



# RCI Bulletin

*Association of Racing Commissioners International, Inc.*

2343 Alexandria Drive, Suite 200  
Lexington, KY 40504  
www.arci.com

Phone: (859) 224-7070  
Fax: (859) 224-7071  
Email: support@arci.com

## Volume 74, Issue 14 November 30, 2007

### **Ky. Derby Trail: Go East, Young Man**

As we head into December, a well-funded trainer is looking for a potential Kentucky Derby horse, but does not want a horse based in Southern California. At the same time, a well-funded gambler is looking for a solid Derby horse to bet in the future book, but he, too, is looking away from California. The reason behind their thinking is quite simple.

That reason can be summed up in two words: synthetic surfaces. Not that there's anything wrong with it, but the truth is, the trainer and the gambler do not want to invest their money on an unknown commodity. If they do, are they getting a legitimate Derby horse or simply one who likes a synthetic surface, in this case the Cushion Track of Santa Anita and Hollywood or the Polytrack of Del Mar? Most of these horses have never even set foot on a dirt track, in the morning or afternoon. So, in essence, the trainer and the punter would be investing a great deal of money on a product that hasn't been fully tested.

That it is the situation that exists as we embark on the 2008 Derby trail. Unless a Southern California-based horse travels east to compete over a dirt track, whether it's Gulfstream, Fair Grounds, Oaklawn, or Aqueduct, or has already raced over one, no one, not even their trainer and jockey, will have a clue how they will perform at Churchill Downs on the first Saturday in May. We've seen too many 2-year-olds already this year who have run big on dirt, but couldn't pick their feet up on Polytrack, and vice versa.

But we'll deal with that aspect of the Derby next spring.

Source: The Bloodhorse.

### **Enforcing Clean Play: Horse Racing**

The Commonwealth (of Kentucky) is home to the sport's biggest race; now, it is home to the country's toughest drug rules. But even after the suspension of one of horse racing's biggest trainers, owners and trainers say the problem will continue to exist unless the people who enforce the rules come together.

PETER BURNETT  
Virginia  
Chairman

Secretary/Treasurer

EDWARD MARTIN  
Kentucky  
President/CEO

JOE GORAJEC  
Indiana  
Chair Elect

ERIN OWENS  
Arizona

Patrick Biancone has long enjoyed success on the race track.. winning big races worldwide. The French-born trainer has also been suspended for violating drug rules on more than one continent. In October, Biancone agreed to give up his license for six months and not accept a cent from racing purses during the length of his suspension.

Kentucky's financial repercussions rules have been lauded by those in the horse racing industry for closing loopholes and adding real teeth to suspensions.

Ed Martin, the President and CEO of Racing Commissioners International, told Action News 36 that RCI's model drug rules are simply models. Individual states regulate their horse racing operations.

The interstate nature of the sport itself, combined with a variety of rules, can cause even honest trainers and vets to make mistakes.

Through the first nine months of this year, 99.97 percent of horses drug tested in Kentucky have come up clean. But even accounting for honest mistakes, there are some in the industry who choose to do whatever it takes to win.

The challenge for the horse racing industry is to sanction the small minority and protect the honest men and women who dominate the sport.

But for now, tough sanctions like Kentucky's handling of the Biancone situation will remain the exception and groups like RCI will continue to fill the void.

*Source: Chris Dietz, WTVQ, Channel 36, Lexington, Ky.*

\*To view the video aired on Channel 36, visit:

<http://www.wtvq.com/midatlantic/tvg/news.apx.-content-articles-TVQ-2007-11-26-0004.html>

---

## **Role of TV in ADW to Be Examined**

The impact of television on account wagering will be watched closely during an experiment in California that began Nov. 7 with the opening of Golden Gate Fields and Hollywood Park.

Racetracks, account wagering, and horsemen agreed to the experiment, which allows all advance deposit wagering providers in the state access to all in-state content. For eight months, wagering exclusivity will be gone, but TV rights to signals will remain in place.

TVG has deals with Hollywood Park and Bay Meadows for exclusive broadcast of their signals, while HRTV carries Golden Gate and the Los Angeles Turf Club meet at Santa Anita Park.

TVG, however, will be able to offer wagering on Golden Gate and Santa Anita, which like HRTV are affiliated with Magna Entertainment Corp., and MEC-owned XpressBet.com will offer bets on Hollywood Park and Bay Meadows.

"Nobody knows (how it will turn out)," TVG senior vice president and general manager David Nathanson said. "This is truly an experiment in every sense of the word, but everybody is optimistic. I think we'll be able to have a better understanding of the impact of broad account wagering."

Nathanson and other TVG officials have said television is a key component to account wagering. The company over the years has released figures that show substantial growth in handle on televised races versus non-televised races.

"How will Bay Meadows do with broader television distribution compared with Santa Anita?" Nathanson said. "My hypothesis is TV will have a dramatic impact in terms of what is bet across multiple ADW platforms."

Nathanson noted that when Youbet.com had access to all content but other providers did not, TVG still retained 60% of the market in California.

During the National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association summer convention in Virginia in July, horsemen railed on wagering exclusivity but did say they could live with broadcast exclusivity. Horsemen's groups around the country played a role in facilitating the California experiment, but it remains to be whether it will evolve into policy.

"We are willing to try new things to see if a different model works," Nathanson said. "Certainly, the experiment is in reaction to customers saying they don't want to open multiple (betting) accounts. Too often, things are too complicated."

In a statement, Jack Liebau, president of Hollywood Park and Bay Meadows, indicated TVG was willing to negotiate when it came time to renew the Hollywood Park deal.

"TVG is an increasingly vital component to the success of not only Hollywood Park and Bay Meadows, but the California racing industry at large," Liebau said in the statement. "TVG approached the Hollywood Park renewal with an open mind and presented a variety of alternatives intended to enhance an already successful relationship."

The California experiment provides for adjustments in hub fees and payment of broadcast fees.

*Source: The Blood-Horse, Tom LaMarra, November 15, 2007*

---

## **Franchise Delay Hangs Over Trainers**

Aqueduct's winterized inner track opens Nov. 28, but not without trepidation from horsemen concerning the future of New York Thoroughbred racing.

The New York Racing Association's franchise expires Dec. 31, and with no plans made yet for what will happen beyond that date, some trainers are wondering if racing will continue Jan 1, 2008.

New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer has recommended NYRA continue racing at Aqueduct, Belmont Park, and Saratoga. The Republican-led Senate, which must approve Spitzer's plan, has publicly said it does not endorse his recommendation. Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno believes more racing entities should be involved in running Thoroughbred racing in New York.

"We're at the 10th hour, with the holidays coming up, there isn't a lot of time," trainer Kiaran McLaughlin said Nov. 26. "This is a serious situation, a big worry, and a definite concern.

"The politicians must understand that horses are not automobiles that you are able to leave in the garage for a period of time. If there isn't anybody (at NYRA) to even keep the track open or pick up the manure, we are all going to be gone."

McLaughlin, who plans on leaving at least 50 horses in New York for the winter, said, if necessary, he could bring some of his horses to Palm Meadows Training Center in Florida, and others to training centers in Ocala, Fla.

"I haven't made for-sure plans," he said. "I'm lucky that I have wealthy owners that can afford the \$2,000 van ride to Florida, but it's not going to be okay for some other trainers."

Mike Hushion, longtime trainer for Barry Schwartz, NYRA's former chairman of the board of trustees and chief executive officer, said there is anxiety among horsemen.

"In the last couple of weeks, that tone has picked up," Hushion said. "I think as (Dec. 31) gets closer, we realize it is a real possibility (that racing could shut down). It has become a game of chicken with NYRA and the state, and no one is so sure what will happen."

Trainer Bruce Levine, who has been a mainstay during the winter months at Aqueduct since 1979, said he is hopeful the franchise issue will be settled before there is any disruption to racing.

"Well, it is definitely out there, but I think it will get resolved," Levine said. "No question, it would be a bump in the road (if racing shut down), but I'm trying not to fret about it. It's not life-threatening. It's a bump in the road; you will just have to get around it.

"There is a lot a stake, so I think it will get resolved. Maybe the track will be shut a few days, but it will get fixed. I don't see racing in New York ceasing forever."

P.J. Campo, NYRA's racing secretary, said his office is preparing for the winter meet as usual. "I'm doing what I normally would do, and that's to continue what I've been doing," he said.

Campo indicated there are some new players for Aqueduct's inner-track meet, including Florida-based trainer David Fawkes and Julian Canet, who races his horses on the Mid-Atlantic circuit.

"Some of the New York guys will be stronger than usual," Campo said. "Todd (Pletcher) and Kiaran (McLaughlin) are leaving a sizeable amount of horses here, and some other trainers are bringing more horses than usual. We will have a quantity of horses.

"I think last year we got hurt with Fair Grounds reopening after being closed the prior year. We got hurt when it reopened; probably lost 10% to 20% from our population to the Fair Grounds. And then Philly Park was just taking off with the slots. This year, I think we are in pretty good shape."

The one-mile inner track is typically used through the middle of March. From a handicapping perspective, horses that had been competing around one turn in mile races will now be navigating the distance around two turns. Another change with the surface switch is the loss of seven-furlong races.

*Source: The Blood-Horse, Karen M. Johnson, November 26, 2007*

---

## Hall of Famer Bill Hartack Dead



Hall of Fame jockey Bill Hartack.  
Photo: Michael Burns/Blood-Horse Photo

Bill Hartack, a Hall of Famer who rode five Kentucky Derby winners, was found dead Nov. 26 in a cabin near Freer, Texas, according to **Daily Racing Form**. The 74-year-old Hartack was scheduled to go hunting. The cause of death is believed to be a heart attack.

Hartack and fellow Hall of Famer Eddie Arcaro are the only riders with as many as five Kentucky Derby winners. Hartack won his first Derby on Iron Liege in 1957 and followed up with scores aboard Venetian Way in 1960, Decidedly in 1962, Northern Dancer in 1964, and Majestic Prince in 1969. Hartack won the Preakness aboard the last two-named and on Fabius in 1956. His sole Belmont Stakes win came aboard Celtic Ash in 1960.

Known for his overwhelming desire to win, Hartack twice was the leading rider by earnings (1956-57) and the leader four times by number of wins (1955-57 and 1960). He was the second jockey to ride as many as 400 winners in a single year, doing so in 1955, when winning with 417 of his mounts.

Born in Pennsylvania, Hartack won his first race in 1952 at Waterford Park in West Virginia and was elected to the Hall of Fame in his 20s in 1959. He rode until 1974 and retired with 4,272 wins from 21,535 mounts for an impressive 19.8% win percentage. He later rode for a time in Hong Kong.

Hartack remained active in racing following his retirement and served as a steward at several tracks. He recently worked the Louisiana Downs meeting.

*Source: The Blood-Horse, November 27, 2007*

---

## Detroit handicapper Coffman dead at 85

Longtime Detroit newspaper handicapper Al Coffman died in a Michigan hospice on November 21, his 85th birthday.

Coffman wrote for the Detroit Free Press from 1940-'78 and the Detroit News for another 11 years, according to his obituary in the Free Press. Coffman was probably best known by his handicapping moniker—Al Speed.

Coffman's real name was kept secret until the Free Press started promoting him to highlight his record vs. other public selectors. Regarded as the best public handicapper in Detroit, Coffman was chosen as No. 1 in the country by Turf and Sport Digest in 1967.

"I'm his wife, so I'm a little prejudiced, but he left a wonderful legacy," Ilene Coffman told the Free Press. "He was a workhorse. He wrote about a lot of the big names, but he was just as familiar with the little guys, whether it was an owner or a trainer with one horse or a jockey that wasn't a household name. He got a lot of accolades."

*Source: Thoroughbred-Times, November 27, 2007*

---

### **Omani claims first win for female Arabs:**

The Omani-born apprentice, has become the first Arab female to win a race as a professional jockey in the UAE.

Abu Dhabi: Salima Al Taleei made history at Abu Dhabi on Sunday evening by becoming the first Arab female to win a race as a professional jockey in the UAE.

The Omani-born apprentice, who had tasted victory once before when riding in Australia, was riding the Michael Kettle-trained Adeem in the 1600m handicap, one of six races on the all Purebred Arabian card, sponsored by Nakheel.

Having ridden her mount clear 600m out, she was headed zoom from home, before pushing her mount out to lead again right on the line to win by a short head in a thrilling finish.

A tearful Al Taleei said: "It is a great feeling and I am really pleased. The other jockeys have always been so helpful and I have learned an awful lot from them. I am very grateful to them, to Michael (Kettle) and the owners."

Kettle added: "Apart from going for home too soon she has done everything right."

*Source: Gulfnews.com*

---



Alima Al Taleei;  
Photo: Ahmed Kutty/Gulf News

## National HBPA Sets Meeting Forums

The National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association will address rebates, computer-assisted wagering, equine drug testing, immigration, and other issues during its winter convention scheduled for Jan. 24-28, 2008, in New Orleans.

The organization already has scheduled three forums for the convention--"Rebating and Computer Robotic Wagering--Are They Good for the Game?"; "A Look Into the Scientific Basis for Equine Drug Testing and Regulatory Thresholds"; and "Without the Passage of Immigration Reform, How Can Horsemen Solve Their Growing Labor Shortage and Better Care for the Labor They Have?" Speakers and times are being finalized, National HBPA officials said.

The event, to be hosted by the Louisiana HBPA, will include various committee meetings and, on the final day, a full National HBPA board meeting. The convention will be held at the Intercontinental Hotel.

"This marks the first time the National HBPA will hold a convention in New Orleans since the 2005 Hurricane Katrina disaster," National HBPA president Joe Santanna said in a statement. "Our aim will be to support and honor the Louisiana HBPA and all Louisiana-based horsemen for their determination and resilience through the challenging rebuilding years since 2005.

"We will, of course, also recognize all those horsemen and industry organizations whose support--both financial and materially--was so vital right after Katrina hit."

During its 2007 summer convention in Virginia, the National HBPA held a lengthy forum on account wagering that featured lively dialogue among horsemen and representatives of account wagering providers.

*Source: The Blood-Horse, November 27, 2007*

---

## DeMarco to Leave Position With TRA

Tony J. DeMarco will leave his post as Thoroughbred Racing Associations service bureau director Dec. 14 to take a research position with the Arizona House of Representatives in Phoenix, Ariz., the TRA announced Nov. 26.

DeMarco has been with the TRA since September 1998. DeMarco, a graduate of the University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program, was a legislative research intern with the Arizona House prior to joining the TRA.

The TRA, headquartered in Fair Hill, Md., is a non-profit trade organization of 44 racing associations in North America.

*Source: Thoroughbred Racing Associations, November 26, 2007*

---

---

## Optimism But Concern in Maryland



Laurel Park could be home to some 4,000 slot machines if legislation is approved by the voters.

Photo: Jimmy McCue

Maryland racing interests are optimistic over passage of legislation to authorize a statewide referendum on slot machines in November 2008, but they indicated there remains a need for financial relief before the slots measure even comes up for a vote.

The Maryland legislature authorized a referendum Nov. 18 on a constitutional amendment on slots, and also voted for a budget package that raises taxes in the state by \$1.3 billion effective Jan. 1, 2008. With money obviously in short supply, racing industry officials are bracing for more belt-tightening next year.

This year, racing interests agreed to cut Thoroughbred racing dates and stakes because a state subsidy had dried up. Now, they're hoping for another subsidy, or perhaps a "cash advance" on slots, to maintain purses and racing dates

in 2008. And there's always the question of whether the slots referendum will pass a year from now.

"We're looking at one year before the referendum, and probably a two-year process to get the slots operating if the referendum passes," said Alan Foreman, chief executive officer of the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, which has a Maryland affiliate. "It's conceivable we could get a subsidy for one year, but I don't know where that money is going to come from. We're already using sleight of hand, so to speak."

Maryland Jockey Club chief executive officer Lou Raffetto Jr. said there is a "purse issue" for 2008 and probably 2009. To save purse money, Laurel Park will race a 60-day winter meet--15 fewer days than usual--beginning Jan. 1, 2008, under an agreement with horsemen.

"Even if (the slots referendum) passes, we're still faced with purse cuts in the short term," Raffetto said. "It's something we'll take up during the regular (legislative) session in 2008."

The Maryland Senate and House of Delegates approved the slots referendum in the final days of a special session. On Nov. 18, The House passed a bill containing the details of implementing slot-machine gambling. The Senate later passed that bill by a slim margin.

The bill defines how 15,000 machines would be distributed in five locations. It proposes putting 4,750 machines in Anne Arundel County, presumably at Laurel; 2,500 in Cecil County near the Delaware border; 2,500 in Worcester County, presumably at Ocean Downs harness track; 3,750 in Baltimore; and 1,500 in Rocky Gap State Park near Cumberland in western Maryland.

Pimlico Race Course and Rosecroft Raceway, a harness track near Washington, D.C., would not get slots, but they would share in any revenue generated from slots for purses.

Ocean Downs is owned by developer William Rickman Jr., who owns Delaware Park, where video lottery terminals have lured Maryland gamblers for more than 10 years. A Cecil County slots casino would impact Delaware Park.

Rosecroft is owned by Penn National Gaming Inc., which owns Charles Town Races & Slots, a West Virginia racino that also attracts Maryland patrons. Efforts to locate a slots casino closer to Charles Town failed to win support in the Maryland legislature during the slots negotiations.

Owners of slots licenses in Maryland would get 33% of the revenue, 3% above the initial proposal. Nearly half of the slots revenue (48.5%) would go toward education. The amount for education would rise to 51% after 2.5% set aside for racing-industry capital improvements expires after eight years, officials said.

Purses at racetracks would get 7% of the revenue with a cap on \$100 million per year.

Foreman said there are many variables, such as which facilities would actually open and how much revenue they would generate. Still, he said there is the potential for about \$80 million in purse revenue with all machines in operation.

"As far as dollars and cents, it depends on which facilities are operating," Foreman said. "Is it going to be a Gulfstream Park situation or a Delaware Park situation?"

Gulfstream Park in South Florida has struggled with its on-track slots operation, with a daily win-per-machine of about \$70. Delaware Park, on the other hand, has had much stronger play at its gaming machines.

Though all Maryland tracks wouldn't have slots, they all would share in purse revenue under a pari-mutuel formula that awards Thoroughbred racing 80% and Standardbred racing 20%. Raffetto said the Thoroughbred breed development program would get 11% of the total awarded to Thoroughbred purses, leaving regular purses with 89%.

"It's the first step," Raffetto said of authorization of a slots vote. "We're trying to be positive. It's the first time in a long while I'm optimistic about the future of Maryland racing and the Preakness Stakes (gr. I). At least this gives us a fighting chance to maintain Maryland's racing history and heritage."

"It was the only way to break the logjam," Foreman said of the slots stalemate that has lingered in the legislature for years. "It's not an understatement to say the fate and future of Maryland racing and the fate of the Preakness will rest with the voters next November."

There have been inferences over the years the Preakness, second leg of the Triple Crown, would be in jeopardy and probably moved out of the state should Maryland racing get no relief.

"Everybody has a different view of how it will play out," Foreman said. "The anti-slots organizations are very well organized, and there are differing views on what the casino industry will do. But I think the message of the horse industry is going to be very simple: It rises or falls on a nay or yea vote.

"It's unrealistic for the Maryland racing industry to be able to survive in its current form if the referendum fails."

The once year-round circuit in Maryland is down to about 180 days this year, and in the absence of state assistance, there could be about 140 racing days in 2008 in an attempt to conserve purse money. Also, officials wonder how long owner Magna Entertainment Corp. will be willing to keep three facilities--Laurel, Pimlico, and the Bowie Training Center--open year-round for training.

*Source: The Blood-Horse, Tom LaMarra, November 20, 2007*

---

### **MJC continues to slash stakes schedule**

The Maryland Jockey Club on Tuesday continued to cut into its already heavily diminished stakes schedule, announcing the elimination of the \$50,000 Horatius Stakes, a six-furlong sprint for three-year-olds, and the \$50,000 Smart Halo, a six-furlong race for three-year-old fillies, at the monthly meeting of the Maryland Racing Commission at Laurel Park.

The cuts were made as the MJC and Maryland horsemen continue to try and balance the purse fund account, which faced a \$3-million deficit last year.

"We had to," Laurel Park racing secretary Georganne Hale said at the meeting. "That way we have only one stake each Saturday."

The MJC also reduced the value of the Conniver Stakes, a seven-furlong sprint for Maryland-bred fillies and mares, from \$75,000 to \$60,000.

Also at the meeting, it was announced that the Maryland Horse Breeders Association would add \$20,000 to the purses of 14 scheduled stakes races during the winter meeting.

The MJC last June slashed purses in maiden, claiming and allowance races by \$2,000 per race, reeling from the intense pressure of racetracks in neighboring Delaware, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania that have slot machines. In July, it dropped 11 stakes races from the Laurel Park fall meet and cut the value of others to save \$995,000.

Hale also made other changes to the stakes schedule. The \$70,000 Dancing Count Stakes, a six-furlong sprint for three-year-olds normally run on New Year's Day, has been moved to February 2. Seeking to create a progression in distances for the three-year-olds, Hale also cut back the \$70,000 Miracle Wood Stakes, run on March 1, from one mile to seven furlongs. That race will lead into the \$80,000 Private Terms, run at one mile on March 22.

In all, Laurel will offer 17 stakes races at the winter meet, highlighted by the \$300,000 Barbara Fritchie Breeders' Cup Handicap (G2) on February 16 for fillies and mares running seven furlongs, and the companion \$300,000 General George Breeders' Cup Handicap (G2) for colts two days later. They are the only graded stakes run during the winter meet.

The racing commission adopted a new rule for workouts, which states: "A horse which has never raced or has not started for a period of 30 days or more may not be permitted to start unless it has a published workout at a distance acceptable to the stewards within 20 days of starting. If a horse worked, but through no fault of the trainer the workout does not appear in the past performances, the horse shall be permitted to race and the correct workout and date announced on the public address system."

John Franzone, chairman of the Maryland Racing Commission, said the new rule does not go nearly far enough to ensure the integrity of workouts, but a lack of money prevents proper monitoring.

"I want to put an electronic device on every horse's halter to get an accurate time," Franzone said. "The equipment's available. It's easily doable. But, basically, it's the expense. If we can get some funding this is definitely something we want to do."

Franzone said he hoped the money would become available if the slot machine referendum going before the public next November is passed.

The commission also said that racing states in the Mid-Atlantic region had agreed that by early next spring, they would enforce the banning of the use of steroids in race horses. The bans, however, would be based on threshold levels, which are still being determined.

*Source: Thoroughbred-Times, John Scheinman*

---

## **Stewards give Valenzuela three-day suspension**

Hollywood Park stewards gave jockey Patrick Valenzuela a three-day suspension for careless riding on Fast Parade in the \$150,000 Hollywood Turf Express Handicap (G3) on Saturday.

Grade 2 winner Fast Parade drifted out badly under left-handed urging from Valenzuela in the stretch, and interfered with six challengers. Fast Parade finished sixth after setting the pace, but was disqualified and placed last in the nine-horse field. Unusual Suspect, who was unimpeded by Fast Parade, rallied from last to first to win the six-furlong turf race.

Stewards ruled Valenzuela failed to make a proper effort to maintain a straight course aboard Fast Parade. Valenzuela is to serve the suspension on December 2, 5, and 6.

Valenzuela rode in California for the first time in nearly a year on November 17 at Hollywood Park after the 45-year-old completed the paperwork for a conditional license with the board of stewards at Hollywood Park.

Valenzuela, who has won 15 riding titles in Southern California since 1986, suffered broken ribs when kicked by his mount in the walking ring before a race at Hollywood on November 26, 2006. He subsequently underwent knee surgery for a lingering injury and received clearance from his doctor to begin riding again on October 20.

Valenzuela launched his comeback on November 3 at Zia Park in New Mexico.

*Source: Thoroughbred Times, November 25, 2007*

---

### **All Breeders Crown horses negative**

The New Jersey Racing Commission has informed The Meadowlands and the Hambletonian Society that all blood tests of horses entered in the eight Breeders Crown races Saturday were negative.

Compliance with the NJRC and the Hambletonian Society's out-of-competition testing rules were a condition of entry in the Breeders Crown races. All blood samples that were drawn were quickly processed at the New Jersey Equine Testing Laboratory.

The NJRC recently approved regulations to conduct out-of-competition testing for blood doping agents such as EPO (epogen) and DPO (darboepoetin) in racehorses competing at New Jersey racetracks. They were applied during the Breeder's Cup World Championships, raced in October at Monmouth Park. The Breeders Crown events are first time the out-of-competition rules were applied to harness horses.

The Breeders Crown out-of-competition rules -- as specified in the racing conditions -- were used for the first time in September at Mohawk Raceway, in co-operation with the host track, Woodbine Entertainment Group.

The Society is a supporter of the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium.

### **Breeders Crown Purses Hit All-Time High**

The Breeders Crown, harness racing's year-end championship series, will pay out more than \$7 million in purses in 2007, the highest amount since the series inception in 1984.

The four open events, raced at Mohawk Racetrack on Labor Day, were worth a total of \$1.9 million.

The eight freshman and sophomore races combine for a total of just over \$5 million.

All two-year-old races were guaranteed at \$650,000 this year for the first time in their 23-year history.

*Source: HarnessLink.com, November 24, 2007*

---

## HPC breach appeals adjourned in Tas



EIGHT appeals lodged by interstate and local harness trainers against alleged breaches of the rules pertaining to the prohibited substance hydroxyprogesterone caproate (HPC) have been adjourned.

The appeals relate to charges laid over a period of three weeks in March-April during the V75 Tasmanian Harness Racing Carnival and involved 10 horses including Easter Cup and metropolitan Cup winner Flaming Roadstar, prepared by Dean Braun in Victoria and

John "Bulldog" Nicholson's Easter Cup runner-up Mi Coconut and her stablemate Landscape that won the feature 2YO race on Easter Cup night.

The Chairman of the Tasmanian Racing Appeal Board, Mr Robert Pearce, yesterday adjourned the hearing of the eight appeals lodged with the Board owing to the unavailability of a key witness.

"The adjournment was granted as a result of an application by lawyers for the appellants when it became apparent that one of the expert witnesses to be called was not able to attend the hearing," Mr. Pearce said.

In granting the adjournment, Mr. Pearce said he was "mindful of the industry's expectation that matters of such significance should be promptly resolved. However, this expectation must be balanced with doing justice to all parties concerned."

"The fair conduct of the proceedings requires that the appellants not be denied the opportunity to present the evidence they require to support their case," he said.

It is anticipated that the hearing of the appeals will now take place in mid-December 2007.

*Source: HarnessLink.com, Peter Staples*



championship series.

## 2007 Van Lennep Award to RMTC

Since 1987, the Breeders Crown committee of the Hambletonian Society has selected individuals and organizations to honour with the Frederick L. Van Lennep Memorial Achievement Award.

The late Van Lennep was a visionary figure in the industry, as well as a vital advocate in the advancement and promotion of harness racing. He was a seminal influence in the creation of the Breeders Crown and one of the biggest proponents of the divisional

In 2007, the award will recognise the efforts of the Racing Medication & Testing Consortium (RMTC).

Headed by Dr. Scot Waterman, DVM, the consortium assumed as their mission the development, promotion and coordination - at the national level - of policies, research, and educational programs which seek to ensure the fairness and integrity of racing and the health and welfare of racehorses and participants, and protect the interests of the betting public.

The consortium was formed in 2002 and now comprises more than 23 stakeholders in the horse racing industry, including those representing Standardbred, Thoroughbred and Quarter horse interests.

Governed by a board of directors, the organization has made slow but methodical headway in tackling the Gordian Knot of standardising racing rules for all breeds in all aspects of medication in horse racing, including race-day medications, penalties, testing and prohibited practices in the 38 horse racing states across North America.

According to Waterman:

"The racing commissions of 32 states have adopted or are in the process of adopting the model rules and no state has indicated to the RMTC that it does not wish to participate. The process for adopting rules varies from state to state and can be quite lengthy, depending on the number of steps a state must go through to adopt rules of any sort."

The RMTC also funds a research program totaling over \$600,000, has published withdrawal times for legitimate therapeutic medications and has developed model rules and testing procedures for regulating anabolic steroids and illegal use of buffering agents, commonly known as "milkshaking."

They have worked with the investigatory agencies in racing and helped coordinate the Big Event security team for major racing events.

"On behalf of the staff and RMTC Board of Directors, we are greatly honored and humbled by receiving the Van Lennep Award," said Dan Fick Executive Vice President & Executive Director of The Jockey Club, as well as CEO of the RTMTC.

"Fred Van Lennep was a visionary and a great leader in the horse industry, not just racing and Standardbreds. We at RMTC will try to continually emulate all of the highest principles associated with this award."

Aside from fostering the Breeders Crown program, Van Lennep and his first wife Frances Dodge built Castleton Farms into one of the premier breeding and racing operations of the era.

Van Lennep was also an avid amateur driver, on the board of the Tattersalls Sales Company, a racetrack owner, U.S.T.A. director, HTA director and considered the father of Florida's pari-mutuel racing.

Additionally, Van Lennep helped create the American Horse Council and the Gluck Equine Research Center. He was a leader and tireless promoter of the sport he loved, and the award that bears his name is a tremendous reflection on those who earn it.

## **They're hot to trot in South Africa**

South Africa, universally known as the 'Rainbow Nation' and one of the world's wealthiest and most forward thinking republics, will become a member of the world trotting family soon.

Respected in thoroughbred circles for more than half a century, South Africa is aiming to conduct licensed trotting meetings as early as the second quarter of 2008.

Currently, informal race meetings are held at hundreds of rural 'bush tracks' at the trot, triple and pace with horses that are descendants of those left over by British cavalry troops at the end of the Anglo-Boer War.

These feral horses are owned mainly by an emerging middle class of black South Africans.

The Harness Racing Association of South Africa, a legally constituted and fully licensed body with 630 members, is the driving force in establishing the fledgling sport in the southernmost tip of the 'Dark Continent'.

Under the leadership of Dean Latimer, a practical horse person and who studied horse racing administration in New York, the Association has worked tirelessly to develop the complementarities and similarities between the two racing codes for the betterment of both.

"We are entering the exciting home straight phase, but there is still a lot of work to be done," Latimer said.

And, for the first time, harness racing is receiving strong support of the South African government. Initially, it is planned to hold trotting races as add-ons to thoroughbred meetings in Durban and later in Capetown.

Races will be worth approx. \$A4000 each.

Gold Circle, one of the country's leading racing operators, is committed to host the KZN Premier's Harness Challenge, the first planned series of professional trotting races in South Africa.

Competition will be open to professional and licensed amateurs both black and whites.

Racing will be conducted under the rules of the Australian Harness Racing Council, and, unlike Europe, both pacing and trotting will be accommodated.

A pool of standardbred horses from Australia and New Zealand and European warm blood trotters are currently being sourced and dedicated harness racing tracks – inside existing galloping courses – are being surveyed for construction.

Scottsville, an historic and charming thoroughbred track in Pietermaritzburg, will be the first to house a 1000 metre hard-surface trotting track on the infield.

Development clinics and workshops have been conducted throughout the country over the past 12 months and HRASA has been fortunate to receive the assistance of overseas drivers and trainers.

Ace Swedish reinsman Johnny B. Karlsson was enthusiastic after his last visit to South Africa in November 2006. "The equine passion is there...all they need is people with standardbred experience," Karlsson said.

The Swedish Trotting Association has donated 37 racing bikes and jog carts to the new body.

"We are committed to the creation of a sustainable and responsible trotting industry, but we will need the support of the established trotting nations," Latimer said.

*Source: HarnessLink.com, Peter Wharton*

---



### **Brett Miller suspended for one year**

In a settlement reached with the Ohio State Racing Commission, driver Brett Miller will be suspended until August, 2008.

Harnessracing.com has reported that the career winner of over 4,400 races has agreed on the one-year suspension for what the OSRC has referred to as "a result of three separate occasions wherein Mr. Miller tested positive for drugs of abuse."

In addition to the suspension, Miller will also have to pay a \$1,000 fine and hearing costs associated with the case.

The 34-year-old Columbus, Ohio resident will also have to complete a rehabilitation program and pay for any costs associated with his human testing.

Miller has been suspended since August 8, 2007.

(With files from harnessracing.com)

*Source: Courtesy of Standardbred Canada, HarnessLink.com*

---

### **Dog advocates try again for ban on greyhound racing**

BOSTON --Dog-racing opponents narrowly lost seven years ago when they tried to end greyhound racing in Massachusetts. They made a tactical error in 2006.

Now, they're at it again.

"Third time's a charm," said Kara Holmquist, spokeswoman for the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

That remains to be seen, of course, but advocates are confident voters will agree to shut down Massachusetts' 72-year-old greyhound racing industry. The Committee to Protect Dogs this past week submitted enough signatures to put the question on the statewide ballot in November 2008.

Massachusetts is among 16 states that allow dog racing, and its two dog tracks, Raynham-Taunton Greyhound Park and Wonderland Greyhound Park in Revere, have fought off previous ballot efforts that threatened to put them out of business.

Dog-racing opponents say greyhounds are confined to small cages for long periods and during races risk serious injuries such as broken legs and heart attacks. They argue the health of dogs should outweigh the entertainment value of racing.

They collected state data from the two tracks showing that since 2002, there have been 728 greyhound injuries, 80 percent of which were broken bones. A greyhound named Starz Voice was euthanized after a June 25 elbow fracture at Raynham Park, for example.

"It's time to stop this cruelty to dogs," said Wayne Pacelle, president and chief executive of the Humane Society of the United States, which is among the groups supporting the initiative.

The Humane Society of the United States contributed \$100,000 to the ballot committee last month, Pacelle said. That's far more than what the organization spent in Massachusetts in the past, he said.

Track owners, who deny allegations of abuse, defeated ballot bids in 2000 and in 2006. Seven years ago, the ballot question to ban greyhound racing was defeated by a margin of 48.6 percent to 46.7 percent.

Last year, Raynham Park owner George Carney argued that the ballot question didn't pass constitutional muster. The state's highest court agreed, keeping the question off the 2006 ballot. The Supreme Judicial Court ruled that it was unfair to voters to combine the dog-racing proposal with measures to expand criminal penalties for dog fighting and the neglect or abuse of dogs.

Carney, Raynham Park manager Gary Temple, and Wonderland general manager Richard Dalton did not return several calls each to comment.

State Rep. David Flynn, D-Bridgewater, has argued that closing the dog tracks would have a huge economic impact in the state. The Raynham track provides 600 jobs and is the largest private employer in his district. Wonderland employs another 600 people.

"It would be an awful blow," said Flynn spokesman Tim Taylor. "Most of these jobs carry insurance. They're jobs that can't be replicated."

The greyhound racing fan base is dwindling, all sides agree. The tracks have been looking for revenue through expanded gambling, lobbying unsuccessfully for legislative approval to install thousands of slot machines to boost revenue.

Wonderland had a 46 percent gross revenue decline in live betting from 2005 to 2006.

At Raynham, the total wagered on live racing fell from \$39 million in 2004 to \$27 million last year. Betting on races simulcast to Raynham from out-of-state tracks also fell from \$72 million in 2004 to \$59 million last year, according to the state Racing Commission.

Both tracks have signaled that they want to build a resort casino, if lawmakers approve Gov. Deval Patrick's casino legislation.

Weakened tracks could be beneficial to other entities seeking a Massachusetts casino license, but the ballot committee says it's not interested in taking donations from gambling interests.

"We're planning to appeal to the humane community," said Christine Dorchak, co-chairperson of the Committee to Protect Dogs. "We have no intention of accepting gambling (interests') money, and it hasn't come up. That's not an issue we've talked about."

They hope to raise about \$1 million, said Dorchak, who also heads the greyhound group Grey 2K USA.

*Source: Ken Maguire, Associated Press Writer, November 25, 2007*

---

### **Ky. legislators to study expanded gaming**

A group of Kentucky Representatives appointed to study issues related to expanded gaming in the Bluegrass State includes several from areas that include racetracks or are near tracks.

House Speaker Jody Richards (D-Bowling Green) on Tuesday appointed the 15-member working group to discuss and study issues related to expanded gaming in Kentucky.

The formation of the group follows this month's election of Steve Beshear as the state's new governor. Beshear, a Democrat, favors allowing state voters to consider adding casino-type gaming at the state's racetracks and other select sites. If such a plan comes before the voters, Beshear promised to back such a plan. Outgoing Governor Ernie Fletcher, a Republican, opposed casinos.

"The 2007 gubernatorial election focused on allowing voters to decide the issue of expanded gaming," Richards said. "It is judicious for us to begin gathering as much information as possible on the subject, including studying how other states have approached the issue."

Two Representatives from Louisville, home of Churchill Downs, will head the group in Chairwoman Joni Jenkins (D-Louisville) and Vice Chairman Darryl Owens (D-Louisville). Other Louisville Representatives named to the working group include Larry Clark (D-Louisville) and Tim Firkins (D-Louisville). Turfway Park is in the district of Sal Santoro ((R-Florence), who also was named to the committee.

Santoro opposes adding gaming in Kentucky but plans to listen to his constituents on the issue. Turfway hopes to add a \$250-million casino if the state allows added gaming at racetracks.

"I'm still personally opposed to gambling, but I'm going to listen to what my constituents have to say," Santoro told the Cincinnati Enquirer. "I'm their watchdog; they're my special-interest group."

Other representatives on the committee are Mike Cherry (D-Princeton), Leslie Combs (D-Pikeville), James Comer (R-Tompkinsville), Charlie Hoffman (D-Georgetown), Harry Moberly (D-Richmond), David Osborne (R-Prospect), Carl Rollins (D-Midway), Arnold Simpson (D-Covington), John Will Stacy (D-West Liberty), and Tommy Thompson (D-Philpot).

Richards said the group, which will be staffed by the Speaker's office, will work closely with the Beshear administration when it begins meeting after the Thanksgiving holiday.

*Source: Thoroughbred Times, Frank Angst, November 20, 2007*

---

### **Financial crisis could shut down NYC OTB**

The New York City Off-Track Betting Corp. may be forced to shut down operations because of a financial crisis within the organization, one in which the city will not be able to bail out, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said on Thursday.

According to Bloomberg, the city's priorities include more funding for education, health care, infrastructure improvements, and public safety instead of gambling.

"I have always had reservations about city government being involved in gambling," Bloomberg said on Thursday. "But it is entirely wrong for the city to lose taxpayer money funding such a questionable endeavor."

"Years of state legislative schemes that favored racing interests over NYC OTB, at the expense of essential city services, have forced the city into a financially untenable situation in which city taxpayers are, in effect, asked to subsidize the state racing industry."

"Right now in Albany, the future of racing in this state is being decided, and the future of NYC OTB should be a part of that conversation. The OTB chairman and president agree with me that unless something changes, these circumstances point to only one course of action—the cessation of NYC OTB's wagering operations."

"Anyone who knows Mike Bloomberg knows he doesn't kid around," Catskill OTB President Donald Groth said.

Groth reiterated the need for state leaders to delay making a Thoroughbred franchise decision and conduct an in-depth study of all racing and gaming public policy issues.

Groth said NYRA should get a temporary two-year extension on its current franchise, giving state leaders time to resolve everything related to racing in New York.

Many observers already are nervous about the prospects of a racing shutdown if the state cannot reach an agreement by December 31, when NYRA's franchise expires.

Bloomberg's decision, if it is carried out, could rock racing to its core in New York and perhaps throughout the country.

"It would be a tragic event for racing," Groth said. "We are the distribution system for the [racing] product. A resolution can't be imposed by the mayor, or by the governor. It needs to be talked about. Hopefully, the state legislature would begin to listen."

Bloomberg said a review of NYC OTB's budgetary projections for the next fiscal year show that the corporation could run out of money by June 2008. The situation led OTB President Raymond Casey to come up with a plan to shut down wagering operations, including the closure of branches, which will be presented to the organization's board of directors.

"I agree with Mayor Bloomberg that NYC OTB cannot expect the city, particularly in tenuous economic times, to subsidize the operations of the corporation," NYC OTB board chairman David Cornstein said. "I will review the plan presented by President Casey and, along with the other board members, will determine the appropriate course of action."

According to a release from the city, NYC OTB brings in more than \$1-billion annually in wagers and generates an annual operating profit of approximately \$125-million. However, legislative mandates have forced NYC OTB to make significant and increasing distributions to the racing industry—with the amount of these distributions based not on NYC OTB's profits but on gross revenues.

Since 2001, additional requirements that have negatively impacted NYC OTB have included a reduction in revenue by \$5-million annually through caps on customer charges, the imposition of \$5-million in new, annual regulatory fees and the requirement to continue to pay fees to harness tracks, the release said.

As a result, NYC OTB paid the racing industry approximately \$98-million last year, of which \$54-million went to the New York Racing Association, according to the release.

Bloomberg has asked that the proposed shutdown take into account NYC OTB's approximately 1,500 employees, whose jobs would be threatened. Potential options could include severance packages funded by NYC OTB or the reassignment of employees into the city's workforce.

*Source: Thoroughbred Times*

---

### **Shorter Retama meeting leads to increases**

All sources wagering increased 25.3% compared to last year at Retama Park, which concluded its meeting November 17.

Average daily live wagering increased 37.7% to \$105,709, while off-track wagering increased 23.8% to \$781,661.

Officials at the Selma, Texas, track reduced their meeting from 51 days last year to 32 in 2007. Chief Executive Officer Bryan Brown believes the shorter meeting had a positive impact.

"We think it was very helpful, because it allowed us to increase our purses to well over \$100,000 a day, which allowed us to attract better horses, trainers, and jockeys," Brown said. "I think the betting public reacted positively to the higher quality."

Eguard Tejera won the riding title with 50 wins from 234 mounts, with earnings of \$547,470. Danny Pish scored his ninth training title with 40 wins and earnings of \$465,981 from 189 starters. Tbd Owners LLC was leading owner with 11 wins and \$93,395 in purse money.

Average daily attendance increased 10.8% to 2,437.

"We are constantly working towards improving our racing product, and the quality of our fan's entertainment experience," Brown said. "It is extremely gratifying to have the fans voice their approval via the outstanding results."

Brown said the wagering increases of this year should allow Retama to add three days to the meeting next year while maintaining 2007 purse levels.

Retama serves as a year-round simulcast facility and operates a Quarter Horse meeting April through June.

*Source: Thoroughbred Times, Pete Denk, November 21, 2007*

---

## **Churchill drops test policy**

Churchill Downs has dropped its recently announced policy of reserving the right to test horses who management had suspected were scratched for inappropriate reasons.

Churchill's general manager, Jim Gates, said Nov. 4 that the track sought to report trainers or veterinarians to the stewards when blood-testing evidence was found to expose bogus scratches, but the chief steward, John Veitch, said this week that he had no authority to act on those reports.

Horsemen's representatives had openly bristled at the concept, saying it called into question the integrity of trainers and veterinarians.

Gates had conceded that scratches were more problematic at Churchill in the spring than in the fall, when field size generally is well above the national norm and largely unaffected by scratches.

Gates said there were no plans to implement the testing of scratched horses at Calder or Fair Grounds, other tracks owned by Churchill Downs Inc.

## **Guild offers industry leaders status update**

With its bankruptcy case in court, Jockeys' Guild leaders updated the group's status for Thoroughbred industry officials in a Tuesday meeting in its Nicholasville, Kentucky offices.

Jockeys' Guild National Manager Terry Meyocks said the 3 1/2-hour meeting went very well as 17 industry leaders attended and another five participated via teleconference. Joining Meyocks, who took over Guild management in September, were Guild Chairman John Velazquez and Robby Albarado, a member of the Guild Senate.

"I think it went well," Meyocks said. "All of the industry leaders were represented and we were able to talk about many of the issues facing the Guild."

Participants included National Thoroughbred Racing Association Chief Executive Officer Alex Waldrop and officials from the Jockey Club, the Association of Racing Commissioners International, the Thoroughbred Racing Associations, the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association, and the American Quarter Horse Association, among others.

Meyocks said the Guild is seeking ways to increase revenue for its members, the organization, and, in turn, for racetracks and horsemen.

The Guild filed for a Chapter 11 reorganization plan on October 12 in Louisville in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Kentucky.

*Source: Thoroughbred Times, Frank Angst*

---

## **Commentary: One Small Step**

It was an item that didn't draw many headlines. But, as Neil Armstrong so eloquently said about one small step, it can lead to a giant leap. In a similar vein, this announcement is the type that could signal cooperation that could lead to meaningful change.

The key word, of course, being "could."

Still, the fact officials from New York, Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania gathered to discuss working together on issues, while not as dramatic as the first step on the moon, has taken longer to achieve and, if in fact anything does come from the meeting, will mean more to the Thoroughbred industry than Armstrong's footprint has meant to most Americans.

Consider this: On July 29, Saratoga ran the Jim Dandy Stakes (gr. II) for 3-year-olds going nine furlongs with a purse of \$500,000 guaranteed; on Aug. 4, Mountaineer ran the West Virginia Derby (gr. III) for 3-

year-olds going nine furlongs with a purse of \$750,000 guaranteed; and on Aug. 5, Monmouth ran the Haskell Invitational (gr. I) for 3-year-olds going nine furlongs with a purse of \$1 million guaranteed.

The scheduling of races is just one of many issues tracks in a region should regularly sit down to discuss, though it certainly is one of the most important. It doesn't take a genius to see that three races in a week's time for the same horses make little sense. It did make sense 30 years ago, when there was no such thing as simulcasting. Attracting the right horses to your race helped your handle, which was all on-track. It didn't matter what was happening 60 miles or 600 miles away. But we are in a different era now.

Today, roughly 85% of the dollars wagered on races are placed off-track at simulcast sites, through phone accounts, or by clicking a button on an Internet site. The game has changed, but most tracks and their mindsets have not.

Prior to simulcasting, a horse player handicapped one track, attended the live races, and wagered on the card. Options are plentiful in 2007, and track officials, rather than being parochial, can capitalize on this. There is nothing wrong with marketing another track's marquee race. Many tracks throughout the country promote the Kentucky Derby (gr. I), so why shouldn't tracks throughout the East Coast promote the Travers (gr. I) or Haskell?

How many handicappers would be engaged by a Pick Six that encompassed races at six different tracks?

What if track officials in every state in a region sat down to see if they could collectively save money by purchasing televisions through a common supplier, or agreed to serve a certain brand of soft drink or beer, thus cutting a better rate with distributors?

For decades, there has been discussion of uniform medication rules and testing methods. If it can't happen nationally, perhaps regionally is at least a start. With horses regularly shipping from state to state on the East Coast, it makes sense that a horseman could treat his horses without worrying which state he might ship to for the runner's next start.

Competition is a good thing; it certainly drives people to perform better. But in many instances, even those in competition can come together when it not only serves all their interests, but also helps to better serve the industry of which they are all a part.

That a meeting took place among officials from some tracks in New York, Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania is a step in the right direction. They should meet again, and add officials from Maryland, West Virginia, and Massachusetts.

Just imagine, tracks actually working together for the betterment of each other.

This is a small step; no spaceship required.

Source: The Blood-Horse, Dan Liebman, November 13, 2007

---

## **Tribe strikes deal to expand gaming: But the Legislature and others oppose the governor's arrangement.**

TALLAHASSEE - Calling it a "very historic day for Florida," Gov. Charlie Crist agreed Wednesday to let the Seminole Tribe of Florida operate casino card games now banned in the state and slot machines at seven sites, including the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Tampa.

The 25-year deal gives the tribe exclusive rights statewide to offer games such as blackjack and baccarat and the only Las Vegas-style slots outside of South Florida. In return, the state will receive a cut of at least \$100-million in the first year with the chance to make much more as the tribe's casino business grows.

The agreement was announced on a day when state experts predicted a dire \$1.4-billion shortfall in 2008, the second straight year of billion-dollar deficits. It also came on the eve of a deadline set by the U.S. Interior Department for the state and tribe to wrap up a deal.

Federal officials threatened to unilaterally allow expanded gambling on Seminole reservations unless the two sides signed an agreement, called a compact, today. If that happened, Crist said, the state would get no money and have no regulatory control over the casinos.

"I believe it would be irresponsible to allow that to happen," he said at a news conference in the Capitol. "That is a gamble I am not willing to take."

### **Fight looms large**

It's too early to know when the new games might start, said James Allen, chief executive of the tribe's gaming operations. Interior Department officials have 45 days to approve or reject the deal, and opponents in the Legislature and competing parimutuel business pledged to fight it.

The compact doesn't provide approval by the Legislature, even though Crist said for months that legislative ratification was his preference. That surely sets up a clash with House Speaker Marco Rubio, a gambling opponent who has a legal opinion that any compact is subject to lawmakers' approval.

Rubio's legal adviser on gambling, University of Florida law professor Jon Mills, says legislative approval is required because table games permitted in the compact are illegal under Florida law.

The state's horse and greyhound tracks and jai alai frontons complain that giving the Seminoles exclusive rights to card games and slots could drive them out of business. If Crist gave parimutuels the same deal as the tribe, the state's annual take would be \$1-billion or more, said Richard Winning, vice president of Derby Lane in St. Petersburg, the state's longest-running greyhound track.

"I think the governor sold the state out cheap, like trinkets for Manhattan to the Indians," he said Wednesday. "Only we did it in reverse."

A gambling expert in the Legislature agreed.

"Crist was terribly misguided," said Senate Minority Leader Steve Geller, D-Cooper City. "Not only does the state of Florida end up with the short end of the financial stick, but for the first time in the state's history, a governor has bypassed the Legislature for approval on a compact."

Attorney General Bill McCollum said federal threats were meaningless because the government has no power to force a state to sign a compact. He said table games would attract crime and threaten the state's image as a family tourist destination.

"I think it will create more criminal behavior. It always does," McCollum said.

Crist recommended that the state's share of the money be spent mostly for education - but he can't mandate that without usurping the Legislature's power of the purse. So while Crist touts the deal as having the potential to provide "billions" to schools, nothing in the compact requires that.

"Gov. Crist, you are a good friend of the Seminole Tribe," said tribal chairman Mitchell Cypress, who signed the deal in the governor's office, ending months of negotiations.

For the past 16 years, Crist's two predecessors, Republican Jeb Bush and Democrat Lawton Chiles, managed to keep the federal government at bay. For six of those years, Bush's brother, George W. Bush, was in the White House.

"It occurs to me that it's the right thing to do," Crist said. "If we don't do it, the federal government will do it anyway and we get zero."

### **Millions for the state**

From more than \$1-billion in revenue from slots, baccarat and blackjack, the state would get \$50-million when the federal government ratifies the compact and at least \$100-million in the first full year of operations.

The take would grow to a minimum of \$125-million in the second year. After that, a sliding scale kicks in, starting at 10 percent of revenues up to \$2-billion and going up to 25 percent if they exceed \$4.5-billion a year.

The tribe projects that as operations ramp up, Florida could reap in the neighborhood of \$230-million in the third year and \$400-million in the fourth year, said Allen, the chief gaming officer.

Seminole officials have already planned a 24-story resort with 1,500 hotel rooms at their casino in Coconut Creek. The compact could mean expansions in Tampa, Hollywood and Immokalee as well. The tribe expects to more than double its Florida hotel and casino payroll, from 7,000 to 17,000, in three or four years, Allen said.

"As we add more, we can market them not just as a local destinations, but nationally and internationally," he said.

But under the compact, if the Legislature approves video lottery terminals outside Miami-Dade and Broward, the tribe is not required to give the state any money. Crist called that a huge disincentive to expand gambling to other areas.

Crist dismissed the notion that the compact violates a campaign pledge he made last year to oppose expansion of gambling in Florida, and he said he did not see any need for a big debate in the Legislature.

"I don't think a vigorous debate is necessary," Crist said. "If people don't like gambling, they shouldn't go."

### **Gambling destination?**

At the Tampa Hard Rock on Wednesday, Jane Laffer of Valrico said relaxing restrictions to allow real slots and blackjack could make casinos more popular to tourists. "People don't see this type of gambling as a destination," said Laffer, 60. "If the payoffs were better, people would really come here."

Across Tampa Bay, the few patrons at Derby Lane who had heard about the gaming deal wondered what it meant for the track that opened in 1925 and attracted celebrities like Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig.

"The casino wiped out the Tampa track, and you've got to figure it's going to happen here now," said Paul Anderson, 38, of Oldsmar after spending a few hours betting on the greyhounds. "But if that's what the people want, you have to do what's best for everybody."

Times staff writers Alex Leary, Jacob Fries and Kevin Graham contributed to this report. Steve Bousquet can be reached at [bousquet@sptimes.com](mailto:bousquet@sptimes.com) or (850) 224-7263.

*Source: Times, Steve Bousquet, Steve Huettel, November 15, 2007*

## **Job Posting: Idaho State Government**

### **Idaho State Racing Commission**

**Executive Director:** Non-Classified Classification

Open for Recruitment: November 19, 2007 - January 19, 2008

Announcement # NONCLS055202

Salary Range: \$55,000 to \$65,000 annually [-Plus Competitive Benefits!](#)

Location(s): Meridian

**SPECIAL NOTIFICATION:** This position is exempt from classified state service and the rules of the Division of Human Resources and the Idaho Personnel Commission.

Please Note: [The successful applicant will be required to complete a background investigation and polygraph examination, which includes drug screening. Please see the Idaho State Police Drug Policy at the end of this announcement.](#)



The Commission's primary objective is to maintain the integrity of horse racing and simulcasting in Idaho.

The executive director of the Racing Commission is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Director of the Idaho State Police. The executive director performs administrative duties related to licensing and regulating the pari-mutuel racing industry in Idaho. The executive director is an administrative position, which carries out the policies of the Commission. The executive director represents the full authority of the racing Commission while executing official duties, but he/she cannot alter rules or regulations or judgments of the Board of stewards. These actions and other policy decisions are reserved for the Racing Commissioners.

Responsibilities Include:

- Recruits, trains, and evaluates the performance of office staff and track officials
- Prepares and administers the operating budget
- Accounts for all monies received by the Commission according to Idaho law
- Authorizes payment of all approved claims
- Prepares for the Commission members a monthly analysis of all financial transactions
- Informs the Commission of any actions initiated against the Commission
- Keeps the Commission informed of any incident or activity that may impact the racing industry
- Reviews the daily state stewards' reports
- Compiles and maintains all records and proceedings for the Commission
- Drafts proposed law and rule changes of the Commission
- Interprets laws and rules
- Establishes working relationships with the Commission members, legislators, licensees, staff and the public.

The successful candidate must have:

- Considerable knowledge of:
  - Principles and practices of management
  - Preparing budgets
  - Generally accepted governmental accounting practices.
- Substantial knowledge of the pari-mutuel racing industry and the administration and mechanics of conducting race meets.
- Abilities to:
  - Establish and maintain effective working relationships with the Commission members, legislators, licensees, staff and the public
  - Communicate effectively orally and in writing
  - Maintain a financial accounting system
  - Prepare financial reports
  - Interpret laws and rules
  - Supervise subordinate staff
  - Develop, coordinate and deliver training to race track officials

To Submit Your Application:

Qualified individuals should submit a cover letter of interest and a detailed resume with references to the Idaho State Police Human Resource Office no later than the closing date on this announcement by one of the following methods:

E-mail: [joe.tueller@isp.idaho.gov](mailto:joe.tueller@isp.idaho.gov)

Fax: (208) 884-7087

Mail:

Human Resources  
Idaho State Police  
700 South Stratford  
Meridian, ID 83680-0700

For the complete listing for this position please visit:

[http://dhr.idaho.gov/dhrapp/stateJobs/jobannouncement.aspx?announcement\\_no=NONCLSo55202](http://dhr.idaho.gov/dhrapp/stateJobs/jobannouncement.aspx?announcement_no=NONCLSo55202)

**THANK YOU 2007 RCI ASSOCIATE MEMBERS!**

The RCI salutes and extends our appreciation to the following Racing Organizations who have demonstrated the leadership to become a RCI ASSOCIATE MEMBER in 2007. Their generous and enthusiastic support is Greatly Appreciated.



If you are not yet an RCI Associate Member and would like to join leading industry organizations like those above please contact Eva Waters at RCI by calling (859) 224-7070. Take advantage of great value-added benefits and support the RCI in its work on behalf of integrity in racing and wagering.