



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 15, 2017

**LIVE THOROUGHBRED RACING RETURNS TO SAM HOUSTON
RACE PARK ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2018**

Training Hours Commence on Monday, December 18

HOUSTON, TX - Sam Houston Race Park will kick off its 25th live racing season on **Friday, January 19**. The 32-day Thoroughbred meet continues through March 17.

The barn area opened on December 11 with training hours set to commence on Monday, December 18.

The 2018 Thoroughbred Stakes Schedule will offer over **\$1.5 million** in purses, and begins with the trademark **Texas Champions Weekend**, featuring Texas-breds in four stakes on **Saturday, January 27**.

The Houston Racing Festival, is set for **Sunday January 28** with a 12 pm post time. The meet's marquee event will, once again, be anchored by the **Grade 3 \$400,000 Houston Ladies Classic** and the **Grade 3, \$200,000 John B. Connally Turf Cup**. Rounding out the richest day in Texas Thoroughbred racing will be the \$75,000 Frontier Utilities Turf Sprint, the \$50,000 Houston Distaff as well as the \$50,000 Bara Lass and \$50,000 Groovy Stakes for accredited Texas-breds.

The **Maxxam Gold Cup Racing Festival** will take place **February 24** and will feature the **\$100,000 Maxxam Gold Cup**, the \$50,000 Jersey Lilly Turf Stakes, the \$50,000 Houston Turf and the \$50,000 Sam Houston Sprint Cup.

Texas-breds take center stage on the final night of the Thoroughbred racing season with the running of the \$65,000 Two Altazano Stakes and the \$65,000 Jim's Orbit Stakes. Sam Houston Race Park will also feature Arabian race horses on February 3 with the running of the \$30,000 Texas Yellow Rose and the \$30,000 Texas Six Shooter. The \$48,500 Amethyst Jewel (GI) and the \$41,500 Sheikha Mubarak LWC follow on March 3.

Friday and Saturday post times for the 2018 Thoroughbred Meet will be 7 pm and 6 pm, respectively. Matinee racing will be offered on Wednesday afternoons at 12 noon as well as Tuesday at the same time, beginning February 13.

Matt Crawford, returns for his second year as racing secretary for the northwest Houston racetrack. He reports that stall applications for the upcoming meet have been filled with several new outfits sending horses to Sam Houston Race Park this year.

“We look forward to welcoming back longstanding supporters of Sam Houston Race Park including Steve Asmussen, Danny Pish, Bret Calhoun, Karl Broberg and Mindy Willis, and have assigned stalls to Boyd Caster, Efren Loza, Jose Camejo and Hugo Rodriguez this year,” said Crawford.

2018 Thoroughbred Stakes Schedule

January 27, 2018 Texas Champions Day

\$50,000 Richard King Turf- 4&up Distance- 1 1/8 Mile (T)

\$50,000 San Jacinto Turf- 4&up F&M Distance- 1 1/16 Mile (T)

\$50,000 Spirit of Texas- 4&up Distance- 6 Furlongs

\$50,000 Yellow Rose- 4&up F&M Distance- 6 Furlongs

January 28, 2018 Houston Racing Festival

\$400,000 Houston Ladies Classic (GIII)- 4&up F&M Distance- 1 1/16 Mile

\$200,000 John B. Connally Turf (GIII)- 4&up Distance- 1 1/2 Mile (T)

\$75,000 Frontier Utilities Turf Sprint- 4&up Distance- 5 Furlongs (T)

\$50,000 Bara Lass- 3yo F Distance- 6 Furlongs

\$50,000 Groovy Stakes- 3yo Distance- 6 furlongs

\$50,000 Houston Distaff- 4&up F&M Distance- 1 1/16 Mile (T)

February 3, 2018

\$30,000 est. Texas Six Shooter (GII)- Arabian- 4&up C&G Distance- 7 Furlongs

\$30,000 est. Texas Yellow Rose (GII)- Arabian- 4&up F&M Distance- 7 Furlongs

February 24, 2018 MAXXAM Racing Festival

\$100,000 Maxxam Gold Cup (Listed)- 4&up Distance- 1 1/8 Mile

\$50,000 Houston Turf- 4&up Distance- 1 1/16 Mile (T)

\$50,000 Jersey Lilly Turf- 4&up F&M Distance- 1 1/16 Mile (T)

\$50,000 Sam Houston Sprint Cup- 4&up Distance- 6 Furlongs

March 3, 2018

\$48,500 est. Amethyst Jewel (GI)-Arabian- 4&up Distance- 7 Furlongs

\$41,500 est. Sheikha Mubarack LWC- Arabian- 4&up F&M Distance- 7 Furlongs

March 17, 2018 Texas Stallions Stakes

\$65,000 Jim’s Orbit- 3yo Distance- 6 Furlongs

\$65,000 Two Altazano- 3yo F Distance- 6 Furlongs

Sam Houston Race Park is Houston’s premier racing and entertainment facility, located just 15 miles from downtown Houston. The Park offers a variety of attractions including our Suite Level featuring luxurious suites overlooking the race track and accommodating groups from 20 to 300 people, **The Pavilion Centre**, and award-winning dining options at the **Winner’s Circle Restaurant** and the **Jockey Club**. For more information on upcoming shows, events and tickets, please visit www.shrp.com.

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