2	2	1	114,700
Neil R. Morris	21	2	2	5	61,450
Mark Beecher	17	2	1	1	58,700
Julie Gomena	32	1	6	3	73,950

HORSES BY EARNINGS

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
Senior Senator	2	2	0	0	\$90,000
Scorpiancer (Ire)	2	1	0	0	90,000
And'amu (Fr)	2	2	0	0	78,000
City Dreamer (Ire)	2	1	0	0	78,000
Gibralfaro (Ire)	2	1	0	0	64,500
Moscato (Fr)	2	1	0	1	60,000
Sportswear (GB)	2	2	0	0	48,000
Corky Lemon	3	2	0	0	45,600
Optimus Prime (Fr)	1	1	0	0	45,000
Schoodic	3	3	0	0	42,000

Jump racing featured throughout Colonial meet

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ratings handicap for horses pegged at 115 or lower.

The New Kent track, located midway between Richmond and Williamsburg, will have its richest races, the \$250,000 Virginia

Derby (Gr. 3) and the \$150,000 Virginia Oaks, on Saturday, Aug. 31, and steeplechase racing will be a part of that program. A \$30,000 Sport of Kings maiden hurdle and a \$20,000 ratings handicap for horses ranked at 110 or lower have been scheduled.

Colonial's closing weekend will feature the \$50,000 Randolph D. Rouse Handicap for fillies and mares and a \$30,000 Sport of Kings maiden hurdle on Saturday, Sept. 7. Colonial will operate on a Thursday-through-Saturday schedule with a 5 p.m. first post time.

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