

FOR SATURDAY RELEASE

Heartswideopen Could Meet Challenge

In Rainbow Derby on Saturday at Ruidoso Downs

RUIDOSO DOWNS, New Mexico (July 19, 2008) – One of the few sure things in racing that is that champion Heartswideopen will be favored in Saturday's Grade 1, \$446,439 Rainbow Derby, after all she's been the overwhelming favorite in each of her 10 starts. But, there is also speculation that she could be seriously challenged in the 440-yard Rainbow Derby after her fastest-qualifying Rainbow Derby trial win.

First post time is 1 p.m. for the 10-race program and there is always free parking and free general admission at Ruidoso Downs.

The winner of three-straight Grade 1 stakes at Ruidoso Downs, Heartswideopen gamely rallied to win her trial by a neck over champion Illegal Memories with those two horses racing to the two-fastest qualifying times from the four trials. Heartswideopen raced the 440 yards in :20.976 for her record third-straight sub-:21.00 time at a quarter mile. Illegal Memories qualified with a :21.005 time.

Heartswideopen was forced to work for the trial win and that immediately caused some speculation that the winner of nine races and nearly \$1.5 million could be vulnerable in the Rainbow Derby. Especially when it is considered that Illegal Memories was making his first start in seven months and his Ruidoso Downs debut, and figures to step forward in the Rainbow Derby.

Then trainer Carl Draper revealed that Heartswideopen had battled to the trial win after an adverse experience in the Grade 1, \$389,000 Ruidoso Derby, her prior win on June 7. "She barely ate for eight days after the Ruidoso Derby. When she false broke [banging her nose on the starting gate in the Ruidoso Derby] she loosened some teeth and her mouth was sore and swollen. But, she is doing well now," Draper said. Since the trial win Heartswideopen has been devouring her feed and training to her championship form.

Heartswideopen's connections, Draper and owners Javier and Manny Rodriguez, are trying to match a feat by the Draper-trained world champion DM Shicago. In 2005, the gray gelding won the three grade 1 derbies at Ruidoso Downs after winning the Grade

1, \$2 million All American Futurity in 2004. He is the only All American Futurity winner to return the next summer and win the three derbies. Heartswideopen won the 2007 All American Futurity by a neck over SF Royal Bank and won the Ruidoso Derby by a commanding half length. If she wins the Rainbow Derby, she can reach her connection's goal with a win in the All American Derby on August 31.

Regular rider Oscar Hernandez rides Heartswideopen from the 10 post position, the same post that proved victorious in the All American Futurity and the Ruidoso Derby.

However, first is the Rainbow Derby and her rematches with Illegal Memories and SF Royal Bank.

Illegal Memories joined the Heath Taylor stable several weeks before the Rainbow Derby trials and flourished in his new barn as evidenced by the second behind Heartswideopen in his first race on the Ruidoso Downs strip. He was fractious in the saddling paddock, but the free-running gelding was able to gain the lead under jockey G.R. Carter Jr. in his match with Heartswideopen before giving way in the final 100 yards.

Last year, Illegal Memories showed a tendency for erratic behavior while racing on the Texas circuit. His talent and raw speed led to a win in the Grade 1 Texas Classic Futurity and the champion two-year-old gelding title. Heartswideopen was honored as the overall champion two-year-old over Illegal Memories and the champion two-year-old filly title.

Hector Roldan's SF Royal Bank has been pointed at the Rainbow and All American derbies this summer at Ruidoso Downs by trainer Paul Jones since his second-place run behind Heartswideopen in the All American Futurity on Labor Day. The athletic gray colt gained added fitness while winning a Ruidoso Downs' allowance race on May 31 and then showed he's ready for the Rainbow Derby with his neck win over Ruidoso Derby runner-up Strong Hope in their Rainbow derby trial. SF Royal Bank is the fifth-fastest qualifier at :21.179 while Strong Hope reached the derby with the sixth-fastest time of :21.205.

The consistent filly Eye of Glory comes into the Rainbow Derby with solid Grade 1 credentials for trainer Blane Wood. Johnny Trotter's filly has second in the Grade 1 Ruidoso Futurity behind Heartswideopen and the \$305,000 Southwest Juvenile

Championship. She was fifth in the Ruidoso Derby before winning her Rainbow Derby trial by a nose with the third-fastest time of :21.209.

On Sunday afternoon, world-record holder Fast Prize Zoom, Grade 1 Heritage Place Futurity winner Stolis Winner and Ruidoso Juvenile winner PB And Crackers bring the three-fastest qualifying times into the Grade 1, \$625,000 Rainbow Futurity to complete Rainbow weekend at Ruidoso Downs.