

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Heartswideopen On Outside

In \$1,065,648 All American Derby

RUIDOSO DOWNS, New Mexico (August 28, 2008) - Champion

Heartswideopen will bid to secure her place in quarter horse racing history when she starts in the outside post position in Sunday's \$1,065,648 All American Derby (G1) at Ruidoso Downs.

The richest quarter horse derby of the year, the All American will award the winner \$532,824, as well as a berth in the Grade 1, \$1 million Champion of Champions on December 13 at Los Alamitos. This year's 35th running is the third-richest in the history of the race, following the \$1,319,677 offered in 1983, when the winner was Make Mine Cash, and the \$1,222,799 purse in 1980, when the winner was Native Gambler.

"I'm ready. Let's get it over with," said Carl Draper, who trains Heartswideopen for La Feliz Montana Ranch of brothers Javier and Manny Rodriguez. "She's the greatest mare I've ever trained and one of the greatest mares that ever raced. And I'm not just saying that; it's on paper."

With a victory, Heartswideopen will become the sport's all-time leading earner with \$2,245,203, surpassing current leader Refrigerator at \$2,126,309. She will join DM Shicago as the two horses that have won the All American Futurity and returned to sweep Ruidoso's three Grade 1 derbies. Draper also trained DM Shicago.

On Thursday, the connections of the All American Derby starters chose their post positions at a brunch at the track. After lots were drawn to determine the selection order, the connections of Heartswideopen received the first pick in the 10-horse field.

On August 15, Heartswideopen won the fourth of five trials to the derby and turned in the second-fastest qualifying time of :21.053. Sunday's final will mark a rematch of the filly and two of her rivals from last year's All American Futurity – Captain Courage and Wild Six. Captain Courage was third in the futurity, and Wild Six was sixth.

Wild Six is the only horse to defeat Heartswideopen, that performance coming when she won the Grade 1 West Texas Futurity last year while he rival was sixth.

The fastest qualifier is Noconi, a Mr Jess Perry gelding who broke his maiden in the August 15 trials. Noconi is trained by Paul Jones, the six-time champion trainer who is seeking his first win in the derby.

The All American Derby qualifiers, in post position order with their jockeys, are: White Or Wrong; Ricky Ramirez; First Timber, Abdel Torres; Wild Six, Alex Baldillez Jr.; MBN Finest Hour, Cody Jensen; Captain Courage, G.R. Carter Jr.; Noconi, Ramon Sanchez; Possum Fust, Larry Payne; Decati, Esgar Ramirez; First Moonflash, Alejandro Medellin; and Heartswideopen, Bonifacio Perez. Every starter will carry 122 pounds.