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B1 History of the Belmont Stakes

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Charles E. Hayward President and Chief Executive Officer

On behalf of all of us here at the New York Racing Association, welcome to the 2009 Thoroughbred racing season.

This year marks the beginning of a new era for Thoroughbred racing in New York, one that presents both opportunities and challenges. In September, 2008, after months of temporary extensions, NYRA exited bankruptcy and received formal approval from New York State as a not-for-profit corporation to exclusively operate Aqueduct Racetrack, Belmont Park, and Saratoga Race Course for the next 25 years. Despite delays, we are confident the Video Lottery Terminal (VLT) facility at Aqueduct will soon become a reality. Funds from the VLTs will support the operation and improvement of the three facilities and benefit education throughout the state.

As NYRA emerged from the lengthy franchise process, a new challenge presented itself: a global economic downturn that is not expected to ease for some time. By cutting operating expenses in some areas, our budget for 2009 projects a profit even with anticipated declines in handle due to economic uncertainties. In laying the groundwork for future development, more than \$10 million will be spent on capital improvements this year, up from \$3 million last year, and our stakes schedule remains unparalleled in the industry.

NYRA continues to present the best in racing, evidenced by the parade of Eclipse Award winners, led by Curlin, who took the New York route to year-end honors. In earning a second straight Horse of the Year title, Curlin made history as he won the Woodward and Jockey Club Gold Cup to break Cigar's record and become the first American horse to win \$10 million. Indian Blessing won the Test, Prioress and Gallant Bloom en route to becoming Top Female Sprinter; the True North was one of Male Sprint Champion Benny the Bull's four 2008 victories; Top Female Turf horse Forever Together counted the Diana at Saratoga on her resume, and Steeplechase Champion Good Night Shirt won the Lonesome Glory (G1) at Belmont Park in the fall.

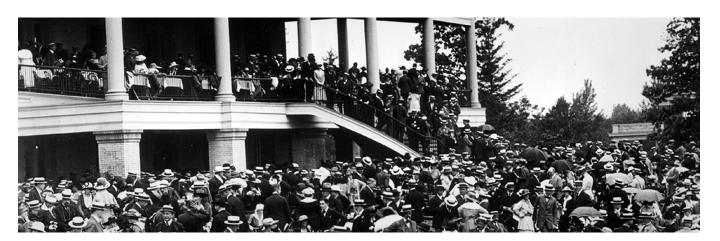
As well, Proud Spell cemented her title as Top 3-Year-Old Filly with her heart-pounding victory over Music Note in the Alabama, and the following week, Saratoga fans experienced another thrilling finish when Colonel John nosed out Mambo in Seattle at the wire in another memorable edition of the Shadwell Travers.

In June, 94,476 fans packed Belmont Park in the hopes of seeing history made, and once again, history was denied, with longshot Da' Tara going wire-to-wire as Big Brown's quest to become the first horse in 30 years to sweep the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont fell short. Despite the loss, the New York-based Big Brown went on to earn the Eclipse as top 3-year-old.

We hope you enjoy the 2009 Media Guide and the history therein. Racing in New York has endured for more than a century and we remain committed to seeing it flourish in the coming years.

Charles E. Hayward

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## A History of The New York Racing Association

Created more than 50 years ago so that New York State could share in the boom in racing that followed World War II, The New York Racing Association, Inc. last year was granted the exclusive right to conduct racing at Aqueduct, Belmont Park, and Saratoga until 2033.

NYRA's beginnings date back to 1955, when the Greater New York Association acquired the assets of the four racing associations operating Belmont, Jamaica, Saratoga and Aqueduct racetracks.

Within four years, the NYRA had demolished the old Aqueduct and opened the modern Aqueduct. Jamaica Race Track was closed down the same year and its property sold for use as a housing development. From 1963 through 1968, Belmont Park was shuttered as a new grandstand was built.

NYRA has upgraded all three facilities considerably over the years, and major capital improvements are planned over the next four years. With the launch of a Video Lottery Terminal facility at Aqueduct, even more investments will be made so that racing continues to flourish.

Thoroughbred racing contributes more than \$2 billion annually to New York State's economy. It employs more than 35,000 people across the state and supports a variety of small businesses, including more than 350 breeding farms. Since its inception in 1955, NYRA has paid more than \$3 billion in direct revenue to the state of New York. Heading into the first full year of the new franchise, NYRA continues expand its business partnerships, notably Shadwell Farm, which in 2009 becomes the title sponsor for both the Travers and the Metropolitan Handicap. The Acorn also gained a title sponsor in Glaceau Vitaminwater. As well, NYRA's presence is growing on multiple media platforms, including ABC/ESPN, MSG Plus, Sirius Radio, NYRAVideo on You'Tube, and the NYRA Fan Pages on Facebook and MySpace as well as nyra.com, belmontstakes.com and Twitter at NYRAComm.

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

C. Steven Duncker, Chairman Michael J. DelGiudice, Vice Chairman James P. Heffernan, Vice Chairman Stuart Subotnick, Vice Chairman Chester F. Broman, Sr. Dennis Dammerman Michael Dubb Robert S. Evans Lucy Young Hamilton Charles E. Hayward John Hendrickson Michael D. Hess Denis M. Hughes Stuart S. Janney, III Bennett Liebman John W. Meriwether John Nigro Barry Ostrager Ogden Mills Phipps Leonard Riggio Richard T. Santulli Peter G. Schiff Richard A. Violette, Jr.

NYRA

Officers

and Officials



#### OFFICERS

Charles E. Hayward, President and Chief Executive Officer Harold G. Handel, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Patrick L. Kehoe, Senior Vice President and General Counsel John Ryan, Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer David A. Smukler, Senior Vice President of Human Resources and Labor Relations Patrick Mahony, Vice President of Pari-Mutuel Operations Tom Thill, Vice President and Chief Information Officer

#### **OPERATING OFFICIALS**

Elizabeth Bracken, Vice President and Director of Simulcast Sales Kenneth T. Cook, Vice President, Security John Tierney, Vice President, Facilities Jerry A. Davis, Jr., Director of Admissions & Parking Neema Ghazi, Director of Marketing Kimberly Justus, Director of Guest Services Glen Kozak, Director of Racing Surfaces John Lee, Director of Communications and Media Relations Robert Palumbo, OTB Relations Rick Wickman, Stable/Security Supervisor

#### STEWARDS

Dr. W. Theodore Hill, *The Jockey Club* Carmine Donofrio, *New York State Racing and Wagering Board* Stephen Lewandowski, *Alternate State Steward* Braulio Baeza, Jr., *NYRA Steward* 

#### **RACING OFFICIALS**

Paul J. Campo, Vice President and Director of Racing
Christopher Camac, Trinity Galarza, Assistant Racing Secretary and Handicapper
Andrew Byrnes, Stakes Coordinator
Bruce Johnstone, Manager Racing Operations
Roy Robert Williamson, Starter
Dr. Anthony Vederosa, Chief Examining Veterinarian
Timothy D. Kelly, Clerk of Scales
Edward F. Brown, Assistant Clerk of Scales
Neal Cutrone, Paddock and Patrol Judge
Janet Reid, Chief Horse Identifier
Tom Durkin, Announcer
Carmen Barrera, Director of Horsemen's Relations

## NYRA LEADERSHIP BIOGRAPHIES



C. STEVEN DUNCKER

**C. Steven Duncker** is the Chairman of The New York Racing Association, Inc. In 2003, Mr. Duncker was elected Vice Chairman of the Board and Co-Chief Operating Officer of NYRA. Prior to being named Vice Chairman, Mr. Duncker served on the Board since 1999.

In 1980, Mr. Duncker graduated Cum Laude from Duke University and then enrolled in the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University, where he received his MM, Finance in 1982. Immediately following, Mr. Duncker was hired by Goldman Sachs & Company, where he first worked in St. Louis, then Chicago. Mr. Duncker moved to New York and became Vice President in 1986 and was named Partner in 1996. In 2001, Mr. Duncker retired as Partner after successfully running the Global Credit Derivative Department. Boards on which Mr. Duncker serves include the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders' Association, The Jockey Club Information Systems and Equibase, Inc. He is the Founder and Trustee of the C. Steven Duncker Foundation, which is dedicated to providing educational opportunities to disadvantaged children. Other charitable affiliations include The Jockey Club Foundation, which is dedicated to helping the disadvantaged in the racing industry.

Mr. Duncker is an avid Thoroughbred owner and breeder racing in New York, New Jersey, Kentucky and Florida.

Mr. Duncker and his wife, Melinda and son, Teddy reside in Manhattan.



CHARLES E. HAYWARD

**Charles E. Hayward** was appointed to his current position as President and CEO of The New York Racing Association, Inc. in November of 2004.

Graduated Cum Laude from Bowdoin College, Mr. Hayward is a current resident of Manhattan and Saratoga Springs and is married to Manhattan art gallery owner, Betsy Senior. Hayward is former President and CEO of the Daily Racing Form and before that he was the President and CEO of Little, Brown Publishing. He also held executive roles in Simon & Schuster Publishers, HP Books and MacMillan Publishing.

Mr. Hayward currently serves on the Board of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association, Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau, Thoroughbred Racing Association, Belmont Child Care Association, and on the NYRA Board, as he previously did from 1995 to 1999.

Mr. Hayward has been a horseracing fan for over 25 years and a Thoroughbred owner for the last decade.



HAROLD G. HANDEL

Harold G. Handel was appointed to his current position as Executive Vice President and COO of The New York Racing Association, Inc. in September of 2007.

Mr. Handel is a current resident of Cranbury, NJ and Manhattan along with his wife Sheila. After graduating from Rutgers, he then received his J.D. from Seton Hall University Law School. The following year, he became Deputy Attorney General (DAG) for the State of New Jersey Organized Crime & Special Prosecutions Unit, then DAG and Counsel for the New Jersey Racing Commission. Mr. Handel then joined Monmouth Park and New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority where he held executive roles for 12 years. After seven years serving as Executive Vice President and COO at Monmouth Park, he accepted the role of CEO for Greenwood Racing in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Handel has previously served as Chairman of the Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau, President of the Thoroughbred Racing Associations, and Trustee of the American Horse Council. He is currently on the Board of the TRA and Equibase.



## NYRA AND THE COMMUNITY

The New York Racing Association, Inc. is committed to upholding the ideals of community service and support, both within thoroughbred racing and in the communities surrounding Aqueduct Racetrack, Belmont Park and Saratoga Race Course. Through corporate philanthropy and volunteerism, NYRA is proud to support efforts that respond to community concerns, and to work to create sustained partnerships that provide reliable resources for those in need.

Among the industry-related groups receiving on-going support from NYRA are the Belmont Child Care Association, which established Anna House, an on-site child care center at Belmont Park for the benefit of working families at New York area racetracks, and the Backstretch Employees Service Team (B.E.S.T.), which provides a wide range of health and human services to support workers in the barn areas of our three racetracks. NYRA also is a supporter of the New York Race Track Chaplaincy, the Exceller Fund, the Thoroughbred Retirement Fund, the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation and the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund.

NYRA leadership is committed to good corporate citizenship: Chairman C. Steven Duncker serves on the Board of The Jockey Club and is the Founder and Trustee of the C. Steven Duncker Foundation, which is dedicated to providing educational opportunities to disadvantaged children, and President and CEO Charles E. Hayward is on the Board of the Belmont Child Care Association.

NYRA employees made a personal commitment to service in November of 2008 near Belmont Park when they joined with local high school students, civic association members, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts for Elmont Cleanup Day, which was coordinated by NYRA, the Elmont Coalition for Sustainable Development, the Elmont Community Coalition, the Elmont Chamber of Commerce, Gateway Youth Outreach and Legislator John Ciotti to beautify Hempstead Turnpike.

In May, employees joined thousands at Belmont Park in the annual Walk for St. Mary's Kids, sponsored in part by NYRA to benefit programs and services for the children of St. Mary's Healthcare System – the area's preeminent provider of intensive rehabilitation and specialized care for young patients and their families. Community beneficiaries near Aqueduct Racetrack include Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, which received the proceeds of NYRA's annual "Stocking Stuffer" promotion and the Ozone Park/ Howard Beach Little League, while in Saratoga NYRA supports many local nonprofit and charitable organizations that offer enrichment and assistance in the areas of education, arts and culture, health and human service, among them Saratoga Hospital, the Saratoga Springs History Museum, the Catie Hoch Foundation and the Saratoga Center for the Family.

National organizations which receive support from NYRA include Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the American Cancer Society, Special Olympics, Ronald McDonald House, the American Heart Association, Catholic Charities, Toys for Tots, and the Muscular Dystrophy Foundation.

#### TOTAL NYRA HANDLE 2000-2008

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	
RACING DAYS	257	256	250	252	253	257	244	249	
ON TRACK	528,283,850	528,247,534	492,630,288	460,276,349	416,931,550	417,975,398	429,421,474	415,220,524	
DOWNSTATE OTB	1,015,739,459	1,040,074,149	1,080,993,324	1,147,647,920	1,157,546,303	167,259,252	1,114,614,627	1,044,733,005	
UPSTATE OTB	233,257,546	230,401,012	230,153,240	221,582,071	214,946,061	210,649,625	206,429,844	199,820,238	
INTRASTATE	114,355,658	119,405,188	112,294,000	110,189,061	69,855,398	47,481,631	90,215,469	90,786,660	
INTERSTATE	1,474,621,149	1,559,316,595	1,546,995,000	1,595,984,494	1,453,708,979	1,609,134,348	1,593,798,894	1,584,682,539	
INTERNATIONAL	147,809,960	150,128,104	139,192,000	151,891,990	117,873,545	3,308,840	3,964,123	4,566,209	
	3,514,067,622	3,627,572,582	3,602,258,032	3,687,571,885	3,430,861,836	3,455,809,094	3,438,444,533	3,339,808,995	

#### LARGEST CROWDS / ON-TRACK HANDLES IN NEW YORK HISTORY

L	ANGESI	SKOWD5/	UN-IKACK HA	INDLES IN INE	WIUKKE	11510K1	
DATE	TRACK	ATTENDANCE	L	DATE	TRACK	ATTENDANCE	
JUNE 5, 2004	BELMONT	120,139		AUGUST 31, 2003	SARATOGA	68,029	
JUNE 8, 2002	BELMONT	103,222		JUNE 7, 1969	BELMONT	67,961	
JUNE 7, 2003	BELMONT	101,864		JUNE 10, 2000	BELMONT	67,810	
JUNE 7, 2008	BELMONT	94,476		MAY 30, 1967	AQUEDUCT	67,738	
JUNE 6, 1999	BELMONT	85,818		JUNE 9, 1973	BELMONT	67,605	
JUNE 5, 1971	BELMONT	82,694		SEPTEMBER 4, 1967	AQUEDUCT	67,368	
JUNE 6, 1998	BELMONT	80,162		MAY 30, 1966	AQUEDUCT	67,244	
JUNE 9, 2001	BELMONT	73,851		AUGUST 5, 2001	SARATOGA	66,942	
MAY 31, 1965	AQUEDUCT	73,435		AUGUST 18, 2002	SARATOGA	66,370	
AUGUST 11, 2007	SARATOGA	72,745		SEPTEMBER 3, 2006	SARATOGA	66,311	
SEPTEMBER 2, 1963	AQUEDUCT	71,876		AUGUST 15, 1999	SARATOGA	66,194	
AUGUST 17, 2003	SARATOGA	71,337		AUGUST 23, 2003	SARATOGA	66,122	
JUNE 11, 1977	BELMONT	71,026		JUNE 1, 1980	BELMONT	65,804	
AUGUST 13, 2006	SARATOGA	70,603		AUGUST 17, 2008	SARATOGA	65,598	
MAY 30, 1960	AQUEDUCT	70,992		MAY 30, 1961	AQUEDUCT	65,569	
AUGUST 14, 2005	SARATOGA	70,792		JUNE 10, 1978	BELMONT	65,417	
AUGUST 22, 2004	SARATOGA	70,175		AUGUST 2, 2003	SARATOGA	65,346	
JUNE 7, 1997	BELMONT	70,682		AUGUST 12, 2003	SARATOGA	65,221	
SEPTEMBER 3, 1962		70,123		SEPTEMBER 1, 2002	SARATOGA	65,009	
AUGUST 4, 2002	SARATOGA	69,523		AUGUST 5, 2000	SARATOGA	64,979	
SEPTEMBER 6, 1965		68,390		JUNE 10, 1989	BELMONT	64,959	
3EI TEMDER 0, 1905	AQUEDUCI	00,390		JUNE 10, 1989	DELMONT	04,939	
		ON-TRACK				ON-TRACK	
DATE	TRACK	HANDLE	ATTENDANCE	DATE	TRACK	HANDLE	ATTENDANCE
OCTOBER 29, 2005	BELMONT	14,695,958	54,289	JUNE 9, 1984	BELMONT	7,626,050	46,430
JUNE 5, 2004	BELMONT	14,461,402	120,139	JUNE 11, 1994	BELMONT	7,588,803	42,695
JUNE 7, 2008	BELMONT	13,233,071	94,476	JUNE 10, 1995	BELMONT	7,385,654	37,171
OCTOBER 27, 2001	BELMONT	13,165,397	52,987	JUNE 7, 1980	BELMONT	7,333,187	58,803
JUNE 7, 2003	BELMONT	13,024,615	101,864	JUNE 8, 1996	BELMONT	7,246,509	40,797
JUNE 8, 2002	BELMONT	12,045,114	103,222	AUGUST 21, 1993	SARATOGA	7,228,168	46,560
JUNE 9, 2001	BELMONT	10,581,093	73,857	JUNE 6, 1981	BELMONT	7,197,554	61,200
OCTOBER 27, 1990	BELMONT	10,577,736	51,236	JUNE 7, 1986	BELMONT	7,049,282	42,555
JUNE 6, 1999	BELMONT	10,035,906	85,818	JUNE 5, 1971	BELMONT	6,972,209	82,694
AUGUST 27, 2005	SARATOGA	9,946,353	42,841	JUNE 5, 1982	BELMONT	6,923,951	45,128
JUNE 11, 2005	BELMONT	9,463,841	62,274	AUGUST 28, 1999	SARATOGA	6,853,758	51,371
AUGUST 23, 2003	SARATOGA	9,390,934	66,122	AUGUST 6, 2005	SARATOGA	6,720,629	32,287
JUNE 6, 1998	BELMONT	9,351,732	80,162	AUGUST 20, 1994	SARATOGA	6,572,051	46,395
OCTOBER 28, 1995	BELMONT	9,283,611	37,246	AUGUST 22, 1992	SARATOGA	6,529,085	46,372
JUNE 6, 1987	BELMONT	9,266,120	64,772	JUNE 11, 1977	BELMONT	6,498,117	71,026
JUNE 7, 1997	BELMONT	9,215,729	70,682	JUNE 7, 1975	BELMONT	6,478,115	60,611
JUNE 10, 2006	BELMONT	8,958,323	61,168	JUNE 9, 1979	BELMONT	6,473,892	58,987
JUNE 8, 1991	BELMONT	8,947,444	51,766	AUGUST 17, 1991	SARATOGA	6,411,013	48,170
JUNE 10, 1989	BELMONT	8,687,018	64,959	JUNE 7, 1969	BELMONT	6,371,829	67,961
AUGUST 25, 2001	SARATOGA	8,642,160	60,486	AUGUST 20, 1989	SARATOGA	6,355,318	45,504
AUGUST 26, 2006	SARATOGA	8,574,822	40,785	AUGUST 29, 1998	SARATOGA	6,338,611	48,545
JUNE 5, 1993	BELMONT	8,441,380	45,037	APRIL 18, 1970	AQUEDUCT	6,316,372	54,604
JUNE 10, 2000	BELMONT	8,379,055	67,810	AUGUST 24, 1996	SARATOGA	6,214,353	45,394
AUGUST 23, 2008	SARATOGA	8,287,014	40,723	JUNE 10, 1978	BELMONT	6,175,266	65,417
NOVEMBER 2, 1985		8,171,520	42,568	MAY 31, 1965	AQUEDUCT	6,120,631	73,435
JUNE 11, 1988	BELMONT	8,065,395	56,223	AUGUST 18, 1990	SARATOGA	6,099,329	43,989
JUNE 6, 1992	BELMONT	8,013,028	50,204	APRIL 4, 1970	AQUEDUCT	6,060,559	53,892
JUNE 9, 1992	BELMONT	7,918,964	50,123	AUGUST 25, 1991	SARATOGA	6,004,509	44,908
JUNE 11, 1983	BELMONT	7,895,946	56,677	JUNE 6, 1970	BELMONT	5,980,442	54,907
AUGUST 19, 1995	SARATOGA	7,887,462	43,079	APRIL 3, 1971	AQUEDUCT	5,967,612	51,953
AUGUST 15, 1995 AUGUST 25, 2007	SARATOGA	7,765,702	38,909	JUNE 5, 1976	BELMONT	5,952,164	58,788
JUNE 8, 1985	BELMONT	7,761,340	42,593	JUNE 10, 1972	BELMONT	5,934,880	55,536
AUGUST 26, 2000	SARATOGA	7,644,360	42,393 54,116	AUGUST 24, 2002	SARATOGA	5,915,957	43,153
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**NYRA NUMBERS** 

#### NEW YORK RACING ASSOCIATION ON-TRACK ATTENDANCE AND HANDLE 1992-2008

AQUEDUCT (WINTER/SPRING)	<b>BELMONT PARK</b> (SPRING)	SARATOGA	<b>BELMONT PARK</b> (FALL)	AQUEDUCT (FALL)	NYRA (TOTAL)
<b>1992</b> 1/1 - 5/4 (105 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 974,749 HANDLE: \$249,320,130	5/6 - 7/27 (72 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 854,890 HANDLE: \$196,919,985	7/29 - 8/31 (30 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 761,931 HANDLE: \$103,332,127	9/2 - 10/19 (42 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 442,513 HANDLE: \$102,605,705	10/21 - 12/31 (60 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 480,116 HANDLE: \$129,718,628	312 DAYS ATTENDANCE: 3,734,700 HANDLE: \$820,175,998
<b>1993</b> 1/1 - 5/3 (99 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 845,108 HANDLE: \$219,519,053	5/5 - 7/26 (72 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 808,294 HANDLE: \$196,268,125	7/28 - 8/30 (30 DAYS) Attendance: 785,319 Handle: \$112,283,202	9/1 - 10/18 (41 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 380,577 HANDLE: \$96,708,140	10/20 - 12/31 (61 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 459,265 HANDLE: \$119,690,358	303 DAYS ATTENDANCE: 3,495,190 HANDLE: \$782,495,899
<b>1994</b> 1/1 - 5/2 (91 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 622,736 HANDLE: \$175,408,109	5/3 - 7/20 (68 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 684,945 HANDLE: \$168,615,522	7/22 - 8/29 (34 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 785,427 HANDLE: \$109,364,514	9/2 - 10/16 (39 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 370,814 HANDLE: \$89,328,438	10/18 - 12/31 (60 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 441,262 HANDLE: \$121,129,721	291 DAYS ATTENDANCE: 3,132,806 HANDLE: \$708,470,085
<b>1995</b> 1/1 - 4/30 (85 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 642,572 HANDLE: \$188,260,460	5/3 - 7/17 (57 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 547,891 HANDLE: \$134,623,046	7/21 - 8/29 (34 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 753,372 HANDLE: \$101,081,018	9/1 - 10/29 (51 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 413,634 HANDLE: \$107,394,727	11/1 - 12/31 (50 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 260,025 HANDLE: \$74,409,426	269 DAYS ATTENDANCE: 2,793,792 HANDLE: \$640,069,266
<b>1996</b> 1/1 - 4/28 (80 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 481,322 HANDLE: \$143,945,405	5/3 - 7/22 (60 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 522,433 HANDLE: \$129,848,671	7/26 - 9/2 (34 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 803,086 HANDLE: \$100,541,162	9/6 - 10/20 (33 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 226,629 HANDLE: \$60,275,027	10/23 - 12/31 (50 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 280,631 HANDLE: \$81,901,731	255 DAYS ATTENDANCE: 2,469,008 HANDLE: \$544,443,573
<b>1997</b> 1/1 - 5/11 (95 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 543,807 HANDLE: \$156,067,398	5/14 - 7/20 (50 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 466,934 HANDLE: \$107,541,531	7/23 - 9/1 (36 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 826,994 HANDLE: \$104,048,447	9/5 - 10/19 (33 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 231,500 HANDLE: \$61,146,503	10/22 - 12/31 (51 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 263,073 HANDLE: \$78,792,904	265 DAYS ATTENDANCE: 2,496,648 HANDLE: \$536,642,042
<b>1998</b> 1/1 - 5/10 (91 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 487,093 HANDLE: \$144,904,543	5/13 - 7/26 (55 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 491,605 HANDLE: \$109,860,598	7/29 - 9/7 (36 DAYS) Attendance: 887,752 Handle: \$108,354,798	9/13 - 10/25 (33 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 245,135 HANDLE: \$60,800,337	10/28 - 12/31 (44 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 267,773 HANDLE: \$72,173,140	259 DAYS ATTENDANCE: 2,534,093 HANDLE: \$524,164,296
<b>1999</b> 1/1 - 5/9 (91 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 505,959 HANDLE: <b>\$</b> 149,045,945	5/12 - 7/25 (55 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 493,155 HANDLE: \$112,297,742	7/28 - 9/6 (36 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 920,218 HANDLE: \$114,140,947	9/10 - 10/24 (32 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 216,204 HANDLE: \$57,110,769	10/27 - 12/31 (46 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 249,501 HANDLE: \$73,941,145	260 DAYS ATTENDANCE: 2,516,946 HANDLE: \$531,266,262
<b>2000</b> 1/1 - 5/7 (87 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 462,390 HANDLE: \$136,586,374	5/10 - 7/23 (55 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 469,048 HANDLE: \$106,252,460	7/26 - 9/4 (36 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 978,321 HANDLE: \$118,839,416	9/8 - 10/22 (33 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 215,987 HANDLE: \$55,962,615	10/25 - 12/31 (47 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 218,873 HANDLE: \$65,351,676	258 DAYS ATTENDANCE: 2,344,619 HANDLE: \$482,992,541
<b>2001</b> 1/1 - 5/6 (90 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 423,026 HANDLE: \$130,292,101	5/9 - 7/22 (55 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 441,392 HANDLE: \$106,147,333	7/25 - 9/3 (36 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 1,011,689 HANDLE: \$124,683,963	9/7 - 10/28 (32 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 243,769 HANDLE: \$67,503,120	10/31 - 12/30 (44 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 209,010 HANDLE: \$66,286,837	257 DAYS ATTENDANCE: 2,328,886 HANDLE: \$494,913,354
<b>2002</b> 1/1 - 5/5 (87 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 457,247 HANDLE: <b>\$</b> 136,945,498	5/8-7/21 (55 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 465,220 HANDLE: \$107,381,284	7/24 - 9/2 (36 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 999,388 HANDLE: \$125,108,349	9/6 - 10/20 (33 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 202,015 HANDLE: \$56,485,902	10/23 - 12/29 (45 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 217,144 HANDLE: \$70,053,164	256 DAYS ATTENDANCE: 2,341,014 HANDLE: \$495,974,197
<b>2003</b> 1/1 - 5/4 (83 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 395,315 HANDLE: \$124,283,071	5/7 - 7/20 (55 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 478,187 HANDLE: \$106,301,408	7/23 - 9/1 (36 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 1,049,309 HANDLE: \$127,245,731	9/5 - 10/26 (38 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 225,357 HANDLE: \$58,167,413	10/29 - 12/31 (38 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 152,924 HANDLE: <b>\$</b> 49,980,917	250 DAYS ATTENDANCE: 2,383,559 HANDLE: \$492,630,288
<b>2004</b> 1/1 - 5/2 (82 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 325,422 HANDLE: \$109,519,022	5/5 - 7/25 (60 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 499,166 HANDLE: \$105,741,663	7/28 - 9/6 (36 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 1,040,668 HANDLE: \$151,615,973	9/10 - 10/24 (33 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 171,251 HANDLE: \$46,811,595	10/27 - 12/31 (41 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 135,883 HANDLE: \$46,588,096	252 DAYS ATTENDANCE: 2,177,429 HANDLE: \$460,271,349
<b>2005</b> 1/1 - 5/1 (83 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 263,776 HANDLE: <b>\$</b> 90,854,216	5/4 - 7/24 (60 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 423,405 HANDLE: \$94,252,318	7/27 - 9/5 (36 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 932,882 HANDLE: \$145,388,086	9/9 - 10/30 (36 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 222,133 HANDLE: \$45,360,126	11/2 - 12/31 (38 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 107,236 HANDLE: \$41,076,804	253 DAYS ATTENDANCE: 1,949,432 HANDLE: \$416,931,550
<b>2006</b> 1/1 - 4/30 (84 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 248,110 HANDLE: <b>\$</b> 93,816,863	5/3 - 7/22 (59 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 377,570 HANDLE: \$93,672,810	7/26 - 9/4 (36 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 908,566 HANDLE: \$140,019,715	9/8 - 10/22 (33 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 152,733 HANDLE: \$43,304,585	10/25 - 12/31 (45 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 121,764 HANDLE: \$47,161,423	257 DAYS ATTENDANCE: 1,808,743 HANDLE: \$417,975,396
<b>2007</b> 1/1 - 4/29 (83 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 204,232 HANDLE: \$86,035,277	5/2 - 7/22 (60 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 380,495 HANDLE: \$97,656,377	7/25 - 9/3 (36 DAYS) Attendance: 958,574 Handle: \$149,580,313	9/7 - 10/21 (33 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 165,045 HANDLE: \$47,304,808	10/24 - 12/30 (45 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 117,882 HANDLE: \$48,844,697	248 DAYS ATTENDANCE:1,826,228 HANDLE: \$429,421,474
<b>2008</b> 1/1 - 4/27 (80 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 218,245 HANDLE: \$91,081,472	4/30 - 7/19 (58 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 391,634 HANDLE: \$96,647,954	7/23 - 9/1 (35 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 872,627 HANDLE: \$140,147,651	9/5 - 10/26 (37 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 147,515 HANDLE: \$42,206,423	10/29 - 12/31 (39 DAYS) ATTENDANCE: 105.694 HANDLE: \$41,110,186	249 DAYS ATTENDANCE: 1,735,715 HANDLE: \$415,220,474



AQUEDUCT RACE TRACK

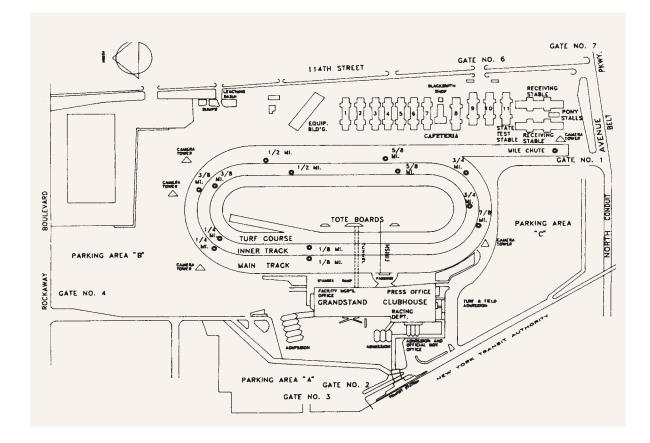
It opened on September 27, 1894, on property that belonged to the old Brooklyn Water Works. Home to a conduit that brought water to New York City from the vast Hempstead Plain, the facility was given the name "Aqueduct" and it would become one of America's most storied tracks. Aqueduct, also known as the Big A, is the only racetrack in New York City, occupying 210 acres in South Ozone Park in the borough of Queens. Just eight miles from its sister track, Belmont Park, Aqueduct's neighbor is John F. Kennedy International Airport, the top international passenger gateway in the United States.

Through the years, the Big A has been the scene of some of racing's landmark events, including the only triple dead heat in stakes history when Brownie, Bossuet, and Wait a Bit hit the wire as one in the Carter Handicap on June 10, 1944. Man o' War, Sword Dancer, Kelso, Buckpasser, Dr. Fager, Secretariat, Forego, Easy Goer and Smarty Jones built their legends at Aqueduct, and Cigar, for whom the Grade 1 Hill 'n' Dale Cigar Mile is named, won the first two races of his 16-race winning streak at the Big A.

From 1955-59, Aqueduct was rebuilt at a cost of \$34.5 million. With a new grandstand, racing strip, barns, and accessory buildings, the new Aqueduct opened on Sept. 14, 1959 to a crowd of 42,473 and rave reviews as the most up-to-date racing facility in North America. From 1963-68, during the reconstruction of Belmont Park, Aqueduct was the site of the Belmont Stakes.

In 1975, Aqueduct opened its winterized, one-mile inner dirt track on the former site of the inner turf course, and on October 11,1981, it unveiled one of the largest restaurants in New York City, the multi-tiered Equestris. With trackside seating for 1,200, the Equestris offers sweeping views of the track and the surrounding areas.

In 1985, Aqueduct underwent another round of improvements, with \$3 million spent on the construction of mini-theatres and the expansion of the backyard, paddock and grandstand. For its 40th anniversary in 1989, a weather-insulated paddock, offering fans an unobstructed view of the horses being saddled, was built for \$4 million. The installation of Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs) was expected to begin shortly.



#### BASIC PHYSICAL DATA OF AQUEDUCT RACETRACK

#### GROUNDS

Area of Site	210 acres
Parking Area	3,000 cars)
Main Course1	1/8 miles
Inner Dirt Course	1 mile
Turf Course	7/8mile
Subway Station	
Three deep-Water-Wells - Air conditioning and Irrigation	
Five CCTV Race Patrol Camera Towers - 40 feet high	

GRANDSTAND

Length	
Clubhouse	
Grandstand	
Height	110 feet
Floor Area	1,000,000 sq. ft. (23 acres)
Concrete Work	
Structural Steel Framing	
Piping	
Electrical Wiring	
Refrigeration for	
Air ConditioningEquivalen	nt to 800 tons of ice per day

#### FACILITIES PROVIDED

Total Capacity	
Trackside Dinning	
Other Dining	
Total Seating Capacity	
Closed-Circuit TV Monitors	
Kitchens	
Dining Areas	
Concession Stands	
Concession Bars	7
Toilets	
Toneto	
Elevators	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	9
Elevators	
Elevators Escalators	
Elevators Escalators Pari-Mutuel Windows	
Elevators Escalators Pari-Mutuel Windows Hospital	99 
Elevators Escalators Pari-Mutuel Windows Hospital Ambulance	99 
Elevators Escalators Pari-Mutuel Windows Hospital Ambulance First Aid Room	99 

#### STABLE AREA

14 Barns (includes 2 Receiving Barns, 1 Pony Barn) 

#### TRACK ATTENDANCE AND HANDLE RECORDS

One-Day Attendance	
One-Day Handle	\$8,171,520 on November 2, 1985
One-Race Handle	\$1,095,366 on Breeders' Cup Turf, November 2, 1985



**BELMONT PARK** 

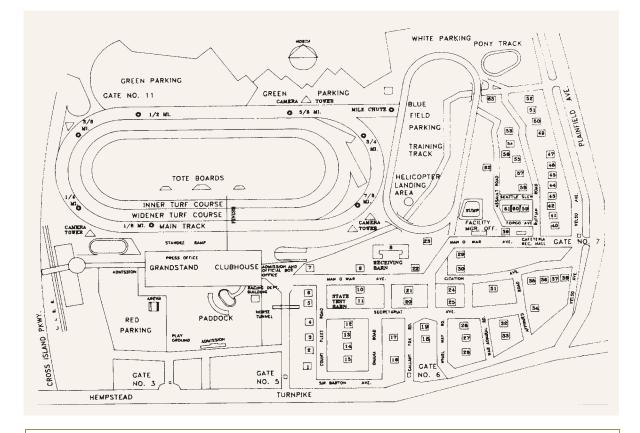
In 1902, a syndicate headed by August Belmont II and former Secretary of the Navy William C. Whitney sought land on Long Island to build the most elaborate track in America, one modeled after the great race courses of Europe. They found what they were looking for on the border of Queens County and Nassau County. Originally known as Foster's Meadow, the 650 acres of land included a turreted Tudor-Gothic mansion owned by William de Forest Manice, which was to serve as the Turf and Field Club until 1956.

The grand opening of Belmont Park on May 4, 1905, prompted the first of countless traffic jams in Long Island history as more than 40,000 fans, in all manner of conveyance, tried to arrive by the first race post time of 3 p.m. Not all of them made it in time to see August Belmont II's Blandy, at 7-1, hold off 100-1 shot Oliver Cromwell in the \$1,500 Belmont Inaugural. Later, James R. Keen's Sysonby, who would be ranked No. 30 on the Blood-Horse Magazine's top 100 horses of the 20th century, made his 3-year-old debut against the super filly Beldame, another of Belmont's charges. In the stretch, Sysonby got unexpected competition from 20-1 Race King, and the two hit the wire in a dead heat.

The most celebrated race at Belmont Park is the Belmont Stakes, the final jewel of racing's Triple Crown. Since 1919, when Sir Barton was the first to sweep the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness and the Belmont, the "Test of the Champion" has crowned but 11 winners of racing's most prestigious -- and elusive -- prize.

Belmont Park holds a place in history in other areas as well. In 1910, Wilbur and Orville Wright staged an international aerial competition at Belmont Park that drew 150,000 spectators. In 1918, the track served as the New York City terminal for the first airmail service between New York and Washington, D.C. Belmont Park was the site of "War Relief Day" in 1940 to benefit the American Red Cross and in 1943 hosted "Back the Attack" Day, wherein fans had to buy a war bond to gain admission to the track. Total receipts that day were between \$25 and \$30 million.

Closed in 1963, the rebuilt Belmont Park grandstand reopened on May 20, 1968. Over the next decade it rocked to the cheers of thousands as Secretariat (1973), Seattle Slew (1977) and Affirmed (1978) joined Sir Barton (1919), Gallant Fox (1930), Omaha (1935), War Admiral (1937), Whirlaway(1941), Count Fleet (1943), Assault (1946), and Citation (1948) as Triple Crown winners. History was made in 2007 when Rags to Riches defeated Curlin to become the first filly in 102 years and one of only three to win the race, and history was denied in 2008 when Da' Tara ended Big Brown's bid to sweep the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont.



#### BASIC PHYSICAL DATA OF BELMONT PARK STABLE AREA RACETRACK

61 Barns (1 Receiving Barn, 1 Pony Barn)
Stabling Capacity
Dormitory Capacity (408 rooms)

#### GROUNDS

Area of Site
Parking Areas
Main Course 1 1/2 miles
Widener Turf Course
Inner Turf Course 1 3/16 miles, 103 feet
Training Track
Pony Track
Railroad Terminal - 4 Platforms; City Bus
Terminal with Escalators; Chartered and Tour Bus Parking
Area; 6 CCTV Race Patrol Camera Towers - 40 feet high

#### GRANDSTAND

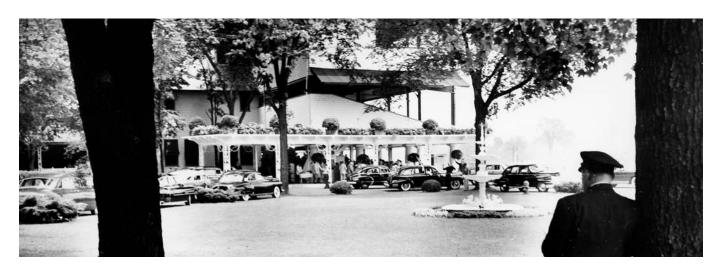
Length	1,266 feet
Depth Clubhouse and Grandstand	
Height	
Floor Area	1,300,000 square feet
Concrete Work	
Structural Steel Framing	

#### FACILITIES PROVIDED

#### TRACK ATTENDANCE AND HANDLE RECORDS

One-Day Attendance
One-Day Handle

.....\$14,695,958 on Breeders' Cup Day, Oct. 29, 2005



Thoroughbred racing has no finer setting than Saratoga Race Course, named one of the world's greatest sporting venues by Sports Illustrated. For six weeks every summer, the past comes alive in the historic grandstand as fans experience not only the best in racing, but the unmatched ambience and charm of historic Saratoga Springs.

COURS

SARATOGA RACE

Already famous for its mineral baths, Saratoga held its first thoroughbred meet just a month after the Battle of Gettysburg. Staged by gambler, casino owner, ex-boxing champion and future Congressman John "Old Smoke" Morrissey and beginning on August 3, 1863, the four-day meet drew thousands of locals and tourists who saw Lizzie W. defeat Captain Moore in the best-of-three series of races.

Emboldened by the success of that first meet, Morrissey promptly enlisted his friends John R. Hunter, William Travers and Leonard Jerome to form the Saratoga Association. Its first responsibility was the construction of a new, permanent grandstand on the current site of Saratoga Race Course. Across the street, the "old course" became the barn area known as Horse Haven, with the vestiges of the original track still encircling the stables.

Today, looking out over the jam-packed backyard and grandstand on any sunny summer afternoon, it's hard to fathom that racing at Saratoga once teetered on the brink of extinction. In the early 1960's, there was a movement to conduct summer racing exclusively at the new and modern Aqueduct Racetrack. But in 1962, New York State Governor W. Averill Harriman, who owned Log Cabin Stud, signed "The Harriman Law," which mandated a minimum of 24 race days at Saratoga every year.

Nowadays, the population of Saratoga Springs triples to 75,000 when the thoroughbreds return each summer, with those who come for the races discovering the area's amazing breadth of history and culture.

With more than 1,000 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, Saratoga Springs was honored with the first American Heritage Magazine "Great American Place" award and the National Trust for Historic Places' "Great American Main Street" award. Walking Magazine cited it as one of America's "Most Walkable Cities."

Saratoga Springs is home to the National Museum of Racing, the Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC), the National Museum of the Dance, Skidmore College, and many art galleries. Resplendent in Victorian architecture, it also boasts Yaddo Rose Gardens, the Little Theatre at SPAC, the Saratoga Music Hall and the Foundation for Baroque Music. Nearby, Saratoga Battlefield in Stillwater is dedicated to "The Turning Point of the American Revolution," while Ulysses S. Grant's Cottage at Mt. McGregor is where the bankrupt former president and Civil War hero, wrote his memoirs and restored his family's fortune.

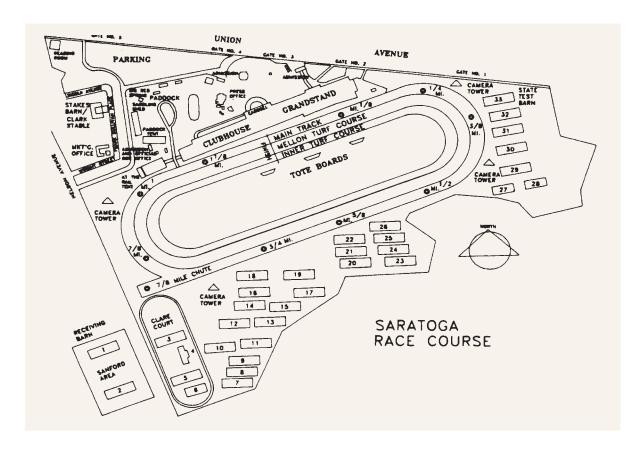
Although some may quibble with the order, it's no wonder that Saratoga's motto is "Health, history, and horses."

#### LEADING JOCKEYS AND TRAINERS AT SARATOGA

YEAR	JOCKEY	WINS	TRAINER	WINS	YEAR	JOCKEY	WINS	TRAINER WINS
2008	Alan Garcia	39	Kiaran McLaughlin	17	1980	Angel Cordero Jr.	35	Frank Martin 9
2007	Cornelio Velasquez	44	Bill Mott	27	1979	Angel Cordero Jr.	24	Lazaro Barrera 11
2006	Edgar Prado	46	Todd Pletcher	24	1978	Angel Cordero Jr.	34	Allen Jerkens 7
2005	Edgar Prado	44	Todd Pletcher	22				Woody Stephens 7
2004	John Velazquez	*65	Todd Pletcher	*35				Sidney Watters Jr. 7
2003	John Velazquez	61	Todd Pletcher	*35	1977	Angel Cordero Jr.	34	Lazaro Barrera 8
2002	Edgar Prado	54	Todd Pletcher	19				Thomas Kelly 8
2001	Jerry Bailey	55	Bill Mott	22	1976	Angel Cordero Jr.	29	Lazaro Barrera 12
2000	Jerry Bailey	50	Bill Mott	17	1975	Eddie Maple	23	Lazaro Barrera 13
1999	Jerry Bailey	47	Bill Mott	6	1974	Jorge Velasquez	20	Jose Martin 15
1998	John Velazquez	31	Todd Pletcher	20	1973	Ron Turcotte	27	Allen Jerkens 14
1997	Jerry Bailey	48	John Kimmel	15	1972	Jorge Velasquez	20	Allen Jerkens 19
			Bill Mott	15	1971	Laffit Pincay Jr.	25	Allen Jerkens 12
1996	Jerry Bailey	45	Bill Mott	20	1970	Jacinto Vasquez	21	Robert Frankel 6
1995	Jerry Bailey	47	Bill Mott	18				James Maloney 6
1994	Jerry Bailey	38	Shug McGaughey	15	1969	Jorge Velasquez	34	John Campo 10
1993	Mike Smith	40	Bill Mott	12	1968	Braulio Baeza	26	Lucien Lauren 10
1992	Mike Smith	38	D. Wayne Lukas	14	1967	Angel Cordero Jr.	36	Ivan Parke 10
			Bill Mott	14	1966	John L. Rotz	28	Ivor Balding 9
1991	Mike Smith	33	D. Wayne Lukas	16	1965	Braulio Baeza	17	Howard Jacobson 9
1990	Chris Antley	28	D. Wayne Lukas	10				Robert Ussery 17
1989	Angel Cordero Jr	34	D. Wayne Lukas	16	1964	Manuel Ycaza	22	John Gaver 12
1988	Angel Cordero Jr	36	D. Wayne Lukas	16	1963	Manuel Ycaza	37	Howard Jacobson 12
1987	Jose Santos	26	Sidney Watters Jr.	12	1962	John Sellers	35	James Fitzsimmons 9
1986	Angel Cordero Jr	27	D. Wayne Lukas	13	1961	Manuel Ycaza	25	Burley Parke 11
1985	Angel Cordero Jr	22	Jonathan Sheppard	10	1960	Sam Boulmetis	26	John Gaver 8
1984	Angel Cordero Jr	24	Jonathan Sheppard	9				Walter Kelley 8
1983	Angel Cordero Jr	31	Phil Johnson	9				Michael Walsh 8
1982	Angel Cordero Jr	30	Frank Martin	13	1959	Manuel Ycaza	41	Norman McLeod 8
1981	Angel Cordero Jr	23	Robert DeBonis	8	1958	Bill Boland	22	Hirsch Jacobs 11
			Woody Stephens	8				

#### SARATOGA ON-TRACK RECORDS

One-day attendance	Opening Day in August
One-day handle \$9,946,373 on August 27, 2005 (Travers Day)	One-week attendance
Track Attendance	(Fourth week) in 2003
Average daily attendance ,	One-week handle \$25,989,156
Meeting handle	(Third week) in 1990
Average daily handle	Largest weekday crowd
Opening Day in July	Largest weekday handle\$4,392,683 on August 18, 1989



#### BASIC PHYSICAL DATA OF SARATOGA RACE COURSE

#### GROUNDS

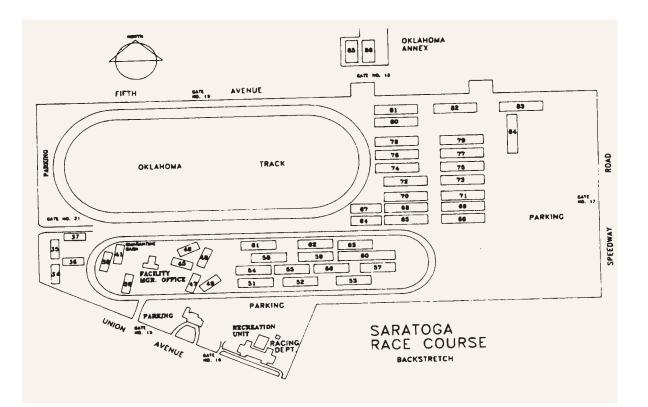
Area of Site	350 acres
NYRA Parking Capacity	6,000 cars
Main Course	1 1/8 miles
Turf Course	1 mile
Steeplechase Course - Inner Turf Course	7/8 mile
Oklahoma Course	1 mile
Turf & Steeplechase Course	7/8 mile
Clare Court Course	1/2 mile
5 CCTV Race Patrol Camera Towers - 40' high	
Chartered and Tour Bus Parking	

#### GRANDSTAND

Length	feet
Depth (Varies)	feet
Height (Clubhouse)	ries
Height (Grandstand)	ories
Floor Area	sq. ft.

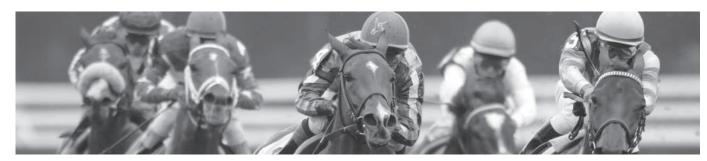
#### FACILITIES PROVIDED

Attendance Capacity
Park Area (Added)
Trackside Dining
Other Dining
Total Seating Capacity (including picnic tables and benches)18,000
Closed-Circuit TV Monitors (Public)
Kitchens
Dining Areas
Concession Stands
Concession Bars
Toilets
Elevators
Escalators
Pari-Mutuel Windows
First Aid Room
Ambulances
STABLE AREA
Stabling Capacity
Dormitory Capacity (489 Rooms)
Barns



#### **RECORD MUTUEL PAYOFFS**

STRAIGHT PAY-OFF	
	on SEPTEMBER 3, 1943
DAILY DOUBLE	\$4,313.90 on BUDDIE BONES and JUNCTION CITY
	at SARATOGA on AUGUST 27, 1945
EXACTA \$5,4	
	at BELMONT on JUNE 1, 1985
TRIFECTA\$63,624.00 d	
	at SARATOGA on AUGUST 22, 1974
QUINELLA	44.20 on NORTHERN VOGUE and GAY SENORITA
PICK FOUR	•
PICK SIX\$1,120,28	7 (Two Tickets) at AQUEDUCT on JANUARY 17, 2004



## NYRA: ON-AIR AND ON-LINE

Television coverage of the Belmont Stakes has brought the oldest and longest race in the Triple Crown into the homes of millions of fans across the United States and throughout the world.

Since 2006, ABC Sports has offered exclusive broadcast coverage of the Belmont Stakes while ESPN has provided coverage of news and races leading up to the race across numerous outlets. ABC Sports previously televised the Belmont Stakes from 1986 to 2000, garnering eight Eclipse Awards for outstanding achievement in the broadcasting of thoroughbred racing.

In 2008, Big Brown's bid for the Triple Crown in the Belmont Stakes, on ABC from 6:15-7:15 p.m., delivered a 10.5 overnight metered market rating, up 169% from Rags to Riches' victory over eventual two-time Horse of the Year Curlin in 2007. The Belmont Stakes race coverage also topped the rating of the 2008 Kentucky Derby by 11% (9.5) and the Preakness Stakes by 64% (6.4), and the pre-race coverage earned a 4.5 rating, 150% higher than 2007. ESPN Radio also carried the Belmont Stakes live nationwide.

NYRA's nightly television show "Aqueduct in 30," "Belmont in 30," and "Saratoga in 30," hosted by Jason Blewitt, is seen on sports cable channel MSG Plus in more than three million homes throughout New York State. "Thoroughbred Weekly," which airs on dark days and highlights stakes races from around the country, handicapping segments and features on jockeys and trainers, is hosted by Blewitt and Eric Donovan, with contributions from Jan Rushton and Andy Serling. This year MSG Plus also will provide live coverage of the Wood Memorial, stakes action from every Saratoga Saturday except Shadwell Travers Day, as well as Jockey Club Gold Cup Day. Sirius satellite radio is airing a weekly Saturday afternoon show dedicated to NYRA during the heart of the racing season, as well as live stakes race coverage on a dozen of NYRA's biggest days.

NYRA continues to expand its presence across multiple platforms, as fans can tune into the official NYRA YouTube Channel for "Trips & Traps," an insider's look at horses to watch or watch out for and how handicappers can use that information to their advantage. The site also features the "On the Record" series, profiling trainers that have made significant contributions to the sport at Aqueduct, Belmont Park and Saratoga, and "Jockey Video Cards," an up-close and personal chat with NYRA's leading riders.

Also on the internet, in addition to nyra.com, belmontstakes.com, and nyragroupsales.com, NYRA maintains fan pages on the popular social networking sites Facebook.com and MySpace.com, where fans can keep updated on upcoming events, browse photo galleries, and post comments. NYRA Communications also posts updates on Twitter at NYRAComm.

## TOM DURKIN: THE VOICE OF NYRA

New York Racing Association track announcer Tom Durkin has been bringing his special brand of excitement to race fans at Aqueduct, Belmont Park and Saratoga since 1990. Durkin, who calls the Kentucky Derby and Preakness for NBC Sports, is the voice of the Belmont Stakes and through the years has chronicled the Triple Crown series with knowledge, wit and a keen sense of drama. Voted "Best Announcer" in the Thoroughbred Times' "Best of 2008" voting, Durkin is also a popular TV voice on important stakes races beyond the Triple Crown. A native of Chicago, he studied theatre at St. Norbert College and began calling races at county fairs in Wisconsin in the early 1970s. Including the Breeders' Cup, which he called from its inception in 1984 through 2005, Durkin has called races at more than 50 tracks in six countries.

THE INCOLUNBEATAL UNBEATAL CURLIN OL RICHES ON TWO IN A BA ARRRR ...AF THEY'RE OFF AT SARA



Carlin stole the show at Saratoga in the Woodward

# YEAR IN REVIEW 2008



Da' Tara went wire-to-wire to upset Triple Crown hopeful Big Brown in the 140th Belmont

#### By Jason Blewitt

Picking New York's top racing moments in 2008 isn't easy. But after ciphering through the chart books and clicking on dozens of Internet race replays, one thing is clear: Curlin stole the show. He also ran himself into the record books in late September while becoming one of the great contemporary legends of both Belmont Park and Saratoga Race Course.

On Saturday, September 27th, a raw and wet afternoon at Belmont Park, Curlin became the first North American Thoroughbred to earn more than \$10 million when he won the history-rich Grade 1 Jockey Club Gold Cup for the second straight year. Curlin's Gold Cup route - a prized example of commitment, professionalism and passion - followed another of the champion's firsts: his Saratoga debut.



Noses on the wire in the Grade 1 Shadwell Travers Stakes



At Belmont Park, fans flocked to Evening Attive's farewell party



Proud Spell bested Music Note in a thrilling fight to the finish in the Alabama (Gl)

## "CURLIN ... ONE OF THE GREAT CONTEMPORARY LEGENDS OF BOTH BELMONT PARK AND SARATOGA"

A month earlier, on Saturday, August 30th, Curlin did what many in the packed crowd expected him to do: win Saratoga's 55th running of the Grade 1 Woodward Stakes. It was not a flashy win by any means, just Curlin doing what he had to do to finish first. Had he never gotten the opportunity to race at Saratoga Race Course, well, there might always be a missing piece to the puzzle.

It is never easy to say goodbye to an old friend, but that is what the fans had to do earlier this fall after it was announced the 10-year-old, Grade 1 winning gelding, Evening Attire, would be retired from competition. Never one to quit, Evening Attire wound up winning the \$250,000 Greenwood Cup at Philadelphia Park in the final start of his career. He was also second in the Brooklyn Handicap on Belmont Stakes Eve. Rightfully so, the New York Racing Association hosted "Evening Attire Day" for the horse and his fans on the final Saturday of Belmont Park's Fall Championship Meet.

Another old timer that meant serious, serious business when he thundered from the starting gate was Commentator, the New York-bred gelding who beat eventual Horse of the Year Saint Liam in the 2005 Whitney Handicap at Saratoga. In late July, Commentator resurfaced in the '08 Whitney and absolutely demolished an outstanding field in one of the season's most electrifying efforts. Now that winter has arrived, racing fans may find it easy to sit back and daydream about Commentator winning his third Whitney Handicap this coming summer at Saratoga.

Commentator's Hall of Fame trainer, Nick Zito, also completed a rare New York double in 2008. Seven weeks earlier, Zito won his second career Belmont Stakes after his front-running longshot Da' Tara wired the field in the "Test of the Champion" while the Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Big Brown finished last, eased a quarter mile from the finish by jockey Kent Desormeaux in an absolutely stunning end to the Triple Crown.

Also in Saratoga, the likeable Tin Cup Chalice fought his way to victory in the Spa's Albany, which made the Finger Lakes-based gelding the first New Yorkbred to ever sweep the Big Apple Triple, a series of races that also includes the Mike Lee and New York Derby. Tin Cup Chalice, by Crusader's Sword, won his connections a \$250,000 bonus for the Big Apple sweep.

August's Grade 1 Travers Stakes presented by Shadwell Farm turned into a thriller as California's Colonel John outfinished Mambo in Seattle to win by a nose on the wire. So close was the finish that even now, watching the replay, it's hard to believe Colonel John got the bob -- and even harder for trainer Neil Howard, who for the second year lost the Mid-summer Derby in a heartbreaker.

A week earlier, the Grade 1 Alabama Stakes for three-year-old fillies turned into a monstrous showdown between Proud Spell and Music Note. Earlier in the year, Proud Spell had won the Kentucky Oaks while Music Note got her act together in a big way over the summer at Belmont Park with scores in the Mother Goose and Coaching Club American Oaks.

Hooking up at the top of the stretch, the two battled heads apart for the final two furlongs with Proud Spell surging to the lead in the last spine-tingling seconds of the race -- a truly memorable moment among many in 2008.