

**For Immediate Release:**

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**Scarborough Downs prepares for history with the final jewel of the Triple Crown**



**Scarborough, Maine – June 1, 2008:** Scarborough Downs is preparing for what could be history-in-the-making as it gets ready for the 140th running of the \$1 million Belmont Stakes to be held Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, live via simulcast from Belmont Park. The race, which favors Big Brown, could give the nation its first Triple Crown winner in three decades.

“We could very well be witnessing history,” said Publicity Director Mike Sweeney, who is referring to the fact that it has been 30 years since Affirmed became the last Triple Crown champion in 1978. The longest dry spell since Secretariat snapped a 25 year drought in 1973. “And we’re proud to say Scarborough Downs is going to be *the* place to witness it.”

Scarborough Downs, along with nearly every race track in the country, has been buzzing ever since Big Brown, the 3 year old colt, flew out of the 20<sup>th</sup> post position to win the Kentucky Derby on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, then effortlessly sailed into the finish at the Preakness Stakes on May 17<sup>th</sup>, making him an official Triple Crown contender. If he wins Saturday’s Belmont Stakes, he will be ranked among the greatest race horses in history.

The Belmont Stakes -- the oldest and longest leg of the Triple Crown -- clearly is the toughest. Many call it a rider's race, in which the jockey must be a supreme judge of speed, pace and stamina. The distance is 1 and 1/2 miles; longer than the previous two races. Secretariat's 31-length victory in the 1973 Belmont Stakes established the world record for a mile and a half on dirt at 2:24.

The excitement of the day begins with live harness racing action at 2 pm, with a live performance of The National Anthem by Meaghan Martin, a 16 year old junior and honor student at Bonny Eagle High School. Martin, who recently won an international country singing competition in Tennessee, owns two retired Standardbreds and is working with them to raise money this show season for breast cancer research in a campaign she created called "Ribbons for Ribbons". Other attractions include Henry the horse mascot, and raffles for great prizes. Live coverage of the Belmont begins at approximately 5:30 pm. The Downs Club Restaurant will open at 1 pm and will feature Belmont Day dinner specials.

Scarborough Downs will again be selling Eight Belles wristbands (\$5) in honor of the 3 year old filly that broke down after the Kentucky Derby. Proceeds of the wristbands will benefit the MidAtlantic Horse Rescue, a Maryland-based non-profit chosen by Eight Belles' owner. At the Preakness Stakes, Scarborough Downs raised over \$400 for the charity. Fox Hill Farm, where Eight Belles resided, said Scarborough Downs was the only

race track who approached them about selling the wristbands and they were very impressed with Mainer's generosity.

Doors on Belmont Day open at 10:30 am. For Downs Club reservations, contact 207-883-3022 or log onto [www.ScarboroughDowns.com](http://www.ScarboroughDowns.com). For information on the Eight Belles wristband, log on to [www.MidAtlanticHorseRescue.org](http://www.MidAtlanticHorseRescue.org).

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