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Charles Town Classic Moves into New Territory with \$1.5 Million Purse

Charles Town, WV (November 29, 2012) – In its four runnings, the Charles Town Classic (G2) has attracted 32 different runners who have captured a total of 71 graded stakes between them, with 12 of those coming in races currently a part of the Breeders' Cup's Win & You're In Challenge series.

However, for its fifth running on April 20, 2013, the Charles Town Classic looks to take the next step up in the hierarchy of handicap division races as the 1 1/8 mile event will now offer a guaranteed purse of \$1,500,000 - up from the \$1,000,000 in available money offered since its inception.

With the \$500,000 purse increase, the \$1,500,000 Charles Town Classic now stands alone as the richest thoroughbred race run in the United States outside of the Kentucky Derby and Breeders' Cup.

"In addition to furthering the Charles Town Classic as a race that positively impacts the overall brand of our racing product, we're excited to put on this type of show for our fans in April," said Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races Vice President of Racing Operations Erich Zimny. "We couldn't be more proud for our program to host it."

The increase also moves the Charles Town Classic up on the global scale in the handicap division with the race held in West Virginia's eastern panhandle eclipsed only by the Dubai World Cup, Breeders' Cup Classic and a trio of races in Japan in terms of money offered to its participants.

The \$1,500,000 figure also comes with one added wrinkle; the division of money will not follow the traditional purse splits from prior years. Instead, the winner of the 2013 Charles Town Classic will be guaranteed a flat payout \$1 million with the remainder being divided amongst the other participants.

"We knew we'd always draw a very good field with the \$1 million number," said Zimny. "But, the hope is, by moving it to \$1.5 million and giving the seven figure amount to the winner it makes it that much more attractive to those one or two horses on the fence who have the ability to move the race up another notch."

In addition to the increased money available to all starters, horses having captured a Grade 1 in the two years prior to the race will have the added incentive of all entry and starting fees being waived should they break from the gate.

Historically, the inaugural Charles Town Classic in 2009 drew the defending champions of both the Whitney Handicap and Hollywood Gold Cup in **Commentator** and **Mast Track**. The horses contesting the 2010 edition would go on to amass more than \$9.1 million in lifetime earnings and formed a deep enough field that eventual multiple Grade 1 winner **Tizway** would be left on the also-eligible list.

After the 2011 Charles Town Classic received Grade 3 status in its first year of eligibility, Tizway would get his chance in the race and turned in a third place finish behind **Duke of Mischief** and fellow Eclipse Award finalist **Game on Dude**. Joining the first three finishers was eventual 2011 Champion Older Horse **Acclamation**, which marked the only time all year the three Eclipse Award finalists would meet on the track. The 2011 race also marked the first time a non-Breeders' Cup race in the United States was comprised of 10 or more starters, 100 percent of which went into the gate a graded stakes winner, since the 2006 Arlington Million.

Following an upgrade to a Grade 2 for this year, the 2012 Charles Town Classic would once again duplicate that feat, filling its entire gate with horses already having won a graded stakes.

The 2013 Charles Town Classic is scheduled for April 20 and will be part of a 13-race card that begins at 5 p.m. EST. The remainder of the stakes on Charles Town Classic day, as well as the track's complete 2013 stakes calendar, will be released in the coming weeks.

LARGEST U.S. THOROUGHBRED PURSES

(all other races based on 2012 purses)

	<u>Race</u>	<u>Purse</u>		<u>Race</u>	<u>Purse</u>
1.	Breeders' Cup Classic	\$5,000,000	T11.	Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf	\$1,000,000
2.	Breeders' Cup Turf	\$3,000,000	T11.	Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf	\$1,000,000
T3.	Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf	\$2,000,000	T11.	Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint	\$1,000,000
T3.	Breeders Cup Ladies Classic	\$2,000,000	T11.	Cotillion	\$1,000,000
T3.	Breeders' Cup Mile	\$2,000,000	T11.	Delta Jackpot	\$1,000,000
T3.	Grey Goose Breeders' Cup Juvenile	\$2,000,000	T11.	Florida Derby	\$1,000,000
T3.	Grey Goose Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies	\$2,000,000	T11.	Haskell Invitational	\$1,000,000
T3.	Kentucky Derby	\$2,000,000	T11.	Jockey Club Gold Cup	\$1,000,000
T9.	Charles Town Classic	\$1,500,000	T11.	Kentucky Oaks	\$1,000,000
T9.	XpressBet Breeders' Cup Sprint	\$1,500,000	T11.	Louisiana Derby	\$1,000,000
T11.	Arkansas Derby	\$1,000,000	T11.	Pacific Classic	\$1,000,000
T11.	Arlington Million	\$1,000,000	T11.	Pennsylvania Derby	\$1,000,000
T11.	Belmont Stakes	\$1,000,000	T11.	Preakness Stakes	\$1,000,000
T11.	Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile	\$1,000,000	T11.	Travers	\$1,000,000
T11.	Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint	\$1,000,000	T11.	Wood Memorial	\$1,000,000

WORLD'S LARGEST PURSES - HANDICAP DIVISION

(colts & geldings, main track, one mile or over)

	Race	Purse (USD)*	Country
1.	Dubai World Cup	\$10,000,000	United Arab Emirates
2.	Breeders Cup Classic	\$5,000,000	United States
3.	Japan Cup Dirt	\$3,185,000	Japan
4.	February Stakes	\$2,454,000	Japan
5.	Japan Breeding Farms Cup Classic	\$1,700,000	Japan
6.	Charles Town Classic	\$1,500,000	United States
7.	Tokyo Daishoten	\$1,487,500	Japan
8.	Tokai Stakes	\$1,324,000	Japan
T9.	Breeders Cup Dirt Mile	\$1,000,000	United States
T9.	Godolphin Mile	\$1,000,000	United Arab Emirates
T9.	Jockey Club Gold Cup	\$1,000,000	United States
T9.	Pacific Classic	\$1,000,000	United States

^{*} International monetary conversions are approximate

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