



TEXAS THOROUGHBRED TIMES

The official newsletter of the TTA

Record Number of Entries in Texas 2-Year-Olds in Training Sale, New Incentives Announced

The Texas Thoroughbred Association and Lone Star Park are pleased to announce a record number of consignments to the Texas 2-Year-Olds in Training Sale. A total of 182 head, pending the addition of supplements, have been entered in the sale set for Friday, April 3, at 12 noon at Lone Star. The under tack show will be held Wednesday, April 1, at 10 a.m. at the track.

This year's head count is up nearly 35 percent from last year's 135 (including supplements) and more than double the number in the 2016 sale, which was the first held jointly by the TTA and Lone Star.

"We expected to have more entries after the passage of beneficial legislation in Texas last year, but we were a little surprised by just how much interest there's been from both consignors and buyers," said Mary Ruyle, executive director of the TTA. "We are excited about the two incentive programs related to this sale and the overall increase in purses in Texas and incentives for Accredited Texas-breds."

The passage of H.B. 2463 is expected to inject up to \$25 million annually into the Texas horse industry, and its effect is already being seen with increased purses in 2020 for

the current Sam Houston Race Park meet and upcoming Lone Star meet.

In addition, money generated by H.B. 2463 is being used to provide a rebate of up to one-half of the entry fee to consignors at this sale. Plus, all graduates of this sale will be eligible for a new purse incentive program for all races this year at Texas tracks. The incentive is available for all graduates, regardless of where they were bred.

As always, sale graduates will be eligible for the Texas Thoroughbred Futurity this summer at Lone Star with divisions for fillies and colts/geldings offering purses of \$100,000-estimated apiece.

The list of nationally prominent stallions in the sale is far more extensive than in recent years, including Animal Kingdom, Bodemeister, Candy Ride, Fusaichi Pegasus, Goldencents, Kitten's Joy, Maclean's Music, Overanalyze, Palace, Tapiture and Uncle Mo.

This year's catalog includes offspring of many of the Southwest's leading and emerging stallions, including Astrology, Bradester, Court Vision, Custom for Carlos, Early Flyer, Flat Out, Half Ours and Too Much Bling.

For more information and the online catalog, including photos and videos after the under tack show, go to www.ttasales.com. ■

TEXAS TWO-YEAR-OLDS
IN TRAINING SALE

FRIDAY, APRIL 3
12 NOON

Under Tack Show:
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1 • 10 AM

SPONSORED BY THE
TEXAS THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION
WWW.TTASALES.COM • WWW.TEXASTHOROUGHBRED.COM

LONE STAR PARK AT GRAND PRAIRIE
TEXAS THOROUGHBRED SALES PAVILION



FOR MORE TTA AND TEXAS RACING NEWS, CHECK OUT THE LATEST ISSUE OF *AMERICAN RACEHORSE*!

The winter issue has feature articles about two of racing's brightest social media stars, Southern Phantom and California Chrome, plus much more. Go to www.americanracehorse.com to read it!

MORE MONEY AND MORE HORSES!

THE TEXAS 2-YEAR-OLDS IN TRAINING AND HORSES OF RACING AGE SALE
WILL HAVE MORE THAN 175 HEAD, MAKING IT THE
LARGEST JUVENILE AUCTION IN MANY YEARS!

SALE GRADS WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A SPECIAL PURSE BONUS IN ALL 2020 RACES
IN TEXAS, AND PURSES ARE ALREADY SOARING THANKS TO NEW LEGISLATION.

NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY, SELL AND RACE IN TEXAS!



SALE DATE: APRIL 3

BREEZE SHOW: APRIL 1 • LONE STAR PARK AT GRAND PRAIRIE

Look for the catalog, photos and breeze show videos at www.TTASALES.com.



TTA SALES

For more information, go to www.ttasales.com
or call Tim Boyce at (972) 523-0332 or the Texas
Thoroughbred Association office at (512) 458-6133.

Lone Star Park Announces Enhanced Stakes Schedule and Purse Structure, Debut of Texas Derby

Lone Star Park officials have announced an increase of nearly 43 percent to overnight race purses for the upcoming Thoroughbred racing season. Overnight race purses this year will average \$200,000 per day compared to \$140,000 per day in 2019. Lone Star Park's stakes schedule will offer 12 stakes worth a combined \$1.425 million, up more than \$300,000 from a year ago and the richest since 2011. This includes the notable addition of the new \$300,000-guaranteed Texas Derby, which offers an additional incentive of up to \$100,000 for Texas-bred entrants. The season opens April 16 and concludes July 19.

The Texas Derby, along with the \$100,000 Lone Star Park Turf Stakes, will go on Memorial Day, May 25.

Stakes previously offering purses of \$50,000 have all increased to \$75,000, including, including the Bluebonnet Stakes on opening night, as well as the Wayne Hanks Memorial, Lane's End Danny Shifflett

Scholarship Stakes, Valor Farm Stakes and Highlander Training Center Assault Stakes.

"We are super excited about running the first Texas Derby this year," said Lone Star Park Director of Racing Bart Lang. "Featured with the \$100,000 Lone Star Park Turf Stakes, Memorial Day racing returns to one of our best days on the schedule."

Also offering higher purses this year are the divisions of the Clarence Scharbauer Jr. Texas Stallion Stakes Series for 2-year-olds. The Pan Zareta division and the Staunch Avenger division have increased from \$65,000 to \$75,000 each.

Remaining at \$300,000 is the Grade 3 Steve Sexton Mile, slated for Sunday, April 26.

Both the fillies and the colts and geldings divisions of the Texas Thoroughbred Futurity will again offer estimated purses of \$100,000 apiece, with \$50,000 in added money to each.

The increases are possible due to funds collected and distributed to the track by the

passage last year of H.B. 2463. The new law, which went into effect September 1, enhances purses at the state's racetracks and incentive programs for breeders.

The law will eventually put up to \$25 million annually into escrow from a portion of the taxes collected on the sale of horse feed, supplements, bedding, tack and grooming supplies, plus any other taxable expenditure directly related to riding, boarding and owning horses. Of the \$25 million collected each year, up to \$17.5 million will be available to Texas' racetrack operators strictly for purses. The other \$7.5 million will be available to official breed registries to enhance their incentive programs. They include the Texas Thoroughbred Association, Texas Quarter Horse Association, Texas Arabian Breeders Association and Texas Paint Horse Association.

For more information, go to www.lonestarpark.com. ■



Courtesy
Lone Star Park

Lone Star Park will offer purses of approximately \$200,000 per day in 2020.



HIT THE TEXAS TRIFECTA!

Get a Three-Year TTA Membership
for the Price of Two!



All renewals and new memberships will be entered into a drawing
for a free lifetime TTA membership valued at \$2,000!

*T*here has never been a better time to be involved in Texas racing and breeding with \$25 million annually being injected into the industry thanks to new legislation. And there has never been a better time to join the Texas Thoroughbred Association or renew your membership with this special promotion offering one year free with any three-year membership or renewal. Even if your current membership is not due to expire soon, you can still take advantage of this deal.

Help yourself to savings while also helping our Thoroughbred athletes after they leave the track! For every new membership or renewal through this promotion, the TTA will donate \$20 to your choice of Thoroughbred aftercare organizations.

You can choose to have your donation go to:

- LOPE TEXAS (www.lopetx.org)
- REMEMBER ME RESCUE (www.teamkeen.com)
- THE PADDOCK FOUNDATION (www.paddockfoundation.com)

*To take advantage of this offer, call the TTA office at (512) 458-6133
or go to www.texasoroughbred.com.*

Unbridled's Song Stallion Keep Up to Eureka Thoroughbred Farm

Eureka Thoroughbred Farm in Fredericksburg, Texas, has announced the addition of Keep Up for the 2020 breeding season. The multiple stakes-winning son of Unbridled's Song stands for a \$2,000 fee with substantial discounts for mares that are foaling in Texas. Keep Up stands as the property of Mike Grossman, who owns Eureka and also stands Mr. Besilu, Expect a Lot and The Hunk at the farm.

Sired by Unbridled's Song, whose sons at stud include Arrogate and Liam's Map, Keep Up won seven of 18 career starts with two stakes victories, including the Grade 3 River City Handicap on the Churchill Downs turf course. An earner of \$300,545, Keep Up won five times on the grass, along with breaking his maiden at Gulfstream Park on the dirt and capturing an allowance on Arlington Park's synthetic surface. As good as Keep Up's racing career was, it likely could have been even better if not for a knee fracture he sustained in the field as a

yearling. Keep Up was confined to a stall for more than six months during his recovery and was not expected to ever make the races. He eventually debuted late in his 3-year-old year and then blossomed with his stakes wins coming at ages 5 and 6.

Keep Up's dam, the Deputy Minister mare Keeper Hill, earned more than \$1.6 million, with three Grade 1 victories, including the Kentucky Oaks and Spinster Stakes.

"With the increased purses and breeding incentives in Texas thanks to new legislation, we've already seen increased interest this breeding season," Grossman said. "We think Keep Up is a strong addition to our stallion roster and gives breeders in the region an option for a classic pedigree with a strong focus on stamina."

From 26 starters to date, Keep Up is represented by three stakes horses, including In a Fog, a two-time stakes-placed earner of nearly \$140,000, and Ucantkeepup, a stakes-placed earner of almost \$125,000.

For more information, go to www.eurekathoroughbreds.com. ■



The Roses to Ribbons Horse Fair is open to the public and free to attend.

Roses to Ribbons Horse Fair Set for March 14 at Sam Houston

The next Roses to Ribbons Horse Fair has been scheduled for Saturday, March 14, at Sam Houston Race Park.

At the horse fair, racehorse trainers bring Thoroughbreds ready for a new career up to the saddling paddock. There, prospective buyers can look at a large number of available horses in one place. If a buyer sees a horse that interests them, they make their own deal with the trainer. Some horses are sold right at the event. Other times, prospective buyers will make arrangements to schedule a pre-purchase exam for the horse at a later time. Everything is worked out individually between the buyer and seller. This is not an auction.

Horses arrive in the paddock at 11 a.m. and are available for viewing for the next hour. The event goes on rain or shine. There is no admission charge.

The event is a great opportunity to find a prospect at a reasonable price for any discipline and also features a variety of vendors at the event. Tack and clothing, artists, racehorse re-homing groups and more are set up in the saddling paddock.

Watch for more information on The Paddock Foundation's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ThePaddockFoundation. ■



Don't Miss the
Texas 2YOs
in Training Sale
on April 3 at
Lone Star Park!



\$25,000,000!!

That's how much is being injected into the Texas horse industry in 2020, so now is the time to buy, sell, breed and race in the Lone Star State! Purses at Sam Houston Race Park, Lone Star Park and Retama Park will be higher than any time in recent memory, purses and incentives for Texas-breds are on the rise, and Texas 2YO Sale grads are eligible for a purse bonus in 2020. Get in the game in Texas!



For more information, call the Texas Thoroughbred Association office at 512-458-6133 or go to texasthoroughbred.com.

Smart's Kingdom Named Texas Champion Claimer

Bradley Martin's homebred Smart's Kingdom has been named the 2019 Texas Champion Claimer. The 5-year-old gelding by Sir Smart was the winner of an online vote on the TTA website among Texas-breds with at least three claiming wins at Texas tracks and earnings of at least \$20,000 in 2019.

Smart's Kingdom, who was trained by Leroy Pollok, started the year as a maiden but broke through with his first victory with a 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ -length score against \$8,000 maiden claiming company at Sam Houston Race Park in March. He went on to capture two claiming races at the Lone Star Park meet, first against \$7,500 company and then against \$15,000 foes. All told, he compiled a record of 6-3-1-1 in 2019 with earnings of \$21,209.

Smart's Kingdom will be honored with the rest of the Texas champions during the TTA's annual meeting and awards banquet on March 21 at Sam Houston.

The other candidates were Glitter Bright, Seven Violets, Silas, True Allegiance and Valid Thor. ■



Smart's Kingdom winning at Lone Star Park.

Dustin Orona
Photography

TTA Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet Set for March 21

The Make plans to mix and mingle with fellow horsemen at the TTA Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet on Saturday, March 21, at Sam Houston Race Park. The event starts at 6 p.m. in the Finish Line Suite with dinner and the presentation of awards honoring the best Texas-breds and Texas horsemen of 2019. A live and silent auction benefiting the Texas Thoroughbred Educational Fund and The Paddock Foundation will also be held. The action on the track will feature Texas Champions Day with seven stakes for Accredited Tex-

as-breds with purses of \$75,000 apiece, up from \$50,000 last year.

The TTA has secured special hotel discounts at the nearby Hilton Garden Inn Houston NW/Willowbrook and Best Western Sam Houston Inn & Suites.

All TTA members should have received an invitation in the mail, and more information will be posted at www.texasthoroughbred.com.

Seating is limited so please register by March 6. ■

