



BC THOROUGHBRED OWNERS & BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

“One Voice for Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders in British Columbia”

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BCTOBA Newsletter
By Mike Heads

The 2015 campaign at Hastings Racecourse is off and running with unseasonably favourable weather which has contributed to above budget wagering handles and fuller fields to start the season. The Sea to Sky Pick 6 was introduced on opening day and it has been a wagering success as the pools have been solid and amazingly the jackpot has been hit three times already this spring. The wager is a \$0.20 base wager and is the mirror image of the Rainbow 6 at Gulfstream Park in which half of the pool is paid out every day to the most winners during the sequence, while the other half carries over if there is no solo winning ticket. The jackpot is only paid out if there is one lone winning ticket.

The incentive programs set in place last fall have proven to be successful as the field size has risen to almost one horse per race to start the 2015 year. The \$2,000 wintering money bonus for horses that ran for \$5,000 or less that did not race elsewhere throughout the winter and came back to make their first start at Hastings, has seen 91 horses to date take advantage of that incentive program. The 2 year olds that ran last year and raced back in 2015 as three year olds for \$5,000 or less also qualified. The Ship N Win program has also boosted field size this spring as horses coming in from other jurisdictions that race at Hastings three times in 2015 qualify for special bonuses. They receive \$500 plus a 30% top-up on their earnings in their initial start at Hastings, then they will receive \$500 for the second start and \$2,000 more after their third race here in Vancouver.

The usual suspects are on top the trainer's standings early in the year; Craig MacPherson, looking for his third consecutive training title, Mike Anderson, currently on top, Troy Taylor and Dino Condilenios are also off to great starts. The jockey's standings sees former Hastings leading rider, who took up training horses last year Pedro Alvarado, near the top. Pedro decided to trade in his trainer's license and return to the saddle after a one year career change. Perennial top rider Richard Hamel is also getting to the winner's circle frequently and this battle will likely go right down to the end of the season in late October.

It appears that there will be at least nine three year olds to join American Pharoah in the starting gate for the 147th running of the Belmont Stakes, as he tries to become the first Triple Crown winner since Affirmed won the title in 1978. The race will be run on Saturday, June 6th at approximately 3:00 p.m. our time.

Racing resumes at Hastings Racecourse tomorrow with seven races on tap and bettors will be greeted with a \$10,300 Sea to Sky Pick 6 carryover.