

FOR SATURDAY RELEASE

First Grade 1 Weekend At Ruidoso Downs

Starts With Heartswideopen and Big Brown

RUIDOSO DOWNS, New Mexico (June 7, 2008) – Heartswideopen begins what could be a triple crown bid in the Grade 1, \$388,000 Ruidoso Derby and Big Brown tries to wrap up the Triple Crown on Saturday in the Belmont Stakes with the action on each stakes at Ruidoso Downs.

Heartswideopen performs live at Ruidoso Downs while Big Brown competes via simulcast wagering from Belmont Park in New York.

First post time at Ruidoso Downs is 1 p.m. with Heartswideopen racing in the ninth race on the 11-race program. The Belmont Stakes is expected to run at about 4:30 p.m. local time.

There is always free parking and free grandstand admission at Ruidoso Downs. Immediately following the Ruidoso Downs' program The Graham Brothers perform for free in Billy's Sports Bar in the Billy The Kid Casino.

Heartswideopen and Big Brown will each be strong favorites in their respective races with their impressive records.

Manny and Javier Rodriguez's Heartswideopen raced to wins last summer at Ruidoso Downs that led to her being named the champion two-year-old and champion two-year-old filly. The Carl Draper-trained miss won the Grade 1, \$500,000 Ruidoso Futurity in stakes-record time and then won the Grade 1, \$2 million All American Futurity to close out her 2007 campaign.

After a winter's rest, Draper brought Heartswideopen back in stunning fashion. The powerful nearly black filly rolled to a one-and-a-quarter-length trial win and her time of :19.628 for 400 yards was the fastest time from four trials.

History is on Heartswideopen's side. She will start from the outside post position with Oscar Hernandez aboard. That is the same post position and rider as her All American Futurity win.

Also, Draper won the 2004 All American Futurity with DM Shicago and brought him back the following summer at Ruidoso Downs to win the Ruidoso, Rainbow and All American derbies on his way to being named the 2005 world champion.

In the mile-and-a-half Belmont Stakes, Big Brown brings his five-for-five record into the race that is called “the test of champions.” He won the Kentucky Derby by nearly five lengths and then cruised to a more than five length win in the Preakness Stakes. He has already been syndicated for an estimated \$50 million, so the Belmont Stakes could be his final race before heading to Three Chimney’s Farm in Kentucky.

On Sunday afternoon, Draper will also be well stocked in the Grade 1, \$500,000 Ruidoso Futurity. He will saddle the top-two qualifiers - Jess Significant and Misty Blue Mercedes - in his bid to win the Ruidoso Futurity for the second straight year.