



CANTERBURY PARK

1100 Canterbury Road
Shakopee, MN 55379

Indian Horse Relay Comes To Canterbury Park Sept. 12-14

America's first sport combines horsemanship and athleticism

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Shakopee, MN -- Canterbury Park and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, the owner and operator of Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, announced today they will co-host Battle at Canterbury Park Indian Horse Relay from Sept. 12 – 14 at the Shakopee racetrack.

The relay event will feature nine of the top teams in the country representing various American Indian nations. The teams consist of three horses and four warriors: one rider, one holder, one set-up man, and a mugger (the horse catcher). Riders in full regalia will race bareback on the track and exchange horses at top speed in front of the grandstand on each rotation. Teams will compete in two heats per night on Thursday, Sept. 12 and Friday, Sept. 13 and all nine teams will compete in the championship race Saturday, Sept. 14. The relays will be conducted between thoroughbred horse races.

“We look forward to hosting this event and introducing this fast, thrilling and exciting exhibition of horsemanship and athleticism to our fans,” Canterbury Park CEO Randy Sampson said. “This continues the Canterbury Park tradition of finding unique, interesting and exciting entertainment to share with our fans.”

Indian horse relay is America's first sport dating back more than 400 years, when horses became an integral part of the cultures of the Indian nations who lived on the Great Plains.

(MORE)

Tribes depended on horses for hunting, transportation, and safety. Nations and individuals measured their wealth in terms of horses.

On many American Indian reservations today, the connection continues to be strong. Unlike their ancestors, today's Indian relay warriors ride primarily for competition - which now includes the first Battle at Canterbury Park Indian Horse Relay, sanctioned by the Professional Indian Horse Racing Association.

“On many reservations, Indian horse relay is helping reconnect young people with their cultural heritage and traditions through horses,” said Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Chairman Charlie Vig. The SMSC is proud to be able to support these athletes – both the Indians and the horses – while promoting American Indian history and culture.”

The Battle at Canterbury Park Indian Horse Relay will be integrated into Canterbury Park's live horse racing card. Racing begins at 6:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday and at 1:30 p.m. Saturday. General admission and parking are free.

Additional information is available at www.canterburypark.com and at www.professionalindianhorseracingassociation.com .

Canterbury Park and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community are completing the first full year of their cooperative marketing agreement. As part of the agreement, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community helps fund purses at Canterbury Park. The two also work together on marketing and provide free trolley service between the track and Mystic Lake Casino on race days.

About Canterbury Park

Canterbury Park Holding Corporation owns and operates Canterbury Park Racetrack, Minnesota's only thoroughbred and quarter horse racing facility. The Company's 69-day 2013 live race meet began on May 17 and ends September 14. In addition, Canterbury Park's Card Casino hosts "unbanked" card games 24 hours a day, seven days a week, offering both poker and table games. The Company also conducts year-round wagering on simulcast horse racing and hosts a variety of other entertainment and special events at its facility in Shakopee, MN.

About the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community is a federally recognized, sovereign Indian tribe located southwest of Minneapolis/St. Paul. With a focus on being a good neighbor, good steward of the earth, and good employer, the SMSC is committed to community partnerships, charitable donations, a healthy environment, and a strong economy. The SMSC and the SMSC Gaming Enterprise (Mystic Lake Casino Hotel and Little Six Casino) are the largest employer in Scott County. Out of a Dakota tradition to help others, the SMSC has also donated nearly \$272 million to organizations and causes since 1992, funds its own infrastructure, and contributes generously to regional governments and infrastructure such as roads, water and sewer systems, and emergency services.

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Folders: Indian Horse Relay Please Credit Diana Volk