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On January 28th, the 7th edition of the Pegasus World Cup was held at Gulfstream Park with \$3 million in prizes.

THE PEGASUS WORLD CUP

6 ART COLLECTOR



THE PEGASUS WORLD CUP

Art Collector, a 6-year-old horse ridden by Venezuelan jockey Junior Alvarado and trained by Hall of Fame trainer William Mott, won the race with ease. With 11 wins in 21 performances, Art Collector has brought his earnings for owner and breeder Bruce Lunsford to \$4,012,490. His time of 1:49.2 in the mile and an eighth is the worst record in the history of the competition, but he has won 8 of his 11 victories at this distance.

Art Collector has now achieved his fifth graded victory: Blue Grass Stakes Gr.2 (2020), Charles Town Classic Stakes Gr.2 (2021), Woodward Stakes Gr.1 (2021), Charles Town Classic Stakes Gr.2 (2022), and the Pegasus World Cup Invitational (2023). He is the first 6-year-old winner of this race and is a son of Bernardini and a grandson of A. P. Indy.

THE SAUDI CUP

The world's most valuable horse race, the Saudi Cup, will take place at King Abdulaziz Racecourse in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on February 25th, 2023, attracting some of the best connections in the industry. With a \$20 million purse, the race is part of a \$31.5 million card that includes both dirt and turf races.

Established in 2020, the Saudi Cup is aimed at promoting Saudi Arabia internationally and encouraging tourism and investment in the nation. A-rated horses from all continents will compete for the ultimate prize, and the last race of the eight-race card will bring pride and admiration to the winner.





DUBAI WORLD CUP CARNIVAL

The Dubai World Cup Carnival runs from January to early March, starting in January 2023 and racing every Friday until February 24th. It will conclude with Super Saturday, an official dress rehearsal for the Dubai World Cup, on the first Saturday in March 2023.

The festival has attracted top-notch horses from around the world and since its inception has served as a launchpad for horses to participate in races on Dubai World Cup night.



DUBAI WORLD CUP



كأس دبي العالمي

DUBAI WORLD CUP

The latest edition of the Dubai World Cup will take place on March 25, 2023 at Meydan Racecourse, a renowned architectural masterpiece that was introduced to the world in 2010.

In 2021, Dubai celebrated the 25th anniversary of the World Cup and featured some of the most notable horses from various countries, setting a high bar for future years to come.

ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY 149

Every year, on the first Saturday of May, world-class horse racing takes center stage at Churchill Downs for the Kentucky Derby.

Known for its quality, the Derby showcases the best three-year-olds from the United States and is open to horses from around the world. Earning a spot in the starting gate is a challenging feat, and horses must prove themselves worthy of the lifetime opportunity to compete in the Kentucky Derby.

In 2013, a tiered point system was established in select races to provide a practical and understandable path to the first leg of the Triple Crown. The Road to the Kentucky Derby features numerous stakes races for two- and three-year-old horses. The Kentucky Derby has twenty positions at the gate, and a maximum of twenty-four horses can enter the race.

As of 2017, the winner of the Japanese Road to the Kentucky Derby is guaranteed a spot in the Derby, with the offer extending to the next ranked Japanese horse if declined. In 2018, Churchill Downs introduced the European Road to the Kentucky Derby, with a similar format to the Japanese event. The requirements to race are the same for colts, geldings, and fillies, and points earned are not transferable.



THE MOST IMPORTANT RACES OF THE ROAD TO THE DERBY ARE:

Date	Race	Track	Points
18-Feb-2022	Risen Star	Fair Grounds	50-20-15-10-5
25-Feb-2022	Rebel	Oaklawn Park	50-20-15-10-5
4-Mar-2022	Fountain of Youth	Gulfstream Park	50-20-15-10-5
4-Mar-2022	San Felipe	Santa Anita	50-20-15-10-5
12-Mar-2022	Gotham	Aqueduct	50-20-15-10-5
11-Mar-2022	Tampa Bay Derby	Tampa Bay Downs	50-20-15-10-5
25-Mar-2022	UAE Derby	Meydan	100-40-30-20-10
25-Mar-2022	Louisiana Derby	Fair Grounds	100-40-30-20-10
25-Mar-2022	Jeff Ruby Stakes	Turfway Park	100-40-30-20-10
25-Mar-2022	Fukuryu	Nakayama	40-16-12-8-4
26-Mar-2022	Sunland Derby	Sunland Park	50-20-15-10-5
1-Apr-2022	Florida Derby	Gulfstream Park	100-40-30-20-10
1-Apr-2022	Arkansas Derby	Oaklawn Park	100-40-30-20-10
8-Apr-2022	Wood Memorial	Aqueduct	100-40-30-20-10
8-Apr-2022	Blue Grass	Keeneland	100-40-30-20-10
8-Apr-2022	Santa Anita Derby	Santa Anita	100-40-30-20-10



CHEL TENHAM FESTIVAL

The Cheltenham Festival will take place from Tuesday, March 15th to Friday, March 18th, 2023, and will feature 28 races over the course of four days.



This festival of jumps racing is a much-anticipated event that brings together fans from all over the country to witness equine athletes make their mark on sporting history.

The Cheltenham Festival has a rich history dating back to its first edition in 1860, which was held at Market Harborough as the National Hunt Chase. Over the years, the festival was held at various venues in the area before finally becoming a permanent fixture at Cheltenham in 1910.

One of the most significant highlights of the festival is the Gold Cup. Initially, it was a flat race, but it was transformed into a jumps event in 1924. Today, the Gold Cup remains one of the most prestigious National Hunt races in the world, attracting millions of fans every year.



GRAND NATIONAL

The Grand National will bring together world-class racing on April 15, 2023, at Aintree Racecourse for its 175th annual running.

Since 1829, racing over fences at Aintree has been one of the most challenging tests for horses and jockeys. The Grand National, a 4-mile and 514-yard event, is more than just a race; it is an institution. With two circuits and 30 jumps, it continues to captivate millions and is considered the world's most famous steeplechase race.

ARLINGTON MILLION AT COLONIAL DOWNS

Two years ago, the closure of Arlington Park marked the end of an era; one of the most famous races in the racing calendar lost its home, and the Arlington Million could not be run at Arlington Park anymore. Churchill Downs Inc sold the property to the Chicago Bears.



A spin to the story was yet to come; Churchill Downs hosted the Arlington Million in 2022 as a one-day event at the historic track, but it lacked the spark of the energetic attendance it attracted while held in Illinois. Churchill Downs is not a summer track; its turf course is immature during mid-August; as such, Churchill Downs had other plans.

In late 2022, Churchill Downs Inc announced that it acquired Peninsula Pacific Entertainment and all of its assets; Colonial Downs in Virginia is one of those assets. This transaction allows Churchill Downs Inc to expand its historical racing business to Virginia while finding a new host for the Arlington Million, Beverley D Stakes, and Secretariat Stakes.

Colonial Downs has never been a prominent racetrack; until 2022, its most prestigious race was the Virginia Derby. On December 21, 2022, when the American Graded Stakes Committee approved the move of the Arlington Million, Beverley D Stakes, and Secretariat Stakes to the Virginia track, the three highlights of Arlington Park will mark the beginning of a new chapter in history. The three races are scheduled to be run on August 12, 2023.



SOUTH- LAND PARK

The new year marked the end of greyhound racing in Arkansas, as the phase-out process initiated by Southland Park in 2019 came to a close on New Year's Eve with the permanent closure of the last greyhound track in the state.

Southland Park, which began as a greyhound racetrack in 1956 as the only one of its kind in Arkansas, was once considered to be the top greyhound racetrack in the country during its prime years in the 70s and 80s. On a typical Saturday night, it would attract 20,000 fans from even neighboring states, and annual wagers on the races would typically exceed \$200 million, providing employment for over 600 people.

However, the tide turned in 1992 when Mississippi approved riverboat gambling. As long as the casinos could demonstrate that they were partially located on the Mississippi River, they were deemed legitimate. This led to Tunica County in Mississippi becoming the third-largest gambling venue in the country, after Las Vegas and Atlantic City, and resulted in a decrease in attendance and profits for Southland. By the 90s, attendance had fallen to around 500 people daily, and annual wagers had dropped to less than \$35 million, resulting in job losses for half of the track's employees.

In 2005, the Arkansas General Assembly passed a law that permitted racing tracks in the state to install casino games, such as Blackjack and Poker, or their video counterparts, subject to approval by the relevant city or county. Southland was one of the fortunate ones and underwent renovations to increase capacity in late 2006.

While attendance never returned to its past highs, profits increased as turnout increased. In 2018, Southland Park Gaming and Racing announced a \$250 million expansion, including a new casino complex and hotel. The following year, the track announced that it would cease greyhound racing by the end of 2022, a move that was met with controversy but was irreversible.

As of 2023, only West Virginia still has active greyhound tracks in the form of Tri-State and Wheeling Downs. It is uncertain what the future holds for these tracks, but Virginia has made multiple attempts to ban greyhound racing in the past, and it is only a matter of time before they succeed, leading to the end of greyhound racing in the United States.





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