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THE RETURN OF SARATOGA AND DEL MAR JOCKEYS IN THE EAST-VS-WEST KARAOKE CONTEST TO BENEFIT DISABLED RIDERS

CHICAGO – Jockeys know how to warm up their mounts, but they’re also warming up their vocal cords in Saratoga and Del Mar in advance of the third annual “Riders Up! Battle of East-vs-West” jockey karaoke contests to benefit the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund (PDJF).

The Saratoga jockeys are first out of the gate on Sunday, July 31st at Vapor Night (342 Jefferson St., Saratoga Springs, N.Y.). NYRA track announcer Tom Durkin will emcee, and this year’s judges are LRE Racing, Horse Owner Lee Einsidler, Trainer Graham Motion, New York Racing Association Fox Sports Host Laffit Pincay III, and founder of Barstool Sports Dave Portnoy. Then, on Sunday, August 7th, the Del Mar jockeys will try to outdo their east coast rivals at Belly Up (143 S. Cedros Ave., Solana Beach, CA). TVG host Mike Joyce will emcee with judges Del Mar Thoroughbred Club CEO, Joe Harper and TVG Host Todd Schrupp.

Both contests will be streamed live via PDJF’s Facebook page (www.facebook.com/jockeysfund) and after the judges on each coast name their favorite performance, the public will vote for their favorite online via Facebook and Twitter (@PDJFund). The last East-vs-West competition held in 2019, was almost a dead heat, between the east coast’s Johnny and Leona Velazquez and the west coast’s Iggy and Michelle Puglisi, the west coast’s winning performance just nosed out the east by a mere 7 votes.

The jockeys on both coasts show up each year with new performances, upping their game and never disappointing, all to raise funds and awareness of the need to support jockeys who are permanently disabled. To many to list, but a few notable performances have been Mike and Cynthia Smith performing as Sonny and Cher, classic boy band performances by NSYNC & Backstreet Boys, Julien and Shea Leparoux performed Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper Oscar Performance of Shallow, and one cannot forget the over the top performances of Mike Luzzi and Phil Teator as Kiss and Motley Crue That was the past, one can only imagine what we will see after a two-year hiatus.

General admission tickets (includes one drink coupon) for each person are \$75 with 7:45 p.m. entry to Vapor Night Club and 7:45 p.m. entry to Belly Up. A limited number of VIP tickets are available at each venue for \$150 which includes early entry 6:00 PM local time at both venues, open reserved seats, two drink coupons, and a buffet dinner with the jockeys. Performances are scheduled to begin at 8:00 PM local time. Both events feature live and silent auctions and a cash bar. Patrons must be 21 years of age or older to enter the premises. Tickets are now on sale at <https://pdjf.org/purchase-tickets/>.

Multi-tiered sponsorship opportunities are available for both events. Contact the PDJF by email (info@pdjf.org) or call (630) 595-7660.

The PDJF is a 501(c)(3) charity providing financial assistance to approximately 60 former jockeys who have suffered catastrophic on-track injuries. Founded in 2006, the PDJF has disbursed over \$12 million dollars to permanently disabled jockeys, most of whom have sustained paralysis or traumatic brain injuries. The Fund is a cooperative effort among racetracks, jockeys, horsemen, owners, and racing fans. Visit www.pdjf.org for further information. ###