



BC THOROUGHBRED OWNERS & BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

“One Voice for Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders in British Columbia”

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BCTOBA Newsletter
By Mike Heads

Opening Day Arrives

The seemingly endless hours of preparation for trainers and owners to get horses ready for the upcoming campaign is finally over as the curtain will be raised on the 2015 season at Hastings Racecourse on Saturday. A solid seven race program has been assembled with many good wagering opportunities.

My preview race will be the 4th which brings together a group of seven no-tag maidens that features five CTHS yearling purchases, one two year old in training buy from California and one homebred gelding. The probable favourite will be Shelley Bancroft's *He's A Beast* who was purchased for \$55,000 at the January Barretts sale in Southern California. The son of the excellent sprinter Noonmark has been working extremely well at Golden Gate and here at Hastings. The barn always has their horses primed and ready to roll so it would be no surprise if he were to win at first asking. Aaron Gryder is in town for opening weekend and will get the riding assignment.

A horse that could make some noise is Nick and Pauline Felicella's *Brother Duster* who is bred to be a good one being a full brother to former B.C. champion Excited Miss. He had one unsuccessful start last year in Edmonton before being put away for the rest of his two year old season. He has trained smartly for his new trainer Anita Bolton and will be ridden by former Hastings leading rider Pedro Alvarado, who has traded in his trainer's license to return to the jocks room.

The likely third choice will be Conrad Rozenek and Mel Snow's homebred *The Odds R Good* who was well backed in his 2014 debut, but failed to make any impression after having a tough trip. He has trained well this spring and is out of a stakes winning mare so he has the pedigree to be a good one. Antonio Reyes will ride, returning to Hastings after a one year absence. *Rosies Notis*, *Captain Jones*, and *Stoneridge Ruler* were all placed in maiden special weight company last year and the stylishly bred first time starter *Shuswap* round out this talented field of B.C. Derby hopefuls.

The excitement gets underway at 1:50 p.m. and don't forget the new Sea to Sky Pick Six wager that will be introduced on Saturday. All the details on the wagering profile can be found on the Hastings Racecourse website at <http://www.hastingsracecourse.com/racing/>