



Sunland Park Chaplaincy to Present Donations to Two Young Recovering Racing Professionals

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(SUNLAND PARK) Sunland Park Racetrack & Casino is playing host to fundraising efforts for two deserving recipients in order to raise funds to assist in their recovery efforts.

19-year-old Bryce Bourdieu and 21-year-old Joree Scriver will be presented checks by SPRC Simulcast Coordinator and Chaplaincy representative Rayeanne Holland this Saturday, the racetrack's final Saturday of the season. Both Bourdieu and Scriver were recently injured and will use the funds to help cover medical and rehabilitation costs.

"At Sunland Park all of our hearts went out to these two deserving people in their recoveries," said Dustin Dix, Sunland Park's Racing Director. "Horse racing can be a dangerous sport, but we are a tight-knit community that is ready to help whoever and whenever we can."

Brandi Lambert, event organizer, was quick to praise the local horse racing fans for buying tickets to the raffle drawing. SPRC Chaplain, Donald Stover added, "We are in the last stages of a major fundraising raffle that has been extremely popular with our racing fans. More than 10-thousand dollars in prizes will be awarded through the raffle. Tickets have been selling extremely fast."

Raffle prizes included VIP packages at Sunland Park, a Professional Bull Riding event, the Ruidoso Jockey Club and Del Mar Racetrack, as well as a \$2,000 saddle, a \$1,000 pallet of horse feed and \$3,500 custom boots by Mario Garcia. Raffle tickets are still available at the Sunland Park Turf Club, with the drawing scheduled for this Saturday, April 1st..

Bryce Bourdieu was injured last August in Texas, where he worked as an exercise rider and assistant starter. The son of popular Sunland Park Racetrack Handicapper Julie Renee Farr and jockey Martin Bourdieu, Bryce is recovering from extensive injuries, two back surgeries and a lower leg amputation. His medical bills are in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Joree Scriver was seriously injured during a New Year's Day race when the horse she was riding suddenly fell. She had emergency back surgery to repair several fractured vertebrae and continues to suffer from the surgery, broken ribs a collapsed lung, facial lacerations and a severely bruised spinal cord. The doctors have said that only time will tell if, when and how much movement she will regain. She has been receiving rehabilitation care in Colorado.

Mark Hettinger, SPRC General Manager, said "You simply cannot find two more deserving individuals of these funds. Each of them has resilient spirits and positive attitudes during the most challenging time of their lives. Bryce and Jordee are truly an inspiration for us all."

BRYCE BOURDIEU



At just 19 years of age, Bryce Bourdieu had dreams of riding races. He still has those same dreams but after a horrific starting gate accident, recovery and healing have taken immediate priority over his career. He was injured August 11th, 2022, at a training facility in Elgin, Texas where he worked as an exercise rider and assistant starter. His injuries were extensive and included two back surgeries, the second lasting 11 hours. Following that lengthy surgery, Bryce developed compartment syndrome in his lower left leg. After every avenue to save the leg was exhausted, the decision was made to amputate below the knee. No less than 14 surgeries behind him and at least a few ahead of him, his spirits remain high, and his positive outlook is unwavering.

Bryce is the son of Julie Renee Farr, whom many of you will recognize as our popular racetrack handicapper, and successful jockey Martin Bourdieu. He grew up in this sport we all love, surrounded by people whose careers are built around horses. People that care for them, feed them, exercise them and ultimately race them. People who appreciate the potential heart break and hardships of such livelihoods but wouldn't choose to do anything else. Bryce is one of those special people.

He currently faces additional surgery to fit his prosthesis followed by a year and a half of strength training and rehab. The road is long, and the cost is great, the prosthesis alone will run about \$75,000, insurance covers only so much. With a fused lower back, fused pelvis, nerve damage to his right leg and additional medical care in his future, his amazing attitude will serve him well and continue to inspire us all. His goals now include being the first North American jockey to ride with a prosthesis.

JOREE SCRIVER



Joree Scriver is a 21-year-old rider who was seriously injured in a New Year's Day racing accident at Sunland Park Racetrack. Her mount abruptly and unexpectedly fell during a 6-furlong race sending her violently to the ground. She endured emergency back surgery to repair several fractured vertebrae and spent many days in ICU. Joree was then moved to a private room at El Paso's Las Palmas Hospital where she continued to heal from the surgery, broken ribs, a collapsed lung, and facial lacerations. As soon as possible, arrangements were made to transport her to the Craig Hospital in Englewood, Colorado, a premier rehabilitation center for paralysis patients. While her spinal cord is not severed, it is severely bruised and only time will tell if, when, and how much movement and feeling she will regain.

Joree began riding as soon as she could walk and began her racing career in 2019 at the age of 19. Her career was off to a meteoric start. She was leading rider at the Grants Pass Downs, Fall 2020 meet in Oregon, winning four races on closing day. From there she held her own at the competitive Turf Paradise meet in Phoenix, Arizona, culminating with the leading Apprentice Jockey title. She was second in the rider standings at the most recent Downs of Albuquerque Fall meeting, and fourth at the Fall meet at ZIA Park. 2022 was a breakout year with her mounts earning \$1,848,642 in purse money. Her career and talent were beyond promising.

In addition to her ability on the track and with the horses, she is a "light." Her smile and attitude are nothing less than inspirational. Her future is full of uncertainty, but there is NO doubt she will shine, that is just who she is, not just what she does.

All raffle proceeds will be evenly dispersed between Joree and Bryce to aid in their ongoing recovery expenses.

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