

Starting Gate

Horseplayer and racing guide • Jan/Feb 2018



Sam Houston Thoroughbred Meet Begins Friday, January 19

\$400,000 Houston Ladies Classic (Grade 3) to be held Sunday, January 28

Sam Houston Race Park kicks off its 2018 live racing season on Friday, January 19. The 32-day Thoroughbred meet continues through March 17 with live racing every Friday, Saturday, Wednesday, and Tuesday (starting Feb. 13).

The Houston Racing Festival, the richest day in Texas racing, will be held on Sunday, January 28 with first post at 1:00 PM Eastern.

The Houston Racing Festival is anchored by the \$400,000 Houston Ladies Classic (Grade 3), other stakes include the \$200,000 John B. Connally Turf Cup (Grade 3), \$75,000 Frontier Utilities Turf Sprint, \$50,000 Houston Distaff, \$50,000 Bara Lass Stakes, and the \$50,000 Groovy Stakes.

Sam Houston will continue its tradition of offering attractive wagering options by offering an INDUSTRY LOW 12% takeout on Daily Double, Pick 3, Pick 4, Pick 5, and Super Hi Five wagering.

After the Thoroughbred meet concludes, the 2018 Sam Houston Quarter Horse meet will get underway on Friday, March 30 and continue through May 12 with 20 days of live racing.



Unbridled Mo wins the 2017 Houston Ladies Classic (G3) at Sam Houston (Coady Photography)

January and February Stakes Calendar

Saturday, January 13

Lecomte Stakes (Gr. 3) - FG
Fort Lauderdale Stakes (Gr. 2) - GP
Marshua's River Stakes (Gr. 3) - GP
Skip Away Stakes (Gr. 3) - GP
La Canada Stakes (Gr. 3) - SA

Monday, January 15

Megahertz Stakes (Gr. 3) - SA

Saturday, January 20

Sunshine Millions - GP
Las Cienegas Stakes (Gr. 3) - SA

Saturday, January 27

\$50k Richard King Turf Stakes - Hou
\$50k San Jacinto Turf Stakes - Hou
\$50k Spirit of Texas Stakes - Hou
\$50k Yellow Rose Stakes - Hou
Pegasus World Cup Invitational (Gr. 1) - GP
Fred W. Hooper Stakes (Gr. 3) - GP
Hurricane Bertie Stakes (Gr. 3) - GP
La Prevoyante Handicap (Gr. 3) - GP
W.L. McKnight Handicap (Gr. 3) - GP
Toboggan Stakes (Gr. 3) - Aqu

Sunday, January 28

\$400k Houston Ladies Classic (Gr. 3) - Hou
\$200k John B. Connally Turf Cup (Gr. 3) - Hou
\$75k Frontier Utilities Turf Sprint - Hou
\$50k Houston Distaff - Hou
\$50k Groovy Stakes - Hou
\$50k Bara Lass Stakes - Hou

Saturday, February 3

Holy Bull Stakes (Gr. 2) - GP
Dania Beach Stakes (Gr. 3) - GP
Forward Gal Stakes (Gr. 3) - GP
Swale Stakes (Gr. 3) - GP
Sweetest Chant Stakes (Gr. 3) - GP
Robert B. Lewis Stakes (Gr. 3) - SA
Palos Verdes Stakes (Gr. 2) - SA

San Marco Stakes (Gr. 2) - SA
San Pasqual Stakes (Gr. 2) - SA
Withers Stakes (Gr. 3) - Aqu

Sunday, February 4

Las Virgenes Stakes (Gr. 2) - SA

Saturday, February 10

Gulfstream Park Turf Handicap (Gr. 1) - GP
Suwannee River Stakes (Gr. 3) - GP
San Vicente Stakes (Gr. 2) - SA
Santa Maria Stakes (Gr. 2) - SA
Thunder Road Stakes (Gr. 3) - SA
Endeavour Stakes (Gr. 3) - Tam
Sam F. Davis Stakes (Gr. 3) - Tam
Tampa Bay Stakes (Gr. 3) - Tam

Saturday, February 17

Rachel Alexandra Stakes (Gr. 2) - FG
Risen Star Stakes (Gr. 2) - FG
Fair Grounds Handicap (Gr. 3) - FG
Mineshaft Handicap (Gr. 3) - FG
Barbara Fritchie Stakes (Gr. 2) - Lrl
General George Stakes (Gr. 3) - Lrl
Bayakoa Stakes (Gr. 3) - OP
Buena Vista Stakes (Gr. 2) - SA

Sunday, February 18

Las Flores Stakes (Gr. 3) - SA

Monday, February 19

Royal Delta Stakes (Gr. 3) - GP
Razorback Handicap (Gr. 3) - OP
Southwest Stakes (Gr. 3) - OP

Saturday, February 24

\$100k Maxxam Gold Cup - Hou
\$50k Houston Turf Stakes - Hou
\$50k Jersey Lilly Turf Stakes - Hou
\$50k Sam Houston Sprint Cup - Hou
Hal's Hope Stakes (Gr. 3) - GP
Daytona Stakes (Gr. 3) - SA

2018 Road to the Kentucky Derby

It's never too early to start looking towards Spring and the first Saturday in May. 3-year-old Thoroughbreds will earn qualifying points to earn a spot in the starting gate for the 144th Kentucky Derby over the coming months. Watch and wager on all races leading up to the Run for the Roses at Penn National Gaming locations.

DATE	RACE	TRACK	POINTS
1/6/2018	Sham	Santa Anita Park	10-4-2-1
1/13/2018	Jerome	Aqueduct	10-4-2-1
1/13/2018	Lecomte	Fair Grounds	10-4-2-1
1/15/2018	Smarty Jones	Oaklawn Park	10-4-2-1
2/3/2018	Robert B. Lewis	Santa Anita Park	10-4-2-1
2/3/2018	Withers	Aqueduct	10-4-2-1
2/3/2018	Holy Bull	Gulfstream Park	10-4-2-1
2/10/2018	Sam F. Davis	Tampa Bay Downs	10-4-2-1
2/17/2018	El Camino Real Derby	Golden Gate Fields	10-4-2-1
2/17/2018	Risen Star	Fair Grounds	50-20-10-5
2/19/2018	Southwest	Oaklawn Park	10-4-2-1
3/3/2018	Fountain of Youth	Gulfstream	50-20-10-5
3/10/2018	Gotham	Aqueduct	50-20-10-5
3/10/2018	Tampa Bay Derby	Tampa Bay Downs	50-20-10-5
3/10/2018	San Felipe	Santa Anita	50-20-10-5
3/17/2018	Rebel	Oaklawn Park	50-20-10-5
3/17/2018	Spiral	Turfway Park	20-8-4-2
3/24/2018	Louisiana Derby	Fair Grounds	100-40-20-10
3/25/2018	Sunland Derby	Sunland Park	50-20-10-5
3/31/2018	UAE Derby	Meydan	100-40-20-10
3/31/2018	Florida Derby	Gulfstream	100-40-20-10
4/7/2018	Wood Memorial	Aqueduct	100-40-20-10
4/7/2018	Blue Grass	Keeneland	100-40-20-10
4/7/2018	Santa Anita Derby	Santa Anita	100-40-20-10
4/14/2018	Arkansas Derby	Oaklawn Park	100-40-20-10
4/14/2018	Lexington	Keeneland	20-8-4-2

Race Meets Starting in January and February

Miami Valley (Harness) • January 5
Louisiana Downs (Quarter Horse) • January 6
Buffalo Raceway (Harness) • January 12
Oaklawn Park • January 12
Sam Houston Race Park (Thoroughbred) • January 19
Kentucky Derby Future Wager • February 9
Saratoga Raceway (Harness) • February 18
Fonner Park • February 23

*Some Tracks Not Available at all Penn National Gaming Locations

\$16 Million Pegasus World Cup at Gulfstream Park Saturday, January 27



Gulfstream Park will host the 2nd running of the Pegasus World Cup Invitational on Saturday, January 27. The top three finishers from the 2017 Breeders' Cup Classic - Gun Runner, Collected, and West Coast - are all being pointed to the Pegasus World Cup. Be sure to watch and wager on the Pegasus World Cup at Penn National Gaming locations.