



For Immediate Release:

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Over \$500k in purse money up for grabs in Maine Super Sire Stakes Weekend

Scarborough, Maine – (October 9, 2009). The Maine Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association (MSBOA) has confirmed that over half a million dollars in purse money will be awarded in the 8 races during Super Sire Stakes Weekend, to be contested on October 17th and 18th. Post time is 12:45 pm both days.

Scarborough Downs kicks off its fall meet with Maine Super Sire Stakes Weekend, now in its second year, as Maine harness racing's two- and three-year-old trotting and pacing elite showcase its incredible talent with all the top drivers, trainers and horses assembled in one venue.

The horses competing in these finals are bred, trained and stabled in Maine, and have been racing at commercial tracks and fair venues across the state for the past four months. This is the final week of competition as the elite sons and daughters of powerful Maine stallions and broodmares gather one last time to engage each other in the biggest races of their careers.

Fans have been anticipating the "showdown" between 3-year-old colt pacers **Neutral Court**, who has remained undefeated this stakes season, and stablemate, **Sign the Page**, trained by Mike Graffam. The scenario is reminiscent of the 2008 showdown between **Maineac Matt** and **Terry's Star Dragon**, both of whom were top stakes points earners and members of Graffam's stable last year.

"It's going to be an interesting race,' Graffam has said about next Sunday's race. He has opted to drive **Neutral Court** but confirms that both animals are in top form to compete.

William Varney of Bangor has an unprecedented number of entries in this year's stakes program, with at least one -- in some cases two or more -- top point earners in each of the 8 divisions over the course of the 2 days.

"The Breeders have some outstanding horses in this year's Sire Stakes program," said MSBOA President, Mike Andrew. "This has been one of the most exciting stakes racing seasons on record with track records broken by this year's sire stakes horses. We are all looking forward to the finals."

This year's purses are up due to the money allocated for the Sire Stakes Program from the Hollywood Slots revenue in Bangor: Each of the 4 divisions of the 2 year old finals will go for approximately \$60k each and the 4 divisions of the 3 year old finals should go for \$75k each. Quite an increase, compared to the roughly \$2,500 in purses shelled out when then stakes program [began](#) 35 years ago.

The annual **press conference and draw** is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14th at 11 am at Scarborough Downs' Downs Club Restaurant. This is where the press is invited to witness the draw for post positions for each of the four categories for both finals: Trotting Colts, Trotting Fillies; Pacing Colts, and Pacing Fillies with judges and track dignitaries in attendance. Coffee and donuts will be served.

Additionally, the Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame's traveling ***Drive to Win*** exhibit will be displayed in the Grandstand until October 24th. The display, which has been made possible by the sponsorship of Hanover Shoe Farms, features 27 trainers and drivers which through circumstance, choice, design or fate, did not rise to stardom. Alfred "Bucky" Day, a New Hampshire native, who raced at Scarborough Downs throughout his racing career, is featured in the exhibit.

The Downs Club Restaurant will be open for a buffet luncheon during the Stakes finals at 11:45 am on both of the racing days.

Scarborough Downs features live harness racing for the fall meet every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 12:45 pm through December 27th. Admission to the track is free.

For more information, contact Susan Higgins, Director of Marketing, at 207-883-4331 x1002 or via email at shiggins@scarboroughdowns.com.