**CANTERBURY PARK**

**1100 Canterbury Road**

**Shakopee, MN 55379**

# Canterbury Park's 2014 Race Dates Approved by MRC

## *69-day live racing season to run May 16 – Sept. 13*

***For Immediate Release:***

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Shakopee, MN -- Canterbury Park received approval from the Minnesota Racing Commission on Monday to conduct a 69-day thoroughbred and quarter horse race meet next year. The meet will begin Friday, May 16 and run through Sept. 13. Canterbury also conducted 69 days of racing in 2013.

In June of 2012, Canterbury Park and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, owners and operators of Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, entered into a cooperative marketing and purse enhancement agreement that began increasing horsemen purses that year. SMSC will add $75 million to the horsemen purse fund over the agreement's 10-year terms. In 2013, total purses were nearly double what they were in 2011 and the 69-day race meet was the longest since 2006. The 2014 stakes schedule and purse structure will be announced in early December.

"Racing in Minnesota took a big step forward," Canterbury Park Vice President of Racing Operations Eric Halstrom said. "I expect the industry to make additional gains in 2014 as horsemen and racing fans around the country take notice."

For the first time since 1991, Canterbury's 1,600 stall stable area was at capacity. Thoroughbred breeding in Minnesota increased 170 percent after reaching an historical low in 2012. Average daily handle, money wagered on Canterbury's races, was up 16 percent.

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