

Pimlico Spring Stakes Schedule Worth Nearly \$4 Million



BALTIMORE, 02-20-07---The Maryland Jockey Club unveiled the 2007 Pimlico spring stakes schedule after reaching agreement with both the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and Maryland Horse Breeders Association. The schedule was approved by the Maryland Racing Commission earlier this afternoon.

The headline event of the eight-week stand that begins Thursday, April 19 is the 132nd running of the \$1 million Preakness Stakes® (Grade I), the middle jewel of the famed Triple Crown, on May 19. The 31-day meeting at the historic Baltimore track will conclude Saturday, June 9.

The marquee meet of the Maryland racing season will feature 26 stakes races for purses of \$3.915 million. Fourteen of the added-money races, including all nine of the graded stakes for the meet, are slated for Preakness week, including nine on Preakness Day. The opening Saturday of the spring stand (April 21) features five stakes races and showcases Maryland-bred and Maryland-sired horses.

"It seems early to be thinking about springtime at Pimlico but realistically it is just around the corner," said Lou Raffetto, Maryland Jockey Club President and Chief Operating Officer. "When we talk about Pimlico and the Preakness it is always a motivating time for everyone at the Maryland Jockey Club."

Last month, Pimlico officials announced that they had been forced to cancel the 2007 running of the legendary Grade I Pimlico Special due to a purse shortage. The \$500,000 Pimlico Special is the second most prestigious race on the Maryland racing calendar, trailing only the Preakness, and is one of only three Grade I races, along with the Preakness and the Frank De Francis Memorial Dash, annually run in Maryland. Introduced by Alfred Vanderbilt in 1937, the Pimlico Special was the first major stakes race in the United States by invitation only. The 1938 running played host to one of America's most historic moments when Seabiscuit upset War Admiral in the famed match race. The long-awaited winner-take-all showdown was named "Race of the Century" by Sports Illustrated in 1999 and forever immortalized in the movie Seabiscuit in 2003.

The May 18 card will feature five stakes races for fillies and mares, including the Grade II Black-Eyed Susan Stakes, the Allaire duPont Breeders' Cup Distaff, which was upgraded from Grade III to Grade II status, and the Grade III Adena Stallions' Miss Preakness.

"We still have the Black-Eyed Susan to top a wonderful card," added Raffetto. "We are hopeful things fall into line and that the Special returns next year."

On December 20, 2006, the Maryland Jockey Club announced that it had changed the name of the Sir Barton Stakes to the Barbaro Stakes. The mile and a sixteenth test for three-year-olds is one of eight added money races on the Preakness undercard. The Sir Barton Stakes, named after the first horse to capture the Triple Crown in 1919, debuted at Pimlico in 1993. Sarava was the most famous winner-using the race as a springboard to a victory in the 2002 Belmont Stakes three weeks later.

"In light of what transpired at last year's Preakness we believed it was fitting to name a stakes on Preakness day for Barbaro," Raffetto said. "It will be a special time when we remember Barbaro for his accomplishments-not just on the racetrack but what he did for the industry in the months following his injury."

Other changes to the stakes schedule include:

- Discontinuation of the Jim McKay Breeders' Cup Handicap.
- Name change of Hoover Stakes to Jim McKay Sprint.
- Name change of Baltimore Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint to Baltimore City Turf Sprint.
- Addition of the Whimsical Stakes to the May 18 card

Distance changes of Woodlawn Stakes (1 1/16th mile turf to one-mile turf), Hilltop Stakes (1 1/16th mile turf to one-mile turf) and Xtra Heat Stakes (five-furlongs to 5 ½ furlongs).

The Pimlico racing office expects to card 10 races a day on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The May 18 and 19 cards will feature 13 races.

First post for 21 days of the meeting will be 1:10 p.m. with adjustments on Preakness (10:30 a.m.), Black-Eyed Susan (12:15 p.m.), Kentucky Derby (12:45 p.m.) and Belmont Stakes (12:45 p.m.) days. Pimlico will offer twilight racing (3:15 p.m.) Thursday's and Friday's for a three-week stretch following the Preakness (May 24-25-31 & June 1-7-8).

Date	Track	Stakes	Grade	Conditions	Distance	Purse
21-Apr	Pimlico	Tesio		3YO	1 1/8 mile	125,000
21-Apr		Maryland Stallion Station		3YO (MD-bred and/or Md Million noms)	6 furlongs	125,000
21-Apr		Country Life Farm		3YO fillies (MD-bred and/or Md Million noms)	1 1/16 mile	125,000
21-Apr		Northview Stallion Station		F & M 3&UP (MD-bred and/or Md Million noms)	1 1/8 mile	125,000
21-Apr		Jim McKay Sprint		3 & UP	6 furlongs	95,000
28-Apr		Henry Clark		3 & UP	1 mile (T)	95,000
28-Apr		Xtra Heat		3 YO Fillies	5 1/2 furlongs	80,000
5-May		Woodlawn		3 YO	1 mile (T)	80,000
12-May		Hilltop		3 YO Fillies	1 mile (T)	80,000
18-May		Black-Eyed Susan	II	3 YO Fillies	1 1/8 mile	250,000
18-May		Allaire duPont Breeders' Cup Distaff	II	F & M 3 & UP	1 1/16 mile	200,000
18-May		Adena Stallions' Miss Preakness	III	3 YO Fillies	6 furlongs	125,000
18-May		The Very One		F & M 3 & UP	5 furlongs (T)	95,000
18-May		Whimsical		F & M 3 & UP	6 furlongs	95,000
19-May		Preakness	I	3 YO	1 3/16 mile	1,000,000
19-May		Dixie	II	3 & UP	1 1/8 mile	250,000
19-May		Maryland Breeders' Cup Sprint	III	3 & UP	6 furlongs	200,000
19-May		William Donald Schaefer	III	3 & UP	1 1/8 mile	100,000
19-May		Gallorette	III	F & M 3 & UP	1 1/16 mile (T)	100,000
19-May		Hirsch Jacobs	III	3 YO	6 furlongs	100,000
19-May		Barbaro		3 YO	1 1/6 mile	100,000
19-May		Baltimore City Turf Sprint		3 & UP	5 furlongs (T)	100,000
19-May		Murmur Farm Starter		3 & UP (MD Million noms)	1 1/16 mile	50,000
26-May		Shine Again		F & M 3 & UP (MD-breds)	1 1/16 mile	50,000
2-Jun		Pearl Necklace		3 YO Fillies (MD-breds)	1 1/16 mile(T)	75,000
9-Jun		Skipat		F & M 3 & UP	6 furlongs	95,000
				26 Stakes (9 graded)		3,915,000