



RCI Bulletin

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Preakness Nightmare: “Ooops! No Maryland License”

Could you imagine this year’s Preakness without Derby winner STREET SENSE and his trainer Carl Nafzger? As Jockey Calvin Borel was moving up along the rail on the ride of his life, not many fans knew that at that moment Carl Nafzger, who shepherded and prepared STREET SENSE for his stunning Derby win, was ineligible to race in Maryland, the home of Pimlico and the next hurdle to overcome on the path to the Triple Crown.

To some what might seem a problem was no problem at all because Carl Nafzger is a member of the National Racing Compact (NRC) and utilizes their national licensing service.

Nafzger’s office simply called the Compact to add Maryland as a state in which he would be licensed to participate. Within two days, all was in order for the Preakness and Trainer Nafzger’s main focus remained on James Tafel’s colt and not on chasing paperwork to ensure that he could participate in a state in which he had not yet to be licensed.

“The beauty of the National Racing Compact is that we can pre-certify trainers and owners and have them licensed in the jurisdictions in which they participate. We streamline the process of getting them licensed and run interference for them when they want to race in a new jurisdiction,” said Jenna McDonald, the Compact licensing clerk who handled the Nafzger license.

STREET SENSE is not the only horse positively affected by the NRC Program. Following the Derby, connections to CURLIN used the Compact to make sure all owners had the proper Maryland license.

In fact, connections to roughly half this year’s Preakness field utilize the National Racing Compact’s licensing service.

“We attempt to simplify the process of dealing with individual state racing commissions,” said Kevin Crum, administrator of the NRC, who noted that so far this year, the small Compact staff has handled over 3,500 individual state licenses at the request of its members. In 2006, the Compact handled 5,881 such requests.

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The Compact, which is a separate and quasi-governmental entity that operates from the Lexington offices of Racing Commissioners International (RCI), is tied directly into the FBI computers for the purposes of conducting background examinations of license applicants. Once an applicant has been certified for licensure, Compact member states and other participating jurisdictions recognize that review thereby eliminating delays in licensure waiting for individual background examinations to be completed.

“This program has tackled a daunting problem for those who participate in multiple jurisdictions,” said Ed Martin, President of Racing Commissioners International. “99% of the time it works well. Occasionally someone waits until the last minute to try to get licensed in a state and something goes awry in that state to prevent that from happening and a horse gets scratched. Those who take care of business and think ahead usually do not encounter a problem.”

Anyone interested in learning more about the National Racing Compact and the licensing service should call: 859-224-0584 or visit their website: www.racinglicense.com. *Source: Press Release*

Indiana Tracks Move Forward With Slots Plans

Indiana's two pari-mutuel horse tracks are both planning construction projects following the Legislature's decision to allow the addition of slot machines.

The Indiana Horse Racing Commission on Tuesday approved a request from Indiana Downs officials to spend \$300,000 for 27 acres as the site for new stables at the Shelby County track. Indiana Downs and Hoosier Park in Anderson both expect to also undertake construction projects to house the 2,000 slot machines permitted under the new state law.

“We've got architects and engineers and designers working on that, and we want to make sure that whatever we decide is the right decision,” Hoosier Park president Rick Moore said.

Officials from both tracks said they might house slot machines in temporary structures to generate revenue to offset the licensing fee and construction costs.

The new law signed by Gov. Mitch Daniels this month requires each track to pay the state \$250 million over the next two years to get the slot machines at their venues. It also requires the tracks to spend at least \$100 million to build the new casinos.

Joe Gorajec, executive director of the horse racing commission, said the allocation of some slot machine revenue toward race purses could boost them by up to \$60 million a year.

“Our racetracks already face the daunting task of funding the licensing fee and creating dedicated slot areas,” Gorajec said. “I'm sure the management at both tracks is up to the task.” *Source: The Bloodhorse*

Landry Named To Senior Position With NYRA

Gavin Landry has accepted the New York Racing Association's new management position of senior vice president of sales and marketing development.

Landry, who most recently served as president of the Saratoga Convention and Tourism Bureau since 1995, will begin his new position on July 2.

Landry will be in charge of developing, implementing, and overseeing all sales and customer service activities. He also will handle corporate sponsorships, licensing agreements, and vendor relationships.

“Gavin Landry brings to NYRA a thorough command of hospitality management and business development, which combined with his extensive knowledge of information and database technology, will enhance the racing fan experience and enable us to communicate more effectively with all industry stakeholders,” NYRA President Charles Hayward said. “I’m thrilled to welcome a person of his professional stature and look forward to the enthusiasm he will bring to the NYRA executive team.”

A racing enthusiast and Thoroughbred owner, Landry graduated from Cornell University’s School of Hotel and Restaurant Administration in 1986. He is on the boards of the Empire State Society of Association Executives, Leadership Saratoga Alumni Association, and the Education Committee of Destination Marketing Association International. *Source: Thoroughbred Times*

Ratings For Preakness Telecast Drop 5.2%

Street Sense becoming the first Breeders’ Cup Juvenile (G1) winner to capture the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (G1) did not translate into more viewers for the Preakness Stakes (G1) two weeks later.

The NBC telecast of the May 19 race from Pimlico Race Course attracted a 5.4 rating, a 5.2% decrease from last year and the lowest-rated Preakness since NBC began broadcasting the classic in 2001.

“It’s possible that viewers didn’t see Street Sense as the kind of dominant winner that Barbaro was in last year’s Derby, so there wasn’t the same kind of buzz about the horse,” said Alana Russo, manager of NBC Sports Communications.

Still, Pimlico did manage to attract a record 121,263 people to the event, and NBC’s Derby telecast had increased 12.2% to an 8.3 overnight rating.

When the National Hockey League playoff game between the Buffalo Sabres and Ottawa Senators went into overtime, NBC pre-empted its coverage of that sport to show the Preakness telecast in its entirety.

“I think we felt we had an obligation to provide viewers with the full Preakness broadcast that we traditionally show,” Russo said. “The thing with hockey is even though the game ended up being over a few minutes into overtime, you never know how long overtime can go, so we had to make that decision before the Preakness telecast began [at 5 p.m. EDT].”

The NHL game registered a 1.2 overnight rating.

NBC has averaged a 6.0 rating in the seven years it has broadcast the Preakness, which is 36.3% higher than the 4.4 ABC averaged from 1994-’00. Share for this year’s Preakness was 13, down a point from last year. Share measures the percentage of viewers watching television tuned a to a particular program, and each ratings point equals approximately 770,000 households. *Source: Thoroughbred Times*

Equibase To Integrate Race Replays Into Services

Video race replays from Post Time Technologies Inc., proprietor of RaceReplays.com, soon will be integrated into Equibase race programs, full result charts, and ChartPlus on equibase.com.

“Embedding video replay capabilities within past performances and result charts is an important progression for on-demand video replays and certainly raises the bar in terms of its convenience for handicappers and others who use the Internet to obtain racing information,” said David O’Neill, manager of product development and support for Equibase. “Merging interactive technology into traditional products opens up new handicapping possibilities for racing fans.”

Video replays also will be available on the site as a stand-alone service for registered users of equibase.com on a subscription basis. Replays will be available to view up to seven days after purchase. *Source: Thoroughbred Times*

Trainer Jamey Thomas Slapped With TCO2 Penalties

Trainer Jamey Thomas was fined \$7,500 and suspended for 15 days by Golden Gate Fields stewards after two horses in his care were found to have exceeded allowable limits for total carbon dioxide. His fine has been stayed in an agreement with the California Horse Racing Board.

Thomas must avoid any further Class 1, 2 or 3 violations for a one-year period, according to the agreement. Exceeding the TCO2 regulatory threshold of 37.0 mml/l is a Class 3 violation.

Vilamoura, who finished sixth in the sixth race at Golden Gate on Aug. 26, 2006, and At A Boy Luther, third-place finisher in the sixth race at the same track the following day, were both found to have exceeded the TCO2 level. Stewards ordered a redistribution of purses. *Source: The Bloodhorse* (from CHRB release)

Preakness Draws Record Crowd, Mixed Handle Results

The 132nd running of the Preakness Stakes (G1) on May 19 drew a Pimlico Race Course record crowd of 121,263 and concluded with mixed mutuel handle results.

On-track attendance topped last year’s record crowd of 118,402. The all-source mutuel handle for the 13-race card, which included six graded stakes races, was \$87,194,161, the fourth-highest figure in the history of the track and a 0.4% decline from last year’s \$87,544,368 figure.

“We’re thrilled,” Joe De Francis, chief executive officer of the Maryland Jockey Club, said. “To have an all-time record crowd of over 120,000 was fantastic, and everything went very smooth operationally.”

Total Preakness wagering was \$56,773,719, a 0.7% increase compared to last year’s \$56,394,560 figure.

De Francis said handle figures would have been better if two scratches had not reduced the field for the inaugural running of the Barbaro Stakes to five. Chelokee, the 3-to-10 favorite, won the 1 1/16-mile race by 4 3/4 lengths.

“We had one race where the field kind of fell apart,” De Francis said. “That hurt the handle a little bit.

“If it wasn’t for that, maybe we would have been able to set an all-time record. But by and large, we were very pleased with the betting numbers.”

Pimlico handled a track record \$91,028,704 on Preakness day in 2005. *Source: Thoroughbred Times*

Woodlands Appoints LaRocca As General Manager

Jayne LaRocca has been appointed general manager of The Woodlands, a track that offers year-around Greyhound racing, along with seasonal Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse meets. The announcement comes as Kansas prepares for expansion of casino gaming and slot machines at the state's three racetracks.

Thoroughbred Times reports: "A former jockey, LaRocca previously spent 14 years as the simulcast coordinator at the Woodlands and six years as the administrative director for TRAK East, the non-profit organization licensee for racing at the track."

"I am very excited about the future of the Woodlands and appreciate the opportunity given to me by Kansas Racing LLC," LaRocca said. "I look forward to working with the greyhound kennels, horsemen, and the Woodlands employees to make greyhound racing and horse racing successful in Kansas ."

LaRocca earned 45 victories during a two-year riding career that ended in 1982 because of injury. He then became a racing official and state steward at various tracks.

"His knowledge of both greyhound and horse racing was very important to us, as we obviously race both breeds here at the Woodlands," said Larry Seckington, the track's legal counsel. "He is the perfect fit for us as we look toward our goals for the future." *Source: American Greyhound Track Operators Association*

Ohio Senate Approves Instant Racing Machines

Ohio voters last year rejected a state issue that would have allowed the installation of slot machines at state racetracks, but the state senate has approved Instant Racing machines, which many view as the next best option.

On Wednesday, the Ohio Senate approved Instant Racing machines for the state's seven tracks, including its three Thoroughbred tracks. The state's House of Representatives is considering a similar bill.

The bill's sponsor, Senator Steve Stivers (R-Columbus), said the machines, which offer pari-mutuel wagering on previously run races, have significant differences from slot machines.

"This is a horse race at a horse track much like a simulcast, but it's not live," Stivers told the Cleveland Plain Dealer. "It will bring people back to the racetracks and it will market all horse-related activities in Ohio."

In recent years, Ohio racetracks have faced added competition from Indiana casino riverboats, slot machines in West Virginia, and, most recently, slot machines in Pennsylvania.

Approved in Arkansas in December 2003, Instant Racing games have handled \$329-million in wagers through December '06.

The Ohio Senate bill calls for a 12% takeout with 8% going to racetracks and 50% of tax money generated by the machines going to purses. *Source: Thoroughbred Times*

Guild Increases Temporary Disability Benefits

With finances improving, the Jockeys' Guild has increased its temporary disability benefits for riders.

The increases restore benefits to the levels before cuts were made in April 2006 when the Guild was near bankruptcy.

In states that do not offer workers' compensation, the disability benefits will increase from \$100 to \$200 per week. In states that do offer workers' compensation, disability benefits will increase from \$50 to \$200 per week.

The Guild's board of directors recently voted to approve the increases and they will become effective on June 1.
Source: Thoroughbred Times

Eight Set For Induction Into Racing Hall Of Fame



Silver Charm is among three equine inductees in the Racing Hall of Fame class of '07.

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Photo: Barbara D. Livingston

Five persons and three horses will be inducted into the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Aug. 6, in the largest induction since 1978 (when nine entered the Hall of Fame).

Jockeys **Jose Santos** and **John Sellers**; trainers **Henry Forrest**, **Frank McCabe**, and **John Veitch**; and the horses **Mom's Command**, **Silver Charm**, and **Swoon's Son** are this year's inductees. Santos, Veitch, Mom's Command, and Silver Charm were elected in the contemporary categories, while Sellers, Forrest, McCabe, and Swoon's Son were elected by the Historic Review Committee, which considers candidates who have not been active in 25 years.

Forrest, who saddled two Kentucky Derby (gr. I) winners, and McCabe, whose resume includes developing three Hall of Fame horses, tied in the voting for trainer.

The 16-member nominating committee considered more than 100 candidates for the contemporary categories before selecting 13 finalists. To qualify for the ballot, candidates were required to receive at least a majority of votes from the committee.

The winners received the most votes from the 186 voters in the United States and Canada. A total of 177 ballots--95%--were returned.

The Historic Review Committee has 12 members who reviewed and discussed the credentials of the nominees during a conference call and later voted to select a finalist in each category. The finalist was required to receive approval from at least 75% of the committee members to be elected. McCabe and Forrest finished in a dead heat, so both were elected to the Hall of Fame.

John Veitch

During his career, Veitch, 61, trained several champions, but his best-known horse may be Alydar, who was part of the great rivalry with Affirmed in 1977 and 1978. Retired from training since 2003, Veitch is the chief state steward in Kentucky.

Veitch joins his father in the Hall of Fame. Sylvester Veitch, who trained from 1946 until 1984, was inducted in 1977.

“It’s actually the dream of a lifetime,” Veitch said. “When my father was inducted and I saw how important it was to him, it made me realize what an achievement it was. My father said the day they inducted him was the greatest day in his life. That certainly was the greatest day in my life, also, but the day I get inducted will be the second, and I will remember it forever.

“It’s the culmination of all the great horses that I’ve had the privilege to train and the great owners that I represented. It’s a great thing.”

The Veitch family becomes the eighth with multiple members in the Hall of Fame.

The Burch family of trainers is represented by three generations: William P., inducted in the inaugural class in 1955; his son, Preston M., who was inducted in 1963; and his grandson, J. Elliott, inducted in 1980. John Veitch worked as an assistant for Elliott Burch.

Trainer Max Hirsch was inducted in 1959, and his son, William, was honored in 1982; the Jones boys, who handled Calumet Farm’s powerful stable, were inducted in successive years: Ben in 1958, and his son, Jimmy, in 1959; trainer Marion Van Berg was inducted in 1970 and his son, Jack, was inducted in 1985; and trainer G. Carey Winfrey was inducted in 1975, four years after the induction of his step-son, William C. Winfrey.

The Smithwick brothers, jockey Alfred P. and trainer Daniel M., were elected for their accomplishments in steeplechase racing. Daniel was inducted in 1971, and Alfred in 1973. Also from the steeplechase world, trainer Michael Walsh and his nephew, jockey Thomas Walsh, were inducted in 1997 and 2005, respectively.

John Veitch’s champions included Davona Dale, Our Mims, Before Dawn, and Sunshine Forever. Davona Dale and Alydar are members of the Hall of Fame.

After serving as an assistant for his father and Elliott Burch, Veitch opened a small public stable in 1974. He subsequently was offered the position as the private trainer for Calumet Farm and guided that historic stable back to prominence. He moved on to become the private trainer for the Galbreath family’s Darby Dan Farm and enjoyed a long run of success.

"I was very lucky to come along with both Calumet and Darby Dan at the right time when they had some very good horses for me to work with," he said. "It was a wonderful experience to be part of that, part of the history of the game. I had the very best, I saw the very last of the great racing stables, so I'm enjoying my new life as chief state steward here in Kentucky."

In North America from 1976 through his retirement, Veitch recorded 410 victories from 2,339 starters with purse earnings of \$20,097,980. He won 76 graded stakes from 401 starts and a total of 93 stakes from 500 starts.

Jose Santos

Santos, 46, the rider of Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes (gr. I), and Jockey Club Gold Cup (gr. I) winner Funny Cide, was born in Chile and recorded his first victory there in 1976. He arrived in the United States Jan. 3, 1984, and quickly established himself as a prominent rider.

Santos was the nation’s leading rider in earnings for four consecutive years, 1986-89, and was the Eclipse Award-winning jockey in 1988 when he set a record for purse earnings of \$14,856,214.

Through Dec. 31, 2006, Santos had 4,083 victories in North America with purse earnings of \$188,278,322. In addition to Funny Cide, he has been the regular rider or frequent rider of champions Manila, Meadow Star, Criminal Type, Chief Bearhart, Fleet Indian, Fly So Free, and Rubiano.

“It’s a great honor just to be nominated and to be elected to the Hall of Fame is even bigger,” Santos said. “I know the history of the Hall of Fame in the United States, that it is all of the best. To be joining them, that’s history. I don’t have words to express myself. I came to America in 1984 with \$2,000 in my pocket and a suitcase, and after 24 years I’m inducted into the Hall of Fame.”

Santos is recovering from injuries he sustained in a spill at Aqueduct in February and is considering a return to riding.

"Right now I'm doing real good (with rehab)," he said. "I've been in rehab for two weeks and have to wait another 14 weeks. I'm 46 years old and I'm in great shape, I definitely want to ride again. I feel very positive and we'll see after (rehab) where I'm going."

In North America through Dec. 31, 2006, Santos had won 331 graded stakes and a total of 608 stakes, including seven Breeders’ Cup races. In 2006, he won six stakes with Fleet Indian.

Silver Charm

Silver Charm is the second Hall of Fame horse for owners Bob and Beverly Lewis. The champion filly Serena’s Song was inducted in 2002.

Racing from 1996-1999 for trainer Bob Baffert, Silver Charm won 12 of 24 starts and earned 6,944,369 in purse money. Eight years after his final race, he stands seventh on the career earnings list.

Silver Charm rose to international prominence in 1997 when he edged Captain Bodgit by a head in the Kentucky Derby and prevailed by a head over Free House in the Preakness, with Captain Bodgit another head back in third. The Florida-bred son of Silver Buck out of the Poker mare Bonnie’s Poker had the lead in the stretch of the Belmont Stakes (gr. I) and appeared poised to complete the sweep of the Triple Crown, but was passed by Touch Gold and finished second by three-quarters of a length. He was the champion 3-year-old.

At four, Silver Charm defeated Swain by a nose in the Dubai World Cup (UAE-I) and also won the San Fernando Breeders’ Cup (gr. II), Charles H. Strub Stakes (gr. II), Goodwood Breeders’ Cup Handicap (gr. II), Clark Handicap (gr. II), and dead-heated for first with Wild Rush in the Kentucky Cup Classic Handicap (gr. III). In the Breeder’s Cup Classic (gr. I), he was second to Awesome Again but defeated Skip Away.

Silver Charm was retired as a 5-year-old with 11 graded or group stakes victories. He stands at stud in Japan.

“I’m thrilled to pieces,” Beverly Lewis said. "There was something about Silver Charm that people took to. It had to be his personality, he’s a horse people just love. He was a great runner, he didn’t want anyone to pass him, he was a fighter. I’m just so happy that he’s there where he belongs.”

Mom’s Command

Mom’s Command, bred and owned by Peter Fuller and primarily ridden by his daughter, Abby, was the champion 3-year-old filly of 1985. Trained by Edward Allard, the front-running filly won seven of nine starts

that year, including the New York filly Triple Crown of the one-mile Acorn Stakes (gr. I), the 1 1/8-mile Mother Goose Stakes (gr. I), and the 1 1/2-mile Coaching Club American Oaks (gr. I). After finishing second to Hall of Famer Lady's Secret in the Test Stakes (gr. II), she defeated Fran's Valentine in the Alabama Stakes (gr. I) in her final career start.

"Of course, I'm thrilled to have her elected to the Hall of Fame," said Peter Fuller, 84. "I think she does deserve it, and I think the fact that my daughter rode her is one of those things that is just marvelous. It's very helpful to racing, in particular. I have a fellow who teases me. He says, 'You're the only fellow who bred the horse and the jockey,' which I think is pretty cute."

Mom's Command compiled a record of 11-2-1 in 16 starts, all in stakes, and earned \$902,972. (Mom's Command made her career debut a winning one in the Faneuil Miss Stakes at Rockingham Park in 1984.) She was euthanized Feb. 3 at the age of 25 at Fuller's farm in New Hampshire.

John Sellers

Sellers, 69, was born in Los Angeles and raised in Oklahoma. He rode from 1955 through 1977. The peak of his career was the decade of the 1960s, when he finished in the top 10 nationally in purse money five times in a span of six years. He led the nation in victories (328) and was second in purses in 1961, the year he rode Carry Back to victories in the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness.

During his career, Sellers won many of the major stakes in the country, including the Belmont, Alabama, Travers Stakes, Blue Grass, Kentucky Oaks, Florida Derby, Garden State Stakes, United Nations Handicap, San Juan Capistrano, San Luis Obispo, San Felipe, Sunset, Hollywood Derby, Carter, Del Mar Invitational, and the Whitney Handicap.

Sellers was moved by the news of his election to the Hall of Fame. "I have tears in my eyes right now," he said. "It's just absolutely fantastic, I never thought that much about being in the Hall of Fame, but being inducted is almost like winning the 'big one' for sure."

Sellers recalled being nominated in the Contemporary Jockey category in 1987.

"That was the year Walter Blum won, and he deservedly should have," Sellers said. "That was as close as I got. It was very neat, just even to be nominated, but this is incredible."

Sellers is a bloodstock agent who lives in Hallandale, Fla.

"I'm into the buying and selling in a couple little ventures," he said. "I was very fortunate in the good times I had in my career, and the racetrack is my office. The track is like one big happy family. Wherever you go in the world, they accept you, it's fantastic. It's in my blood, it's just wonderful."

Henry Forrest

Forrest, a native of Covington, Ky., trained from 1937 until his death in 1975 at the age of 69. He saw every Kentucky Derby from 1921 until his death and trained Derby and Preakness winners Kauai King in 1966 and Forward Pass in 1968.

During his career, Forrest trained for both Calumet Farm and Claiborne Farm. He finished in the top 10 nationally in races won in a season eight times, and twice was in the top 10 nationally in purse money won in a year. At the time of his death, Forrest held the career record for victories at Keeneland, with 153, and Churchill Downs, with 271.

Forward Pass finished second in the Derby but was declared the winner when Peter Fuller's colt, Dancer's Image, was disqualified for testing positive for a banned substance. In the Preakness, Forward Pass won by six lengths in a field that included Dancer's Image. He then finished second in the Belmont Stakes and the Travers Stakes.

The colt also won the Florida Derby, the American Derby, the Hibiscus Stakes, the Everglades Stakes, and the Blue Grass Stakes, and was voted the champion 3-year-old in two polls.

"This is absolutely wonderful," said Forrest's daughter, Jennie Watkins. "His life was dedicated to racing. He was in the horse business his entire career and achieved what is the ultimate goal: to train a Kentucky Derby winner, and not one but two. It was his life. I think this is such a tribute to him and his memory this many years later to have such a wonderful thing happen."

Frank McCabe

McCabe was a distinguished trainer in a career that spanned that later part of the 19th century and the early decades of the 20th century. He was born in Patterson, N.J., in 1859 and became an assistant to trainer James Rowe, who was a member of the first Hall of Fame class in 1955.

When Rowe ended his relationship with the Dwyer brothers, who were prominent owners at the time, in 1884, McCabe became their trainer. He trained Hall of Famer Hanover, winner of the Brooklyn Handicap, Belmont Stakes, Withers Stakes, and United States Hotel Stakes. McCabe trained three consecutive Belmont winners--Inspector B. in 1886, Hanover in 1887, and Sir Dixon in 1888.

During that same period, McCabe trained Tremont, who was unbeaten in 13 starts as a 2-year-old in 1886 and considered a champion.

McCabe's other Hall of Fame horses were Kingston, a 1955 inductee who won 89 of 138 starts, including 30 stakes and retired as America's leading money winner at \$140,195; and Miss Woodruff, who was also handled by Rowe. Miss Woodruff, elected to the Hall of Fame in 1967, won the Ladies Stakes, Alabama Stakes, Monmouth Oaks, and Pimlico Stakes. She was the first horse bred and raced in America to earn more than \$100,000.

McCabe, who died in 1924, also won the Travers with Inspector B., Sir Dixon, and Sir John.

Swoon's Son

Swoon's Son was a top stakes horse but never a champion during a four-season career in the 1950s. Bred and owned by Kentuckian E. Gay Drake, a charter member of the Thoroughbred Club of America, Swoon's Son won 30 of 51 starts. When he was retired to stud in 1958, he was the fourth-leading money-winner in the world at \$907,605.

For most of his career, Swoon's Son raced in the Midwest, primarily at tracks in Illinois and Kentucky. He was trained by Lex Wilson and ridden in all but one race by Dave Erb. Swoon's Son won 22 stakes, including the Arlington Futurity and Bashford Manor Stakes at two; the American Derby, Arlington Classic Stakes, and Clark Handicap at three, and the Equipoise Mile Handicap at four and five.

Notable horses Swoon's Son defeated were Preakness winner Fabius, Kentucky Derby winner Needles, Round Table, and Bardstown.

Drake's grandson, Jack Jones, now operates the family's Mineola Farm near Lexington, Ky., where Swoon's Son was bred. Jones was a witness to Swoon's Son's success.

"I was eight, nine, 10 years old at the time, but I've got fond memories of his racing career, as well having been with Lex Wilson and Dave Erb," Jones said. "I'm overjoyed with his election. I'm just sorry that my grandfather wasn't alive to see this happen. I know it was his pride and joy and crowning achievement in all the years that he bred and raced horses along with his full brother Dogoon. They were running simultaneously during that period."

E. Gay Drake died in 1974. *Source: The Bloodhorse*

Spitzer Could Delay Naming Of Franchise Operator

New York Governor Eliot Spitzer had pledged to name a new Thoroughbred racetrack operator by Memorial Day but might delay the decision until June, before the state legislative session ends.

At least one bidder, Empire Racing Associates, already has named a transition team to take over Saratoga Race Course, Belmont Park, and Aqueduct in the event that it gets the contract.

All plans might be on hold, however, following an unconfirmed report that Spitzer has considered letting the New York Racing Association keep Saratoga, letting another firm run Belmont, and selling Aqueduct for commercial development.

"I've heard that," said Gary Pretlow (D-Yonkers), chairman of the Assembly Racing and Wagering Committee.

Spitzer's spokesman, Paul Larrabee, declined comment on the plan. While it might be only rumor, the fact that it is circulating reflects the degree of uncertainty surrounding the entire franchise selection process.

"Anything and everything is probably on the table," said Sackatoga Stable managing partner Jack Knowlton, a member of former Governor George E. Pataki's Ad Hoc Committee on the Future of Racing.

That panel recommended Excelsior Racing Associates to run New York's Thoroughbred tracks. Spitzer, however, shortly after taking office on January 1, named a new committee and allowed other firms to submit bids.

In addition to Empire and Excelsior, Australia-based Capital Play Inc. also is seeking the franchise now held by NYRA, whose contract expires on December 31. Each firm has made significantly different offers with varying levels of financial commitment.

Aside from this, Spitzer must take into consideration NYRA's legal claim that it owns the tracks. Failure to resolve that issue by brokering some kind of deal could sidetrack the franchise selection process indefinitely.

At least one party believes that NYRA should be allowed to continue running the tracks for another two years, giving Spitzer time to thoroughly familiarize himself with the issue and develop a comprehensive plan for the good of racing. That is the scenario favored by Catskill Regional Off Track Betting Corp. President Donald Groth.

"I hope [Spitzer] goes that way," Groth said.

To date, much of the focus on the new franchise has centered upon the impact of video lottery terminals and making sure racing does not take a back seat to gaming. While discussed, there's been much less emphasis on bringing the tracks and OTB together under one umbrella, which might be necessary for the long-term financial health of both entities.

Groth and others say it makes no sense to let two different firms run Saratoga and Belmont.

"If NYRA were relegated to only have Saratoga, what would they do the rest of the year as an organization?" he said.

There also is considerable opposition to Aqueduct's closure from horsemen, legislators, and the community.

"I'm going to fight like hell to keep Aqueduct open," said Queens Assembly member Audrey Pheffer, who also served on the ad hoc racing panel.

"We need winter racing in New York to keep the dominance that we have," Pretlow said.

Shifting winter racing from Aqueduct to Belmont Park would require such logistics as finding space for the horses and workers now housed at Aqueduct.

Belmont also would have to be overhauled with a new track surface and infrastructure to make it accommodating to horses, horsemen, and fans in winter. Belmont currently hosts fall and spring meets only and has no heating system. *Source: Thoroughbred Times*

Houghton Files Lawsuit Against Arlington Park



TERRY HOUGHTON

Jeff Coady/Coady
Photography

Jockey Terry Houghton filed a lawsuit against Arlington Park on Friday, claiming that the suburban Chicago track has unfairly excluded him from riding there.

Houghton's attorney, Art Engelland, filed the lawsuit on Friday in the Cook County Circuit Court in Illinois. It alleges that as a licensed rider in the state, the track is violating his rights, in interfering with Houghton's ability to carry out contractual agreements with horsemen, and is defaming his reputation. In the suit, Houghton also alleges slander, invasion of privacy, and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Arlington Park spokesperson Dan Leary said the track was still gathering information on the lawsuit and typically does not comment on pending litigation.

Tampa Bay Downs excluded Houghton earlier this year after the Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau, which conducts investigations for racetracks, informed track officials that the rider was being investigated for possible links to race-fixing at Tampa and Great Lakes Downs. Eventually, ten riders would be excluded at various tracks, although some, including Houghton, have returned to riding. Houghton currently competes at Indiana Downs.

The lawsuit argues that as a licensed rider in Illinois, no track should be able to exclude Houghton from riding. Citing “substantive loss of his livelihood,” Houghton is seeking unspecified monetary damages and punitive damages.

Houghton also is pushing for the Illinois Racing Board to step in and presented his case at a May 3 hearing before its Administrative Hearings Division. At that hearing, TRPB investigators alleged evidence, including irregular betting patterns and cell phone records, link Houghton to a race-fixing scam. Based on information from that meeting, the Illinois Racing Board could take some action when it meets on June 14.

“Still, I don’t think any ruling by the commission will have much impact either way on our lawsuit,” Engelland said.

At the licensing hearing, Steve Sexton of Arlington Park owner Churchill Downs Inc., said allowing Houghton to ride could bring scandal on Arlington if Houghton were to be indicted while competing at the track.

The lawsuit could impact future exclusion cases in Illinois as it argues that the track is acting as the state when it bars a licensed rider. The suit argues that the state of Illinois approves racing officials and state stewards and they have the authority to revoke racing licenses, not the racetracks. *Source: Thoroughbred Times*

Trade Resolution Strengthens Horse Racing’s Position

While the United States likely will pay heavy fines after World Trade Organization representatives called for compensation to countries affected by the United States’s decision to exclude gambling from its trade agreements, that decision should strengthen horse racing’s position as a form of legal gambling via the Internet.

On May 4, United States Trade Representative John Veroneau said the U.S. would exclude gambling from its General Agreement in Trade in Services. The U.S. believes this will resolve a four-year-old dispute with Antigua and Barbuda, which has contended that the U.S. was breaking trade agreements by not allowing American customers to gamble through the Internet poker, casino, and sportsbook companies based in the Caribbean nation.

In March, a World Trade Organization panel report ruled in favor of Antigua and Barbuda and on Tuesday, as is typical, the WTO’s Dispute Settlement Body adopted the compliance review report. The report determined that the U.S. had not complied with WTO rulings by banning Internet gambling from offshore companies, but allowing Internet gaming on horse racing and lotteries.

National Thoroughbred Racing Association President Alex Waldrop said the decisions all bode well for horse racing in the United States and the provision that allows for advanced deposit account wagering on races on the Internet.

“This is a great day for the pari-mutuel industry,” Waldrop said. “As a result of the withdrawal by the United States of its GATS commitment, the WTO will no longer play a role in the global debate on U.S. regulation of gambling services over the Internet. The NTRA has monitored this case for over two years, and we have argued from the outset that the GATS commitment should be withdrawn. Today’s decision validates our long-held position.”

Antigua and Barbuda applauded the settlement body’s decision, but also used the hearing to express displeasure about the May 4 decision by the U.S. to exclude gambling from GATS. Representatives argued that such an exclusion was not an acceptable dispute resolution. Antigua and Barbuda encouraged other affected nations to demand compensation.

The U.S. maintains gambling was never intended to be included in its GATS schedule.

WTO representatives of Brazil and India said they will support the U.S. decision to exclude gambling, pending proper compensation to affected countries. *Source: Thoroughbred Times*

Equine Injury Reporting System To Begin At 30 Tracks

A uniform on-track equine injury reporting system developed by Dr. Mary Scollay will be implemented as a pilot project at 30 racetracks beginning June 1, representatives of the Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit announced May 30.

The goal of the injury reporting pilot project is threefold: to identify the frequency, type and outcome of racing injuries using a standardized format that will generate valid composite statistics; to develop a centralized epidemiologic database that could be used to identify markers for horses at increased risk of injury; and to serve as a data source for research directed at improving safety and preventing injuries.

The centerpiece of the system is a standardized form that will be used by racetrack veterinarians to identify what happened to an injured horse. The injured horses will not be identified at any time, and tracks will be able to compare their individual statistics to the aggregate statistics.

“Most tracks have been keeping much, if not all, of this information already,” Scollay said. “The difference with this program is that by using standardized terminology, definitions, and reporting criteria we can all be on the same page. And that will permit constructive interactions.”

Another benefit is that the data could be linked to other studies emanating from the summit.

One is an ongoing study headed by Dr. Mick Peterson, professor of mechanical engineering, University of Maine, that records racing surface data.

“There is no such thing as ‘an acceptable rate of injury,’ but until we are able to document injury rates, trends, and outcomes—and figure out where we are—it is hard to figure out how to get to where we want to be,” Scollay said.

In addition to the tracks starting the study June 1, several other tracks anticipate participating if they can arrange personnel by that time.

The Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit, which was conceived by the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation board of directors in 2005 and held in October 2006, addressed this issue and many others concerning the safety and soundness of the Thoroughbred racehorse.

Six committees are conducting research and making recommendations on the action plans that evolved from the summit's strategic planning session:

- **Injury Reporting:** Dr. Mary Scollay
- **Stallions' Progeny Racing Durability:** Ed Bowen
- **Racing Surfaces:** Dr. Wayne McIlwraith
- **Race Condition and Race Office:** Eual Wyatt
- **Shoeing and Hoofcare:** Bill Casner
- **Education and Licensing:** Paul Bowlinger

At the Association of Racing Commissioners International convention in April, Dan Fick, executive vice president and executive director of The Jockey Club; Bill Casner, chairman and co-owner of WinStar Farm; and Peterson and Scollay presented updates on the Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit and the focus and progress of their respective committees.

One of the model rules passed by the RCI included a ban on toe grabs longer than 4 millimeters.

"The injury reporting system and toe grab ban are just two examples of progress from the summit," Fick said. "Committee members are working hard to improve the safety and soundness of racehorses, and we will continue to provide updates from each of them in the months ahead."

The Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit was coordinated and underwritten by the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation and The Jockey Club, and was hosted by the Keeneland Association Oct. 16-17, 2006. Since 1983, the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation has underwritten 230 projects at 32 universities for more than \$14 million.

Here are the racetracks participating in the on-track injury reporting system as of May 29:

Albuquerque Downs	Aqueduct
Aqueduct	Arlington Park
Belmont Park	Beulah Park
Calder Race Course	Canterbury Park
Charles Town Races	Churchill Downs
Delaware Park	Ellis Park
Emerald Downs	Fonner Park
Gulfstream Park	Hastings Park
Hawthorne Racecourse	Hollywood Park
Hoosier Park	Indiana Downs
Keeneland	Lone Star Park
Meadowlands	Monmouth Park
Penn National	Philadelphia Park
Prairie Meadows	Saratoga
Suffolk Downs	Turfway Park
Yavapai Downs	

Source: The Bloodhorse

Kentucky Tracks Need New Source-Market Fee Deal

Kentucky racetracks and horsemen's groups will have to hammer out a new agreement on source-market fees now that Churchill Downs Inc. no longer has an exclusive agreement with account wagering provider TVG.

Through March, all five Thoroughbred tracks in Kentucky had agreements with TVG, and they have operated under an agreement that divvies up revenue from bets made through TVG. When CDI and TVG failed to renew their agreement this year, the Churchill signal was removed from TVG. Ellis Park, which operates in the summer, has a deal with CDI to sell its simulcast product; it was made when CDI sold the western Kentucky track last summer.

(CDI and Magna Entertainment Corp. joined forces to form TrackNet Media Group, which buys and sells simulcast signals. Both companies have a half-interest in HRTV, a TVG competitor.)

That leaves Keeneland, Kentucky Downs, and Turfway Park as the only Kentucky tracks with exclusive TVG contracts when the five-track agreement expires July 1. Thus, all source-market fees--designed to protect a track from cannibalization of on-track handle by account wagering in their market--would go to them pending a new deal that must be made between the Kentucky tracks and horsemen's groups.

Turfway president Bob Elliston said the assumption is the three tracks with exclusives would get all the source-market fees. Keeneland has a TVG exclusive contract through 2008; Turfway's is up after its winter/spring meet of 2009.

John Hindman, vice president of communications and general counsel for TVG, said the network last year returned \$6,387,314 in source-market fees to Kentucky. That number could drop this year given the absence of the Churchill product; however, handle may shift to other products and help offset any decline.

"We don't have exact numbers, because wagering levels could be a factor," Elliston said of revenue from source-market fees. "But it's safe to say (source-market fees) have been good for purses. I would not be surprised if it's a significant six-figure number for Turfway this year."

For the record, in 2006 Keeneland averaged \$643,079 in purses per day for 32 days; Kentucky Downs \$277,000 for four days; and Turfway \$139,953 for 117 days of racing.

Source-market fees are split 50-50 by racetracks and horsemen in Kentucky. For instance, if a track were to receive \$1.5 million in source-market fees, horsemen would get \$750,000 for purses and the track \$750,000 assuming there is no revenue-sharing agreement between all the tracks in the state.

Since its inception in the late 1990s through the first quarter of 2007, TVG has paid more than \$33.2 million in source-market fees to Kentucky, Hindman said. Nationwide through the first quarter of 2007, the figure is \$188 million, he said. *Source: The Bloodhorse*

Bay Meadows Might Race In 2008

The possibility that racing would be conducted at Bay Meadows Race Course in 2008 surfaced this week after Bay Meadows Racing Association President Jack Liebau told the California Horse Racing Board that the track would consider running for the whole year if it received an acceptable dates package.

Liebau earlier had stated that the San Mateo track would close following its fall meeting after being denied a two-year waiver of the CHRB's state-wide mandate to convert to synthetic surfaces by 2008. The Bay Meadows Land Co., parent company of Bay Meadows Racing Association, sought the waiver because it is proceeding with plans to raze the facility and replace it with a shopping center within three years although the track would not commit to a specific time period it would remain open.

The company hoped to continue racing over its existing surface until demolition began but in March, the CHRB voted 4-2 against the track's request. The racing association then enlisted the help of a local politician, state Senator Leland Yee (D-San Francisco/San Mateo), who threatened to de-fund the board and introduced a resolution in Sacramento targeting CHRB Chairman Richard Shapiro for dismissal.

"Time and time again, Mr. Shapiro has shown an inability to effectively and appropriately manage the operations of the horse racing board in a manner that ensures the viability of the industry," Yee said on his website.

Regarding the need for synthetic surfaces, Yee noted: "The country's premier races, including the Triple Crown and Breeders' Cup [World Championships], continue to run on dirt tracks."

On Tuesday, Liebau found the board more sympathetic to his cause. Shapiro previously had indicated he would consider a one-year deal. When commissioner John Amerman, who also had voted against the track's initial request, floated the idea of a one-year waiver in exchange for a guarantee of a full year's operation, Liebau responded that it would depend on "how many dates we get and what those dates are. We have a critical mass of dates we need to be feasible. We'll huddle with Golden Gate Fields and come up with a calendar that is acceptable to both of us, then bring it back to you next month."

Representatives from the various industry segments have been meeting regularly to formulate a plan for racing in Northern California based on the assumption that Bay Meadows would not be in operation.

"We all met in Napa about two weeks ago — there were folks there from the [Thoroughbred Owners of California], the [California Thoroughbred Trainers] and every fair from Fresno to Ferndale," said Golden Gate Fields President Robert Hartmann. "We invited Bay Meadows to attend but they chose not to. But all parties will go back to the drawing board for next year if we have to."

"Our meetings have been to get a plan in place for Northern California's future without having to involve the board. We're concerned with racing for the next 20 years, not just next year. They have a short-term problem, we have long-term issues." *Source: Thoroughbred Times*

Illinois Senate Votes To Ban Horse Slaughter

The Illinois Senate on Wednesday approved a bill to ban horse slaughter for human consumption, and activists believe horse slaughter in the state will soon end.

Governor Rod Blagojevich supports the bill, which was approved in April by the state's House of Representatives. If signed, the bill would force Cavel International in DeKalb, Illinois, to cease horse slaughter.

"Passage of this bill is a historical step for improving the welfare of America's horses," said Society for Animal Protective Legislation Deputy Director Chris Heyde. "We are grateful for the leadership of Senator John Cullerton (D-Chicago), as well as Representative Bob Molaro (D-Chicago), Governor Blagojevich and the Illinois Department of Agriculture in finally putting an end to the practice in their state." *Source: Thoroughbred Times*

Two More Defendants Settle In Jess Jackson Lawsuit



JESS JACKSON

Benoit & Associates photo

Bloodstock agents Fernando Diaz-Valdez and Brad Martin have reached settlements with Jess Jackson in the Stonestreet Farm owner's fraud lawsuit against his former advisors.

Martin agreed to pay Jackson \$250,000, according to Jackson's attorney Richard Getty. Although Martin was excused from Jackson's fraud lawsuit filed in San Diego County Superior Court, he remains a party to a Kentucky lawsuit that deals with Jackson's \$17.5-million acquisition of the former Buckram Oak Farm in Lexington.

Jackson dropped all claims against Diaz-Valdez, and the South American-based bloodstock agent agreed to drop his defamation countersuit against Jackson. No money changed hands as part of the agreement with Diaz-Valdez.

Diaz-Valdez was involved on the seller's end in 13 or 14 of Jackson's bloodstock acquisitions in South America, Getty said. Diaz-Valdez's lawyer, James R. Morgan, released the following joint statement.

"No money shall change hands as a result of this agreement, and Jess Jackson shall drop all claims against Fernando Diaz-Valdez including claims for fraud, conspiracy, and punitive damages. Conversely, Fernando Diaz-Valdez has agreed to drop all claims against Jess Jackson. Both Jess Jackson and Fernando Diaz-Valdez wish each other well in their future endeavors in the Thoroughbred horse industry. All claims and cross-claims shall be dismissed with prejudice."

Jackson's former trainer Bruce Headley agreed to pay Jackson \$900,000 and was dismissed from the California suit on March 2.

The remaining defendants are Narvick International Inc. President Emmanuel de Seroux and bloodstock agent Frederique Sauque. Trial date has been set for September 28.

"We have a few depositions to wrap up, but we're very pleased with the progress of the case and its present posture," Getty said.

In a letter to the press dated May 11, Morgan said Diaz-Valdez was surrounded by a "cloud of suspicion" because of the lawsuit.

"Longtime acquaintances stopped calling, casual acquaintances would turn and look the other way, and the allegations had made him a pariah in the Thoroughbred horse community," Morgan said. "Happily, the chagrin,

professional embarrassment, and burden of those accusations come to a permanent end today.” *Source: Thoroughbred Times*

Downs At Albuquerque Requests Move To New Site

The New Mexico Racing Commission will consider a proposal by the Downs at Albuquerque to move about 30 miles to Moriarty, New Mexico, at its regular meeting on May 23.

Julian Luna, executive director for the racing commission, said track management hopes to complete the move by the 2009 season. While the current state fairgrounds location offers a picturesque setting, with mountains in the background, track management said the location does not offer enough space.

Luna said the racing commission plans to hire an attorney to see if such a move would count toward the state’s final available racing license or if the track’s current license would effectively transfer.

A new location would allow for added space for both the track’s slot machines and racing facilities.

The Downs at Albuquerque typically runs mixed cards, offering both Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse racing. The track offers meetings each spring and during the New Mexico State Fair in September. *Source: Thoroughbred Times*

Vote On Table Games Set For Charles Town, Mountaineer

Voters in two West Virginia counties will decide if table games should be added at Charles Town Races and Mountaineer Race Track in elections next month.

West Virginia’s state government approved laws this year to allow table games at its two Thoroughbred and two Greyhound tracks if local voters approve such additions. Initial plans called for special elections on June 9 in the four counties in which the tracks are located, but Mountaineer and one of the dog tracks have requested their dates be moved to June 30.

As for Mountaineer, because the Hancock County clerk did not properly advertise the June 9 special election, the results could have been called into question. Mountaineer, which like Charles Town is footing the bill for the special election, has asked the county to change the date to June 30.

Officials from Mountaineer owner MTR Gaming Group said the special election has been properly publicized but moving the date would assure the election results would not be challenged.

“This way, we won’t be looking over our shoulders,” said MTR President Ted Arneault.

Officials from Charles Town are still negotiating with the Charles Town Horsemen’s Benevolent and Protective Association, which currently does not endorse or oppose the addition of table games. Both sides said an agreement could be reached before the June 9 election in Jefferson County.

Charles Town officials estimate the addition of table games would provide at least \$1.3-million in additional purse funds and \$1.4-million in additional breeders’ bonus funds.

Also, the West Virginia Family Foundation is challenging in court the constitutionality of adding table games in the state. A May 23 decision by the state's Supreme Court on whether or not it will hear the case is expected.

Source: Thoroughbred Times

MTR Gaming's Profit Down In First Quarter

MTR Gaming Group's profit declined more than 83% in the first quarter compared to the same period last year, with much of the decrease attributed to \$2.9-million in expenses related to the opening of Presque Isle Downs.

The company reported almost \$600,000 in net income, down from about \$3.4-million in the first quarter of 2006.

Revenue increased 13.2%, from \$93-million to \$107.1-million.

Mountaineer Race Track's income dipped about 33%, from \$6.27-million to \$4.23-million. The company said Mountaineer's results were impacted by 13 more live racing cancellations than it incurred in 2006.

Presque Isle Downs, a new facility in Erie, Pennsylvania, opened its casino on February 28 and will begin its first live racing season in September. The casino produced a \$476,000 profit in the quarter, which does not reflect the corporate-designated expenses in opening the racino.

"We are extremely pleased to have substantially diversified the Company's operations with the addition of Presque Isle Downs," said Ted Arneault, president of MTR Gaming Group. "The property has exceeded our expectations to date. Additionally, Presque Isle's racetrack remains on-track to open in September of this year and will be the first track in Pennsylvania to offer a synthetic racing surface, which, together with competitive racing purses, promises to attract high quality race horses and full fields." *Source: Thoroughbred Times*

Industry Meetings and Events Calendar

2007

June

8-10 National Council of Legislators from Gaming States – Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino Las Vegas, NV - Call 518-687-0615 or email info@nclgs.org

21-22 Pari-Mutuel Auditors Conference & Training, Minneapolis, MN - More information, including the number to call for hotel reservations and how to register, will be forthcoming.

21-22 New Commissioner/Executive Staff Training Seminar, Minneapolis, MN - More information, including the number to call for hotel reservations and how to register, will be forthcoming.

July

26-28 ARCI Summer Board of Directors Meeting – Del Mar, California

October

5-8 IFHA Meeting, Paris

December

3-6 Arizona Symposium – Westin La Paloma – Tucson, AZ
Contact info: 520-621-5660

2008

February

17-20 HTA / TRA Joint Annual Meeting, Renaissance Vinoy in St. Petersburg, Florida



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 for 2007 and would like to join leading industry organizations like those above on “Team RCI”, or have any questions regarding RCI and its Associate Membership, please contact RCI at (859) 224-7070 or support@arci.com. Take advantage of great value-added benefits and support the RCI in its work on behalf of racing stakeholders and regulators throughout the entire industry. The time to join and be part of the winning team is NOW!