

## Off to the Races

Giddyup for the 137th running of the Preakness Stakes.

The month of May just wouldn't be the same without the running of the Preakness Stakes, the second jewel in horse racing's Triple Crown. Though the race gets the lion's share of attention, there is also a full week of fun leading up to the big day on May 19.

Events include the annual Preakness Celebration Balloon Festival at Turf Valley in Ellicott City May 10 through 12, which features hot-air ballooning, food, and entertainment. Want to see what goes on behind the scenes before Preakness? Attend Sunrise at Old Hilltop, an early-morning tour of Pimlico's stables and facilities, from May 16 to May 18. While not as famous as Preakness, the Black-Eyed Susan Stakes for fillies is run May 18, the Friday before the race, and admission starts at \$5.

Preakness itself will feature a day of music by national acts including Maroon 5, rapper Wiz Khalifa, and country favorites Little Big Town, followed by the race around 6 p.m. Unlimited beer will be provided with the purchase of an Infield MUG Club ticket, and



the mascot Kegasis will be back this year with his new sidekick UniCarl (part human, part unicorn, part personal assistant, part personal trainer, obviously) to keep the good times going.

*Pimlico Race Course, 5201 Park Heights Ave. Gates open at 8 a.m. \$25-110. 410-542-9400. [preakness.com](http://preakness.com).*