\*\*Please find an attached draw sheet, with morning line odds, for the \$250,000 Fabulous Strike Handicap. At the bottom of this release are fields and morning line odds for all four stakes on Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 27 at Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course\*\*



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## Ben's Cat Eyes Thanksgiving Eve Title Defense in \$250,000 Fabulous Strike Handicap

**Grantville, PA (Saturday, November 23, 2013) – Ben's Cat**, one of the most accomplished horses in the country, will look to collect his 19<sup>th</sup> career stakes victory in the \$250,000 Fabulous Strike Handicap on Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 27, at Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course.

The Fabulous Strike, run at six furlongs on the dirt track, was carded as the fourth race (7:22 p.m. EST post time) and will be the final leg of an All Stakes Early Pick 4 that also includes the \$75,000 Blue Mountain for 2-year-old PA Bred fillies, the \$150,000 Lady in Waiting for fillies and mares, and the \$150,000 Swatara for 3-year-olds and up.

The evening also features the "Food For Friends" Charity Drive, during which guests 18-years-and-up who bring a non-perishable food item between 5 – 8 p.m. will receive a free mystery wagering voucher valued between \$2 and \$100 and a free dessert coupon for the Mountainview Dining and Terrace Lounge overlooking the racetrack.

HRTV, The Network for Horse Sports, will be providing enhanced race day coverage of the Fabulous Strike and the three additional stakes races on Thanksgiving Eve, November 27. HRTV's coverage will include in-studio commentary and analysis by network talent on the big night, in addition to TV and online features and promotion leading up to the events.

Conditioned by the legendary King Leatherbury, who started training in 1959 and has won more than 6,400 races, Ben's Cat will be looking to defend his title in the Fabulous Strike, which he won last year by a head.

"It gives me confidence that he runs so well at Penn National," said Leatherbury of Ben's Cat, who will break from post position 2 as the 5-2 second choice on the morning line with regular rider Julian Pimentel aboard. "In his most recent race, the Maryland Million Turf [at Laurel Park], he ran a mile, which was a little bit long for him, and cutting back to six furlongs should really work out well."

Ben's Cat, a 7-year-old gelding by the sire Parker's Storm Cat, has 23 wins from 36 starts with earnings exceeding \$1.7 million. Leatherbury indicated the Fabulous Strike will be the last race of the year for Ben's Cat, after which he will be freshened up for the turf season next spring.

One of the main rivals in the way of Ben's Cat defense bid will be **Ribo Bobo** [pronounced RIB-oh BO-bo], who will be looking for his 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive victory. He will break from the outside post position 7 as the 2-1 morning line favorite with Paco Lopez aboard.

After a promising start to his career in 2010, which included a 2<sup>nd</sup>-place finish in the Grade 3 Iroquois at Churchill Downs, Ribo Bobo spent much of 2011 and 2012 in listed stakes and allowance races, eventually ending up in claiming events.

Owner Ron Lombardi of Mr. Amore Stable and trainer Jason Servis saw something they liked and on January 9, 2013, they claimed Ribo Bobo for \$8,000 at Gulfstream Park. He won his first race for the duo, but was claimed away from them in his next start. When he was next entered into another claiming event, Lombardi and Servis claimed him again and they have not made the mistake of entering him into another claiming event.

The 5-year-old gelded son of Louis Quatorze has been ultra impressive during his 10-race winning streak, including an explosive 5 \(^3\)4-length victory in the Maryland Million Sprint Handicap at Laurel Park last time out.

Included among his impressive streak is an 11-length tour-de-force victory in a starter allowance at Penn National on June 12, which was a factor in the decision to run in the Fabulous Strike.

"Absolutely one of the reasons that we came for the race is that he ran so well at Penn National earlier this year," said Servis. "His last few races he has beat some really good horses, and his win in the Maryland Million was terrific."

While most of Ribo Bobo's recent wins have come on the lead, he doesn't necessarily need to be there in order to be successful.

"He has so much natural speed, and I would prefer he not be on the lead, but he seems to find his way there," said Servis.

Also entered in the contentious Fabulous Strike are **City of Weston** (7-2), winner of the Grade 3 Gallant Bob at Parx Racing in September for trainer Antonio Sano and owner Cloud Nine Lumoni, **Good Morning Diva** (9-2), winner of the Bet on Sunshine stakes at Churchill Downs last time out for trainer Rick Hiles and owner George J. Kerr, stakes winner **Back Forty** (8-1) for trainer McLean Robertson and owners john and Iveta Kerber, **Filled With Wonder** (15-1) for trainer Steven R. Brown and owner Larry E. Rabold, and **Moonstruck Cowboy** (15-1) for trainer John Locke and owner Donna Eaton.

## The field for the \$75,000 Blue Mountain (PA Breds) - Race 1 - 6:00 p.m. EST

P#	PP	Horse	Jockey	Wgt	Trainer	M/L
1	1	Total Talent (PA)	D Davis	118	W A Ward	5-1
2	2	Cosmic Emergency (PA)	D Centeno	118	R G Potts	9-2
3	3	Chasing the Moon (PA)	G Cruise	118	S R Brown	15-1
4	4	Gracer (PA)	J Rocco, Jr.	118	A W Dutrow	2-1
5	5	Henny Jenney (PA)	B J Hernandez, Jr.	118	W R Connelly	5-1
6	6	Prayingforarichguy (PA)	W Corujo	118	<u>J Tracy</u>	15-1
7	7	Rebel Rosemary (PA)	D G Whitney	120	S D Beattie	12-1
8	8	Raging Smoke (PA)	D Cora	118	T B Houghton	7-2

## The field for the \$150,000 Lady in Waiting - Race 2 - 6:27 p.m. EST

P# P	P	Horse .	Jocl	<b>cey</b>	W	gi	t 7	Γrainer	M/I	L
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1	1	She's Ordained (CA)	K Carmouche	118	T C Kreiser	5-1					
2	2	Sweet Cassiopeia (KY)	J Rocco, Jr.	120	W R Connelly	6-1					
3	3	Ann's Smart Dancer (PA)	<u>J Bravo</u>	120	P M Serpe	5-1					
4	4	Five Star Momma (KY)	J Rosario	122	J M Antonucci	4-1					
5	5	Lea's Exchange (KY)	L A Belmonte	117	N Vargas	30-1					
6	6	Wardelle (VA)	E Gonzalez	118	D K Synnefias	10-1					
7	7	Nikkis Smartypants (ON)	E R Da Silva	122	B A Lynch	3-1					
8	8	Dreamin Big (IN)	<u>D Cora</u>	120	M E Lauer	12-1					
9	9	Reign Suzanne (ON)	D G Whitney	117	S D Beattie	12-1					
10	10	Hymn Note (ON)	A R Rodriguez	118	T C Kreiser	10-1					
The field for the \$150,000 Swatara - Race 3 - 6:54 p.m.EST											
P#	PP	Horse	Jockey	Wgt	Trainer	M/L					
1	1	Mezzano (KY)	S Elliott	120	A E Goldberg	12-1					
2	2	Edge of Reality (PA)	F Pennington	121	A W Dutrow	4-1					
3	3	Norman Asbjornson (PA)	C L Potts	122	C A Mancilla	8-1					
4	4	Stephanoatsee (KY)	A Serpa	118	H G Motion	8-1					
5	5	Managed Account (PA)	D Centeno	120	J Ness	6-1					
6	6	A. P. Cino (FL)	K Albright	118	M L Rojas	30-1					
7	7	Ponzi Scheme (KY)	S Russell	118	C A Gonzalez	10-1					
8	8	Saratoga Snacks (NY)	<u>J Rosario</u>	120	G Sciacca	5-1					
9	9	Taptowne (KY)	B J Hernandez	120	T Glyshaw	3-1					
10	10	Suns Out Guns Out (KY)	J Rocco, Jr.	120	D L Romans	8-1					
The field for the \$250,000 Fabulous Strike Handicap - Race 4 - 7:22 p.m. EST											
P#	PP	Horse	Jockey	Wgt	Trainer	M/L					
1	1	Moonstruck Cowboy (PA)	N Coddington	111	J G Locke	15-1					
2	2	Ben's Cat (MD)	J Pimentel	120	K T Leatherbury	5-2					
3	3	Back Forty (KY)	A Cintron	116	M Robertson	8-1					
4	4	Good Morning Diva (KY)	J Rocco, Jr.	117	R Hiles	9-2					
5	5	Filled With Wonder (PA)	C L Potts	113	S R Brown	15-1					
6	6	City of Weston (FL)	A Castillo	117	A Sano	7-2					
7	7	Ribo Bobo (FL)	P Lopez	118	<u>J Servis</u>	2-1					

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Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course is a Penn National Gaming property that offers guests the most exciting and unique entertainment experience in Central Pennsylvania. The venue features more than 2,463 slot machines, 53 banked gaming tables, and a 16-table Poker room. Live thoroughbred and simulcast horse racing is offered year-round. An array of dining options are available including the award-winning Final Cut Steakhouse, winner of three consecutive Wine Spectator Awards of Excellence; Mountainview Dining, a 500-seat restaurant overlooking the one-mile racetrack; SkyBox Sports Bar, and the popular 350-seat Epic Buffet.

Penn National Race Course, located minutes from Hershey and Harrisburg, PA., opened on August 30, 1972, and has presented top-class live thoroughbred racing for more than 40 years. The original track was taken down in 2006 and the new Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course, a fully-integrated gaming and racing facility, opened on February 12, 2008.

For more information, visit <a href="www.hcpn.com">www.hcpn.com</a>, follow on Twitter <a href="www.twitter.com/hollywoodpenn">www.twitter.com/hollywoodpenn</a> and interact on Facebook at <a href="www.facebook.com/Hollywoodpenn">www.facebook.com/Hollywoodpenn</a>. The racing specific Facebook page is located at <a href="http://www.facebook.com/pages/Penn-National-Race-Course/327914797321189?ref=hl">http://www.facebook.com/pages/Penn-National-Race-Course/327914797321189?ref=hl</a> while the racing YouTube page is located at <a href="http://www.youtube.com/user/HCPNVideo">http://www.youtube.com/user/HCPNVideo</a>.