



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Friday, December 4, 2015**

Contact:  
Andrew Schweigardt  
(859) 277-5891  
andys@toba.org

### **TOBA Announces U.S. Graded and Listed Stakes for 2016**

LEXINGTON, Ky. – The American Graded Stakes Committee of the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association today presented its listing of U.S. Graded and Listed Stakes Races for 2016, the results of its annual grading session conducted December 2 in Lexington.

The Committee reviewed 788 unrestricted U.S. stakes races with a purse of at least \$75,000, and assigned Graded status to 464 of them, one more than were graded in 2015, and Listed status to 173 races. Six Graded races were upgraded; Eight new Grade III races were named; 31 new Listed races were upgraded from Non-Listed Black Type status. Twenty races which carried Graded or Listed status in 2015 are no longer eligible for grading.

One race was upgraded to Grade I status for 2016: the Fourstardave S. at Saratoga.

Two races were downgraded from Grade I to Grade II for 2016: the Eddie Read S. at Del Mar and Las Virgenes S. at Santa Anita Park.

Five races were upgraded to Grade II status for 2016: the Eight Belles S. at Churchill Downs, Rachel Alexandra S. at Fair Grounds, Shakertown S. and Stoll Keenon Ogden Phoenix S. at Keeneland, and Hillsborough S. at Tampa Bay Downs.

Six races were downgraded from Grade II to Grade III in 2016: the Distaff H. at Aqueduct, Futurity S. and Matron S. at Belmont Park, Hawthorne Gold Cup H. at Hawthorne Race Course, Adena Springs Beaumont S. at Keeneland, and Super Derby at Louisiana Downs.

Eight races were upgraded to Grade III status for 2016: the Pennine Ridge S. at Belmont Park, Locust Grove S. at Churchill Downs, Harlanø Holiday S. at Gulfstream Park, Houston Ladies Classic S. at Sam Houston Race Park, Buffalo Trace Franklin County S. at Keeneland, Frank J. DeFrancis Memorial Dash S. at Laurel Park, and Megahertz S. and Thunder Road S. at Santa Anita Park.

Four races were downgraded from Grade III to Listed status for 2016: the Dogwood S. and Jefferson Cup S. at Churchill Downs, Obeah S. at Delaware Park and Azalea S. at Gulfstream Park.

Thirty-one races were upgraded to Listed status for 2016: the Gravesend S. at Aqueduct; Tremont S., Belmont Gold Cup Invitational S., Forbidden Apple S., Diablo S., Wonder Again S., Jersey Girl S., Perfect Sting S., and Intercontinental S. at Belmont Park; Mystic Lake Derby at Canterbury Park; El Prado S., Gulfstream Park Turf Sprint S., Silks Run S., Any Limit S. and Sir Shackleton S. at Gulfstream Park; Kentucky Downs Ladies Sprint S. and More Than Ready Mile S. at Kentucky Downs; Wide Country S. at Laurel Park; Dixie Belle S. and King Cotton S. at Oaklawn Park; Stormy Blues S. and The Very One S. at Pimlico; Santana Mile S., China Doll S., Sweet Life S., Angels Flight S.,



Possibly Perfect S. and Desert Stormer S. at Santa Anita Park; Coronation Cup S. and Lucky Coin S. at Saratoga; and Zia Park Derby at Zia Park.

Nine races were downgraded from Listed to Non-Listed Black Type status for 2016: the Cicada S. at Aqueduct, Nancyø Glitter S. at Gulfstream Park West, River Cities S. and Sunday Silence S. at Louisiana Downs, Regret S. at Monmouth Park, Independence Day S. and West Virginia Secretary of State S. at Mountaineer Park, Fitz Dixon Memorial S. at Presque Isle Downs and El Joven S. at Retama Park.

The Real Quiet S. and Sharp Cat S. last run at Betfair Hollywood Park, Researcher S. at Charles Town, Edward P. Evans All Along S. at Colonial Downs, Barbaro S., John W. Rooney Memorial S., and Go For Wand S. at Delaware Park, Duncan F. Kenner S., Marie G. Krantz Memorial S., New Orleans Ladies S., Tenacious H. and Tiffany Lass S. at Fair Grounds, Bull Dog H. at Fresno, Golden Bear S. at Indiana Grand, Bensalem S. and Langhorne S. at Parx Racing, Prairie Meadows H. at Prairie Meadows, Sunset H. and San Fernando S. at Santa Anita Park and Team Valor Rushaway S. at Turway Park were not eligible for grading in 2016.

Following is a summary breakdown of all grade levels and a complete list of all upgraded and downgraded U.S. races for the 2016 racing season as well as the complete list of 2016 Graded and Listed stakes.

<b>2016 Graded Stakes</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>% Graded</b>	<b>%Eligible</b>	<b>Change from 2015</b>
Grade I	109	23.5%		-1
Grade II	133	28.7%		-1
Grade III	<u>222</u>	47.8%		+3
All Graded	464		58.9%	
Listed	173		22.0%	
Non-Listed Eligible	<u>151</u>		19.2%	
All Gr., L & NLE Races	<u>788</u>			

**TOBA American Graded Stakes Committee**  
*Summary of Decisions Made at December 2, 2015 Grading Session*

**RACES UPGRADED FOR 2016:**

**Two-Year-Old Fillies**

None

**Three-Year-Old Fillies**

Rachel Alexandra S.	(Fair Grounds)	Grade III to Grade II
<u>Eight Belles S.</u>	<u>(Churchill Downs)</u>	<u>Grade III to Grade II</u>
Wonder Again S. (T)	(Belmont Park)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed
China Doll S. (T)	(Santa Anita Park)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed
Jersey Girl S.	(Belmont Park)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed
Sweet Life S. (T)	(Santa Anita Park)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed
Any Limit S.	(Gulfstream Park)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed
Coronation Cup S. (T)	(Saratoga)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed
Stormy Blues S. (T)	(Pimlico)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed
Angels Flight S.	(Santa Anita Park)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed
Dixie Belle S.	(Oaklawn Park)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed
Wide Country S.	(Laurel Park)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed

**Older Fillies and Mares**

<u>Hillsborough S. (T)</u>	<u>(Tampa Bay Downs)</u>	<u>Grade III to Grade II</u>
Locust Grove S.	(Churchill Downs)	Listed to Grade III
Houston Ladies Classic S.	(Sam Houston Race Park)	Listed to Grade III
Megahertz S. (T)	(Santa Anita Park)	Listed to Grade III
<u>Buffalo Trace Franklin County S. (T)</u>	<u>(Keeneland)</u>	<u>Listed to Grade III</u>
Perfect Sting S. (T)	(Belmont Park)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed
Possibly Perfect S. (T)	(Santa Anita Park)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed
The Very One S. (T)	(Pimlico)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed
Intercontinental S. (T)	(Belmont Park)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed
Desert Stormer S.	(Santa Anita Park)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed
Kentucky Downs Ladies Sprint S. (T)	(Kentucky Downs)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed

**Two-Year-Olds**

Tremont S.	(Belmont Park)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed
------------	----------------	---------------------------------

**Three-Year-Olds**

<u>Pennine Ridge S. (T)</u>	<u>(Belmont Park)</u>	<u>non-Listed Black Type to Grade III</u>
Zia Park Derby	(Zia Park)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed
Mystic Lake Derby (T)	(Canterbury Park)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed

**Older Horses**

<u>Fourstardave S. (T)</u>	<u>(Saratoga)</u>	<u>Grade II to Grade I</u>
Shakertown S. (T)	(Keeneland)	Grade III to Grade II
<u>Stoll Keenon Ogden Phoenix S.</u>	<u>(Keeneland)</u>	<u>Grade III to Grade II</u>
Harlan's Holiday S.	(Gulfstream Park)	Listed to Grade III
Thunder Road S. (T)	(Santa Anita Park)	Listed to Grade III
<u>Frank J. DeFrancis Memorial Dash S.</u>	<u>(Laurel Park)</u>	<u>Listed to Grade III</u>
Santana Mile S.	(Santa Anita Park)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed
Belmont Gold Cup Invitational S. (T)	(Belmont Park)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed
Forbidden Apple S. (T)	(Belmont Park)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed
More Than Ready Mile S. (T)	(Kentucky Downs)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed
El Prado S. (T)	(Gulfstream Park)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed
Gulfstream Park Turf Sprint S. (T)	(Gulfstream Park)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed
Silks Run S. (T)	(Gulfstream Park)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed

**TOBA American Graded Stakes Committee**  
*Summary of Decisions Made at December 2, 2015 Grading Session*

**RACES UPGRADED FOR 2016 (cont'd):**

**Older Horses (cont'd)**

Lucky Coin S. (T)	(Saratoga)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed
King Cotton S.	(Oaklawn Park)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed
Gravesend S.	(Aqueduct)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed
Diablo S.	(Belmont Park)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed
Sir Shackleton S.	(Gulfstream Park)	non-Listed Black Type to Listed

**RACES DOWNGRADED FOR 2016:****Two-Year-Old Fillies**

<u>Matron S.</u>	<u>(Belmont Park)</u>	<u>Grade II to Grade III</u>
Sharp Cat S.		not eligible

**Three-Year-Old Fillies**

<u>Las Virgenes S.</u>	<u>(Santa Anita Park)</u>	<u>Grade I to Grade II</u>
<u>Adena Springs Beaumont S.</u>	<u>(Keeneland)</u>	<u>Grade II to Grade III</u>
<u>Dogwood S.</u>	<u>(Churchill Downs)</u>	<u>Grade III to Listed</u>
<u>Azalea S.</u>	<u>(Gulfstream Park)</u>	<u>Grade III to Listed</u>
<u>Cicada S.</u>	<u>(Aqueduct)</u>	<u>Listed to non-Listed Black Type</u>
Go For Wand S.	(Delaware Park)	not eligible

**Older Fillies and Mares**

<u>Distaff H.</u>	<u>(Aqueduct)</u>	<u>Grade II to Grade III</u>
<u>Obeah S.</u>	<u>(Delaware Park)</u>	<u>Grade III to Listed</u>
Nancyø Glitter S.	(Gulfstream Park West)	Listed to non-Listed Black Type
River Cities S. (T)	(Louisiana Downs)	Listed to non-Listed Black Type
West Virginia Secretary of State S.	(Mountaineer Park)	Listed to non-Listed Black Type
<u>Regret S.</u>	<u>(Monmouth Park)</u>	<u>Listed to non-Listed Black Type</u>
New Orleans Ladies S.	(Fair Grounds)	not eligible
Tiffany Lass S.	(Fair Grounds)	not eligible
Edward P. Evans All Along S. (T)	(Colonial Downs)	not eligible
John W. Rooney Memorial S. (T)	(Delaware Park)	not eligible
Marie G. Krantz Memorial S. (T)	(Fair Grounds)	not eligible
Langhorne S.	(Parx Racing)	not eligible

**Two-Year-Olds**

<u>Futurity S.</u>	<u>(Belmont Park)</u>	<u>Grade II to Grade III</u>
Sunday Silence S. (T)	(Louisiana Downs)	Listed to non-Listed Black Type
Fitz Dixon Memorial S.	(Presque Isle Downs)	Listed to non-Listed Black Type
<u>El Joven S. (T)</u>	<u>(Retama Park)</u>	<u>Listed to non-Listed Black Type</u>
Real Quiet S.		not eligible

**Three-Year-Olds**

<u>Super Derby</u>	<u>(Louisiana Downs)</u>	<u>Grade II to Grade III</u>
<u>Jefferson Cup S. (T)</u>	<u>(Churchill Downs)</u>	<u>Grade III to Listed</u>
Barbaro S.	(Delaware Park)	not eligible
Team Valor Rushaway S.	(Turfway Park)	not eligible
Researcher S.	(Charles Town)	not eligible

**Older Horses**

<u>Eddie Read S. (T)</u>	<u>(Del Mar)</u>	<u>Grade I to Grade II</u>
<u>Hawthorne Gold Cup H.</u>	<u>(Hawthorne Race Course)</u>	<u>Grade II to Grade III</u>
<u>Independence Day S. (T)</u>	<u>(Mountaineer Park)</u>	<u>Listed to non-Listed Black Type</u>
Bull Dog H.	(Fresno)	not eligible
Golden Bear S.	(Indiana Grand)	not eligible
Prairie Meadows H.	(Prairie Meadows)	not eligible
San Fernando S.	(Santa Anita Park)	not eligible
Tenacious H.	(Fair Grounds)	not eligible
Sunset H. (T)	(Santa Anita Park)	not eligible
Duncan F. Kenner S.	(Fair Grounds)	not eligible
Bensalem S.	(Parx Racing)	not eligible