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## **Ben's Cat Looks for Stakes Win Number 17 in the \$150,000 Pennsylvania Governor's Cup**

**Grantville, PA (Wednesday, May 29, 2013)** – The \$150,000 Pennsylvania Governor's Cup has been a fixture on the Penn National Race Course stakes schedule since 1973 (the track opened in 1972), and so it is only fitting that the 5-2 morning line favorite for the 40<sup>th</sup> running of the race is the incredible **Ben's Cat**, who despite not debuting until the age of 4, has won an astounding sixteen stakes races.

The Pennsylvania Governor's Cup, which will be contested at five furlongs on the turf, is scheduled as the second race with an approximate 6:28 p.m. EST post, and is the second leg of an All Stakes Early Pick 4 that also features the \$500,000 Penn Mile and the \$250,000 Mountainview Handicap.

Trained by the legendary King Leatherbury, who has won more than 6,300 races, Ben's Cat has 21 victories from 31 career starts with earnings of \$1.46 million. He is no stranger to the Penn National winner's circle, having annexed the 2011 Pennsylvania Governor's Cup in addition to the \$200,000 Fabulous Strike Handicap, run for the first time this past Thanksgiving Eve.

Ridden by Julian Pimentel, the 7-year-old gelding will break from the outside post position 11. He comes into the Pennsylvania Governor's Cup off three straight wins, most recently the Pimlico Turf Sprint on May 17. Despite the quick turnaround, his trainer is very confident.

"He is training as good as ever," said Leatherbury. "The first race he won this year at Pimlico was an easy race for him, so it was a good race to start the year off with. His race two weeks ago will set him for a good effort [in the Pennsylvania Governor's Cup]."

Leatherbury marvels at how rare it is to get a horse like Ben's Cat, especially considering his breeding and late start.

"It might be one in 10,000 times, or one in 25,000 times that a horse will come around like this," Leatherbury said. "His sire isn't a top sire, and his mare wouldn't be expected to produce a top stakes horse like this. He broke his pelvis as a 2-year-old and didn't make his career debut until he was four, but then again, maybe that late start is an advantage and has contributed to his overall soundness."

The 3-1 second choice on the morning line is **Bridgetown**, a multiple graded stakes winner for five-time Eclipse Winning Trainer Todd Pletcher. He will leave from post position 9 with Hall of Fame Jockey John Velazquez aboard.

Second in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf as a 2-year-old in 2009, the now seasoned veteran has nine wins in 21 career starts and comes into the Pennsylvania Governor's Cup off a third-place finish behind Ben's Cat in the Pimlico Turf Sprint, which was his first start since the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint last November.

“The Pimlico Turf Sprint was his first race in a while and he is coming into this race on short rest, but we were playing catch up going into the last race,” said Pletcher. “We have a ton of respect for Ben’s Cat. Maybe with us having a long rest prior to the Pimlico race will be in our favor.”

**Chamberlain Bridge** (5-1) is another very accomplished and seasoned turf sprinter in the field, having won the 2010 Pennsylvania Governor’s Cup in addition to the 2010 Breeders’ Cup Turf Sprint. Trained by Bret Calhoun, the 9-year-old son of War Chant has 19 wins in 50 career starts with \$1.94 million in earnings. He drew post position 7 with Miguel Mena aboard and enters the race off a nose loss in the Grade 3 Turf Sprint on May 4 at Churchill Downs.

Yet another past Pennsylvania Governor’s Cup winner in this year’s edition is **Kyma** (8-1), who provided a shocking 34-1 victory in last year’s race for local trainer Brandon Kulp and jockey Dana Whitney, perennially among the top jockeys at Penn National. Drawing post position 4, the 5-year-old son of Belong to Me has six wins in nine career starts and prepped for this year’s race with an allowance victory on May 14 over the Tapeta surface at Presque Isle Downs.

Rounding out the field are stakes winner **Icon Ike** (6-1) for trainer Larry Jones, **Tightend Touchdown** (6-1) for trainer Jason Servis, **Catalactic** (12-1) for trainer Michael Baird, **Tiempo Libre** for trainer Tim Kreiser (20-1), **Sneaking Uponyou** (30-1) for trainer Mandy Ness, **Fufty Too** (50-1) for trainer John Connor, and **Snow Leopard** (50-1) for trainer Clovis Crane.

**The field for the \$150,000 Pennsylvania Governor's Cup:**

P#	PP	Horse	Jockey	Wgt	Trainer	M/L
		<a href="#">Tightend Touchdown</a>				
1	1	<a href="#">(FL)</a>	<a href="#">J Castellano</a>	119	<a href="#">J Servis</a>	6-1
2	2	<a href="#">Catalactic (PA)</a>	<a href="#">Q Hamilton</a>	119	<a href="#">J M Baird</a>	12-1
3	3	<a href="#">Icon Ike (KY)</a>	<a href="#">J Rosario</a>	122	<a href="#">J L Jones</a>	6-1
4	4	<a href="#">Kyma (PA)</a>	<a href="#">D G Whitney</a>	122	<a href="#">B L Kulp</a>	8-1
5	5	<a href="#">Sneaking Uponyou (FL)</a>	<a href="#">D Centeno</a>	119	<a href="#">M Ness</a>	30-1
6	6	<a href="#">Fufty Too (KY)</a>	<a href="#">E Strunk-Micklos</a>	119	<a href="#">J D Conner</a>	50-1
7	7	<a href="#">Chamberlain Bridge (KY)</a>	<a href="#">M Mena</a>	122	<a href="#">W B Calhoun</a>	5-1
8	8	<a href="#">Snow Leopard (KY)</a>	<a href="#">W P Otero</a>	115	<a href="#">C Crane</a>	50-1
9	9	<a href="#">Bridgetown (FL)</a>	<a href="#">J R Velazquez</a>	122	<a href="#">T A Pletcher</a>	3-1
10	10	<a href="#">Tiempo Libre (KY)</a>	<a href="#">K Carmouche</a>	119	<a href="#">T C Kreiser</a>	20-1
11	11	<a href="#">Ben's Cat (MD)</a>	<a href="#">J Pimentel</a>	122	<a href="#">K T Leatherbury</a>	5-2

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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.*

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