

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Triple Crown, Increased Thoroughbred Purses  
Highlight 2008 Ruidoso Downs Stakes Schedule

RUIDOSO DOWNS, New Mexico (February 27, 2008) – The All American Triple Crown futurities, showcasing the 50th running of the Grade 1, \$2 million All American Futurity, and increased purses for thoroughbred stakes highlight the \$7 million stakes schedule for the 2008 racing season at Ruidoso Downs.

The summer season begins on May 23 with a full day of trials to the Grade 1, \$500,000 Ruidoso Futurity. The Ruidoso Futurity finals will be held on June 8. The nation's premier 2-year-olds will then return for the \$625,000 Rainbow Futurity on July 20.

This summer celebrates the 50th running of the All American Futurity with special events planned to commemorate the golden anniversary of the legendary stakes. The All American Futurity will be contested on Labor Day with a \$2 million total purse and \$1 million awarded to the connections of the winning horse.

The summer derby season at Ruidoso Downs, with three Grade 1 derbies, will offer an estimated \$1.75 million in purses and that could range higher with supplemental nominees. Topping the derby lineup is the Grade 1, \$850,000 (est.) All American Derby, which offers an invitation to the Grade 1, \$1 million Champion Of Champions at Los Alamitos. The projected All American Derby purse is higher than any quarter horse derby contested in 2007. The \$400,000 Ruidoso Derby is slated for June 7 and the \$500,000 (est.) Rainbow Derby will be held on July 19.

Champion 2-year-old Heartswideopen, last year's leading money earner with \$1,282,690, is the filly that every racing fan will be awaiting this summer at Ruidoso Downs for the three derbies. She won last year's Ruidoso Futurity in stakes record time and then wrapped up her championship with her All American Futurity win. She will probably make her 2008 debut in the Ruidoso Derby trials on May 24 and is training forwardly at Sunland Park for trainer Carl Draper.

Heartswideopen's chief rival, Wild Six, should return to Ruidoso Downs this summer with the Wes Giles stable. She won the Rainbow Futurity, while Heartswideopen stayed in the barn to point at the All American Futurity. Wild Six has six wins from eight starts and has earned \$526,613.

Older quarter horses point primarily to the Higheasterjet Stakes, Mr Jet Moore Stakes and the All American Gold Cup. Last summer, Ketel Won took the Higheasterjet and All American Gold Cup on his way to being named the national champion aged horse. He is in training and is expected to return to Ruidoso Downs this summer.

Thoroughbred horsemen will be able to increase the value of their horses with the purses of six Thoroughbred stakes raised to \$50,000 in added money. These minimum purses qualify as nationally recognized stakes races, thus enhancing the value of horses who win or place in these races.

New Mexico-breds always have a strong presence on the Ruidoso Downs' stakes schedule and once again this year the Zia Festival races on July 27 will offer more than \$1 million on the stakes-filled card. The Zia Festival is one of the most popular weekends at Ruidoso Downs with many New Mexico artisans and artists selling their creations to the packed grandstand crowd.

A top prospect for the Zia Festival program is the undefeated filly Peppers Pride. She is 14-for-14 lifetime and could be chasing history at the Zia Festival. The Joe Allen-owned and bred Peppers Pride is closing in on the modern-day record of 16 wins to start a career, a record shared by Mister Frisky and Hallowed Dreams. Mister Frisky started his career in Puerto Rico and then came to the United States and raced for hall of fame trainer Laz Barrera. Much like Peppers Pride, Hallowed Dreams raced to much of her success against state-breds. She was a Louisiana-bred filly who also competed as a sprinter.

## **2008 RUIDOSO DOWNS' QUARTER HORSE STAKES SCHEDULE**

### **Ruidoso Quarter Horse Futurity Trials**

Friday, May 23      2-Year Olds      350 Yards  
(\$15,000 Late Payment at Time of Entry, Includes all fees)

**Ruidoso Quarter Horse Derby Trials**

Saturday, May 24 3-Year Olds 400 Yards  
(\$25,000 Late Payment at Time of Entry, Includes all fees)

**New Mexico Bayer Legend Derby Challenge Trials**

Thursday, May 29 3-Year Olds 400 Yards  
(Late Payment Due May 7, 2008, Includes all fees;  
Eligible to AQHA Challenge)

**Ruidoso Quarter Horse Sale Futurity Trials**

**New Mexico Bred**

Friday, May 30 2-Year Olds 350 Yards  
Registered New Mexico Bred  
(\$15,000 Late Payment at Time of Entry, Includes all fees)

**Ruidoso Quarter Horse Derby (G1)**

**\$400,000 Est.**

Saturday, June 7 3-Year Olds 400 Yards

**Ruidoso Quarter Horse Futurity (G1)**

**\$500,000**

Sunday, June 8 2-Year Olds 350 Yards

**New Mexico Bayer Legend Derby Challenge (G3)**

**\$75,000 Est.**

Saturday, June 14 3-Year Olds 400 Yards  
(Eligible to AQHA Challenge)

**Ruidoso Quarter Horse Sale Futurity (RG2)**

**New Mexico Bred**

**\$200,000 Est.**

Sunday, June 15 2-Year Olds 350 Yards

**Rainbow Futurity Trials**

Thursday, July 3 2-Year Olds 400 Yards  
(\$25,000 Late Payment at Time of Entry, Includes all fees)

**Rainbow Derby Trials**

Friday, July 4 3-Year Olds 440 Yards  
(\$30,000 Late Payment at Time of Entry, Includes all fees)

**Higheasterjet Handicap (G3)**

**\$40,000 Guaranteed**

Saturday, July 5 3-Year Olds & Up 350 Yards

**Zia Futurity Trials**

**New Mexico Bred**

Thursday, July 10 2-Year Olds, 400 Yards  
Registered New Mexico Bred  
(\$15,000 Late Payment at Time of Entry, Includes all fees)

**Zia Derby Trials**

**New Mexico Bred**

Friday, July 11 3-Year Olds 400 Yards

Registered New Mexico Bred  
(\$12,500 Late Payment at Time of Entry, Includes all fees)

**Ford New Mexico Juvenile Challenge Trials**

Thursday, July 17 2-Year Olds 350 Yards  
(Late Payment deadline June 25, 2008;  
Eligible to AQHA Challenge)

**Rainbow Quarter Horse Derby (G1)**

**\$500,000 Est.**  
Saturday, July 19 3-Year Olds 440 Yards

**Rainbow Quarter Horse Futurity (G1)**

**\$625,000**  
Sunday, July 20 2-Year Olds 400 Yards

**Zia Futurity (RG1)**

**New Mexico Bred**  
**\$300,000 Est.**  
Sunday, July 27 2-Year Old 400 Yards  
Registered New Mexico Bred

**Zia Derby (RG2)**

**New Mexico Bred**  
**\$100,000 Est.**  
Sunday, July 27 3-Year Old 400 Yards  
Registered New Mexico Bred

**Zia Handicap (RG2)**

**New Mexico Bred**  
**\$55,000 Guaranteed**  
Sunday, July 27 3-Year Old & Up 400 Yards  
Registered New Mexico Bred

**Zia 870 Championship**

**New Mexico Bred**  
**\$55,000 Guaranteed**  
Sunday, July 27 3-Year Olds & Up 870 yards  
Registered New Mexico Bred

**Mr. Jet Moore Handicap (G3)**

**\$40,000 Guaranteed**  
Saturday, August 2 3-Year Old & Up 400 Yards

**Ford New Mexico Juvenile Challenge(G3)**

**\$75,000 Est.**  
Sunday, August 3 2-Year Olds 350 Yards  
(Eligible to AQHA Challenge)

**John Deere NM Distaff Trials**

Friday, August 8 3-Year Olds & Up 400 Yards  
Fillies & Mares

**All American Futurity Trials**

Thursday, August 14 2-Year Olds 440 Yards  
(Late Supplement of \$50,000 due at Time of Entry to the Time Trials; includes all fees)

**All American Derby Trials**

Friday, August 15 3-Year Olds 440 Yards  
(Late Supplement of \$40,000 due at Time of Entry to the Time Trials; includes all fees)

**John Deere NM Distaff**

**\$20,000 Added**

Sunday, August 24 3-Year Old & Up 400 Yards  
Fillies & Mares

**Brigand Handicap**

**\$40,000 Guaranteed**

Saturday, August 30 3-Year Old & Up 870 yards

**All American Gold Cup (G3)**

**\$50,000 Guaranteed**

Saturday, August 30 3-Year Old & Up 440 Yards

**All American Derby (G1)**

**\$850,000 Est.**

Sunday, August 31 3-Year Olds 440 Yards

**All American Juvenile**

**\$150,000 Est.**

Monday, September 1 2-Year Olds 440 Yards

**All American Futurity (G1)**

**\$1,900,000 Est.**

Monday, September 1 2-Year Olds 440 Yards

**2008 RUIDOSO DOWNS' THOROUGHBRED  
STAKES SCHEDULE**

**Norgor Derby**

**\$50,000 Guaranteed**

Sunday, May 25 3-Year Olds 6 furlongs

**Fern Sawyer Handicap**

**\$50,000 Guaranteed**

**Fillies & Mares**

Saturday, May 31 3-Year Old & Up 7 1/2 furlongs

**Aspen Cup**

**\$50,000 Guaranteed**

**Fillies**

Sunday, June 1 3-Year Old 6 furlongs

**Ruidoso Thoroughbred Sale Futurity Trials**

Friday, June 6 2-Year Olds 5 furlongs

Registered New Mexico Bred

(\$15,000 Late Supplement at Time of Entry, Includes all fees)

**Free Spirits Handicap**  
**\$50,000 Guaranteed**  
Saturday, June 21 3-Year Old & Up 6 furlongs

**Ruidoso Thoroughbred Sale Futurity**  
**\$100,000 Est.**  
Sunday, June 22 2-Year Olds 5 furlongs  
Registered New Mexico Bred

**Rio Grande Senorita Futurity Trials**  
**New Mexico Bred Fillies**  
Saturday, July 12 2-Year Olds 5 1/2 furlongs  
Registered New Mexico Bred

**Rio Grande Senor Futurity Trials**  
**New Mexico Bred Colts & Geldings**  
Saturday, July 12 2-Year Olds 5 1/2 furlongs  
Registered New Mexico Bred

**First Lady Handicap**  
**\$50,000 Guaranteed**  
**Fillies & Mares**  
Sunday, July 13 3-Year Old & Up 6 furlongs

**Rio Grande Senorita Futurity**  
**\$110,000 Est.**  
**New Mexico Bred Fillies**  
Sunday, July 27 2-Year Olds 5 1/2 furlongs  
Registered New Mexico Bred

**Rio Grande Senor Futurity**  
**\$100,000 Est.**  
**New Mexico Bred Colts & Geldings**  
Sunday, July 27 2-Year Olds 5 1/2 furlongs  
Registered New Mexico Bred

**Road Runner Handicap**  
**\$55,000 Guaranteed**  
**New Mexico Bred Colts & Geldings**  
Sunday, July 27 3-Year Olds 5 1/2 furlongs  
Registered New Mexico Bred

**Land of Enchantment Handicap**  
**\$55,000 Guaranteed**  
**New Mexico Bred**  
Sunday, July 27 3-Year Old & Up 7 1/2 furlongs  
Registered New Mexico Bred

**Lincoln Handicap**  
**\$55,000 Guaranteed**  
**New Mexico Bred Fillies & Mares**  
Sunday, July 27 3-Year Old & Up 6 furlongs  
Registered New Mexico Bred

**Sierra Starlet**  
**\$55,000 Guaranteed**  
**New Mexico Bred Fillies**  
Sunday, July 27 3-Year Olds 5 1/2 furlongs  
Registered New Mexico Bred

**Desert Rose Stakes**  
**New Mexico Bred**  
**\$50,000 Guaranteed**  
**Fillies & Mares**  
Saturday, August 23 3-Year Olds & Up 6 furlongs

**Ruidoso Thoroughbred Derby**

**\$50,000 Guaranteed**  
Sunday, August 31 3-Year Olds 1 1/16 Mile

**Ruidoso Thoroughbred Championship**  
**\$60,000 Guaranteed**  
Monday, Sept. 1 3-Year Old & Up 1 1/16 Mile

**Dale Wood Stakes**  
**\$50,000 Guaranteed**  
Monday, Sept. 1 2-Year Olds 6 furlongs

**2008 RUIDOSO DOWNS' THOROUGHBRED &  
QUARTER HORSE STAKES SCHEDULE**

**Fine Loom Handicap**  
**\$40,000 Guaranteed**  
Monday, May 26 3-Year Old & Up 870 yards

**Master Salls Handicap**  
**\$40,000 Guaranteed**  
Wednesday, July 26 3-Year Olds & Up 870 yards