



## **NYRA & NYS GAMING COMMISSION ANNOUNCE ENHANCED SECURITY MEASURES FOR WOOD MEMORIAL PARTICIPANTS**

***Out-of-competition testing & 24-hour surveillance of horses slated to race will ensure utmost integrity for Saturday's Grade 1, \$1 million Wood Memorial at Aqueduct Racetrack***

OZONE PARK, N.Y. (April 3, 2013) – The New York Racing Association, Inc. (NYRA) and the New York State Gaming Commission today announced enhanced security measures for the April 6 Grade 1, \$1 million Wood Memorial at Aqueduct Racetrack.

This afternoon, blood samples will be taken from horses expected to compete in the Wood Memorial for out-of-competition testing. Analysis of the samples will be conducted by New York State's Equine Drug Testing Program and is expected to be complete by Saturday morning. Starting today, Wood Memorial starters will be monitored at all times by additional security personnel in their respective barns/stalls at Aqueduct and Belmont. Gaming Commission investigative staff will assist NYRA in these efforts.

NYRA Reorganization Board Chair David J. Skorton said, "The coordinated efforts between NYRA and the Gaming Commission demonstrate that New York is committed to working together to ensure integrity and equine health and safety. NYRA's mission statement, 'meeting the highest standards in thoroughbred racing and equine safety,' is exemplified by these additional steps for one of our most important stakes. We look forward to an exciting race on Saturday."

New York State Gaming Commission Acting Executive Director Robert Williams said, "We are proud to join NYRA in implementing these security measures for high stakes races. As we demonstrated with similar measures in the Belmont and Travers Stakes races last year, everyone invested in horse racing – from the trainers to the equine health experts to the betting public – deserves to know that equine athletes are being well cared for and competing on an even playing field."

New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association President Rick Violette Jr. said, "New York's horsemen give their full support to any initiative that provides an added level of protection for our horses and our fans, and we welcome measures that level the playing field for all competitors."

*About the New York Racing Association, Inc.*

NYRA's mission is "Meeting the highest standards in thoroughbred racing and equine safety." Founded in 1955, and franchised to run thoroughbred racing at New York's three major tracks (Aqueduct Racetrack, Belmont Park, and Saratoga Race Course) through 2033, NYRA boasts a lineage that actually stretches back almost 150 years. NYRA tracks are the cornerstone of the

state's thoroughbred business which contributes more than \$2 billion annually to New York State's urban, suburban and rural economy. In 2012, nearly 1.8 million people attended the live races at NYRA tracks. Factoring in nationwide off-track wagering, the average daily betting handle on NYRA races totals more than \$9 million. NYRA has a vast network of websites, including [www.nyra.com](http://www.nyra.com), [www.belmontstakes.com](http://www.belmontstakes.com), and [www.nyragroupsales.com](http://www.nyragroupsales.com). You can also follow NYRA on social media platforms [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#).

*About the New York State Gaming Commission*

The New York State Gaming Commission regulates all aspects of gaming and gambling activity in the state, including horse racing and pari-mutuel wagering, class III Indian gaming, video lottery terminal facilities at race tracks, the state lottery and charitable gaming.

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