



RCI Bulletin

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CHRB Seeks Commitments From California Tracks

Richard Shapiro, chairman of the California Horse Racing Board, sought three-year commitments from all thoroughbred associations in the state during a CHRB Strategic Planning Committee meeting to discuss the allocation of dates for 2008 and beyond on Friday at the Del Mar Intertrack Wagering facility.

Attorney Rod Blonien, representing Bay Meadows Race Course and Hollywood Park, said neither track could make that commitment at this point.

“I am unable to commit for 2009 and 2010 at Bay Meadows,” Blonien said of the San Mateo track. “We are committed through the San Mateo Fair next summer. When the light turns green, developers want to be able to move forward.”

Blonien Put The Hold On Hollywood Park Beyond 2008 In A Different Category.

“For Hollywood Park, we are hopeful of some sort of video gaming,” Blonien said.

That hope hinges on the passage of a state referendum next year.

“I hope the voters say no and overturn the ratification of compacts between the state government and Indian tribes and send them back to the table,” said Blonien, indicating that enabling legislation could pave the way for payments to the industry or mechanized gaming.

“That would be our salvation,” said Blonin. “That is something that could save Hollywood Park. If that doesn’t happen, Hollywood Park’s days are undoubtedly numbered.”

Hollywood Park and Bay Meadows both are owned by Bay Meadows Land Co., a development company.

The meeting was held before the eight-member board, with seven present and Jerry Moss in contact via teleconference. Board members faced about 20 representatives of state tracks and industry organizations seated across from them.

PETER BURNETT
Virginia
Chairman

EDWARD MARTIN
Kentucky
President/CEO

JOE GORAJEC
Indiana
Chair Elect

ERIN OWENS
Arizona
Secretary/Treasurer

The CHRB earlier this year reversed a decision mandating Bay Meadows to install a synthetic surface in compliance with other major state tracks or forfeit 2008 dates. Board members interpreted that decision to cover all of 2008 and some expressed exasperation with Blonien's uncertainty beyond next summer.

"Pleasanton is the most likely choice to replace the dates at Bay Meadows," said Shapiro, counting on Bay Meadows to at least remain open for stabling during the tentative transition during the latter months of 2008.

"If you can't commit, the answer is no," said Shapiro to the approval of future dates. "To save the future of this industry, we need a commitment so we can work on a calendar. We need a contingency plan."

Cliff Goodrich, representing Fairplex Park, indicated that the Pomona track would be interested in expansion if Hollywood Park discontinued racing.

"Jim [track president Jim Henwood] wants to take Fairplex to another level but he's dealing with a lot of uncertainties," said Goodrich. "It would take Fairplex at least 30 months to expand. We can't afford to sit and wait for Hollywood Park to decide."

Shapiro urged association representatives to prepare a detailed questionnaire dealing with the dates issue before the next CHRB meeting on August 22.

"I'm very interested in the beyond 2008," he said. *Source: Thoroughbred Times*

Owner, Game Show Creator Merv Griffin Dies Of Prostate Cancer



MERV GRIFFIN
Shigeki Kikkawa photo

Longtime Thoroughbred owner and game show mogul Merv Griffin, who campaigned 2005 champion two-year-old colt Stevie Wonderboy, died of prostate cancer on Sunday. He was 82.

A 15-time Emmy Award winner, Griffin perhaps is best known for creating two of the most popular game shows in history—"Jeopardy" and "Wheel of Fortune"—and as host of "The Merv Griffin Show," where he interviewed more than 55,000 newsmakers and celebrities during a 25-year run.

The Carmel Valley, California, resident owned and operated Griffin Ranch in La Quinta, California, outside Palm Springs. The ranch includes 300 luxury homes with riding trails and full equestrian services, and is home to about 55 Thoroughbreds.

Griffin thought his decades-long dream to win the Kentucky Derby might come to fruition in 2006.

The previous year, Stevie Wonderboy won three of five starts for trainer Doug O'Neill, including the Bessemer Trust Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) at Belmont Park, and was one of the early favorites for the Derby.

The Stephen Got Even colt made only one more career start following the Breeders' Cup, however, finishing second in the San Rafael Stakes (G2) in January 2006 before suffering a hairline fracture in his right front ankle during a workout the following month..

Stevie Wonderboy never returned to the racetrack. He was retired in June to stand at Airdrie Stud in Midway, Kentucky, for the 2008 breeding season.

Other notable horses campaigned by Griffin include Grade 3 winner Skipaslew and three-time stakes winner Cee's Irish.

Griffin parlayed the success of "Jeopardy" and "Wheel of Fortune" into a multi-million-dollar empire and in 1987 he purchased the Beverly Hilton Hotel, which he sold in 2003. Griffin later acquired the hotel and casino management company Resorts International.

Griffin joined the board of the Thoroughbred Owners of California in 2005 and is a former director of Hollywood Park. *Source: Thoroughbred Times*

Horseplayers Petition For Full Access To Signals

Horseplayers upset over the current state of account wagering in the United States are attempting to drum up support for a petition drive aimed at asking the industry's top organizations to intervene.

The Web petition is circulating only days before The Jockey Club Round Table Conference in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. The primary agenda item at the Aug. 19 event is account wagering economics, which the [National Thoroughbred Racing Association](#) has said would become a focus of study by the organization.

The petition, available at the forum site paceadvantage.com, had almost 9,000 views as of Aug. 15. Horseplayers indicated the petition would be presented to [The Jockey Club](#) in time for the Round Table.

The petition is aimed at the ongoing conflict between account wagering (advance deposit wagering) providers that has limited access to various signals. The petition reads:

"We as players are offended and disgusted by the wrangling that TrackNet, TVG, and other content providers have engaged in with regards to the simulcast signals. We believe that many executives in the business overlook the fact that without us, the racing industry would cease to exist.

"The operation of a racetrack and the ability to conduct inter-track simulcasting of racing events is a privilege not a right. We request that The Jockey Club, the NTRA, and all powers that be immediately intervene to mediate the disputes that are destroying this great game.

"We demand that all licensed racetracks, simulcast facilities, and ADWs be accorded immediate access to all simulcast signals at rates that are fair and equitable to all, the tracks, the horseman, and the players. Let the customers decide who to reward with their business.

"In the absence of responsible action, horseplayer boycotts are a certainty."

It remains to be seen whether there will be boycotts or whether the petition will be presented Aug. 19. Officials with The Jockey Club declined comment on the matter Aug. 15 as they prepare for the Round Table.

Speakers at the Round Table include Robert Evans, president and chief executive officer of [Churchill Downs Inc.](#); Joe Santanna, president and chairman of the board of the [National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective](#)

[Association](#); and David Nathanson, senior vice president and general manager of [TVG](#). Jockey Club president Alan Marzelli will make related introductory and closing remarks.

The petition at [paceadvantage.com](#) makes note of the recent decision by CDI to stop releasing handle and attendance data after live meets at its racetracks. It quotes Evans as saying: "Handle and attendance figures are no longer key metrics."

In late July, the National HBPA held a wagering workshop attended by top officials with TrackNet, TVG, and [Youbet.com](#). Discussion and pleas at the workshop--by far the most revealing public discussion on account wagering thus far--led to the companies working together to ensure the Aug. 4 Claiming Crown at Ellis Park was widely disseminated.

The Claiming Crown in turn established a total handle record of more than \$4.9 million. *Source: The Blood Horse*

Brady Thomas Continues Winning Spee

Floyd & Porter Kennel's Brady Thomas (Stan's Boy Flyer x Touche Baby) took solo possession of the top spot by collecting his eighth win in eleven starts Wednesday night and his fourth in a row over the 550-yard course. Fans bet Brady down to even money but when the box opened it was Kay Belle Starr in post one that rushed to the lead followed by Upland Flower and Brady Thomas. A determined Belle Star remained in front and put forth a tremendous effort keeping Brady at bay. As the group entered the homestretch Starr could not hold off Brady any longer. She was passed near the wire by Beer Run who charged for second followed by Upland Flower and Kaias Sequoyah who recovered from early crowding for a fourth place finish. Brady's season record is 11-8-1-1-0. His 2007 record to date is 35-23-2-1-1.

There were several Greyhounds being watched during the Wednesday night card that included an undefeated pup named Wettlaufer who kicked off the night in race one. The pup lost his first start in grade B when he was shutoff several times after the break.

Greys Bricklayer made his debut over the 660-yard course among a host of stakes champs that watched Turbo Penske collect two in a row and his fifth win in nine starts this season. Bricklayer was blocked early but his wide racing style in the straightaways was the culprit for his last place finish. Red Dirt Road did not disappoint his fans that watched the powerful pup pour it on with his signature late kick that ran down BD's Romano for the win. It was exciting to watch Road stalk his prey and prevail. Both Greyhounds were seeking two in a row. Red Dirt Road turned two years old this month.

Kiowa Larrys Run, who halted Flying Midnight's win streak last start, did it again Wednesday night. Flying Midnite burst out on top ahead of the early jam. Midnite's biggest threat Kiowa Larrys Run also outran the early trouble. Midnite's run was nothing short of spectacular as the 53-pound female went muzzle to muzzle with the 73-pound male in the backstretch. Larry passed her on the rail as he was rounding the far turn and continued on to score a back to back win keeping Midnite from starting a new streak.

KB's Sifter was pinned on the rail after the break and stumbled in the backstretch in his grade B race. The top selling NGA pup from the Spring Meet has a national audience. He now moves down to grade C. *Source: Greyhound Daily News*

Guild Considers Appeal Of Ruling In Gertmenian Suit

The Jockeys' Guild will consider appealing a judge's ruling to dismiss its federal suit against its former president Wayne Gertmenian.

On Monday, United States District Court Judge Otis Wright, representing the Central District of California, ruled the lawsuit could not proceed under the Labor Management Reporting and Disclosures Act because the Guild is not a labor union.

The Guild is suing Gertmenian, his consulting firm Matrix Capital Associates, and other former Guild management team members and consulting companies for breach of fiduciary duties. The Guild was on the verge of bankruptcy when Gertmenian was removed in November 2005 after taking over Guild management in 2001.

Tom Kennedy, a Guild attorney, said the organization, which also is pursuing legal action in state courts, would consider appealing the federal judge's decision.

"It was a bizarre ruling," Kennedy said. "We were ready to begin the trial. There was no motion pending before Judge Wright and he previously denied a motion by Gertmenian seeking a dismissal. Judge Wright made the decision only after he learned the Guild had a lawsuit against Gertmenian pending in state court."

The state court trial is scheduled to begin on October 16.

"We're confident we have a strong case ... whether it is heard in federal or state court," Kennedy said. *Source: Thoroughbred Times*

Agua Caliente Announces Compliance Program

Agua Caliente Racetrack, a Tijuana dog track that also books wagers on United States Thoroughbred races, has formed a compliance program it hopes meets domestic and international regulations.

A report released in July by the New York Inspector General questioned dealings of prominent North American track owners with Grupo Caliente, which operates Agua Caliente and other simulcast outlets in Mexico.

The report questions arrangements by the New York Racing Association, Magna Entertainment Corp., and Churchill Downs Inc. with Grupo Caliente, which is owned by Tijuana mayor Jorge Hank Rhon.

Retired Federal Bureau of Investigations assistant director Timothy McNally and Gonzalo Hoyos, a retired partner from accounting firm Pricewaterhouse Coopers, will head the new compliance committee. The program will attempt to ensure compliance with gaming laws in all jurisdictions in which it operates and perform due diligence of proposed transactions, along with several other goals.

"As a leader in the industry, it is Caliente's obligation to ensure that we operate with the highest level of integrity and honesty," Agua Caliente president Eduardo Hernandez said. "The formation of this committee, staffed by individuals whose integrity is above reproach, is one more step in that direction."

Under agreements documented in the New York report, bets made at Grupo Caliente outlets typically are booked, meaning money bet at those outlets is not placed into track pools. For instance, Grupo Caliente pays NYRA a flat monthly fee of \$4,125 for its signal.

The New York report said Grupo Caliente has met resistance from regulators, noting that the Nevada Gaming Board has cited Grupo Caliente in three different hearings relative to licensing suitability. *Source: Thoroughbred Times*

Magna Loses \$23.4-Million; Promises 'Drastic Action'

Magna Entertainment Corp. lost \$23,437,000 during the three months ended June 30, 2007, prompting the Frank Stronach—the company’s founder, chairman, and interim chief executive—to promise “immediate and drastic action” and commission a strategic review of the company.

The second quarter loss is actually 11% better than the \$26,338,000 it lost during the same period last year. Magna Entertainment lost \$20,968,000 through the first half of the year.

“We are extremely disappointed with the second quarter results,” Stronach said.

Magna took swift action in an attempt to stop the bleeding, announcing that it would cease operations at its Magna Racino in Austria at the end of the 2007 meet and abandon plans to build racetracks near Detroit and in Dixon, California. Magna expects Magna Racino to post a \$6-million loss before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization this year.

Magna also plans to sell about 1,250 acres of undeveloped land located in Ocala and in Porter, New York.

Greenbrook Capital Partners Inc. will conduct the strategic review with Greenbrook’s Senior Partner, Tom Hodgson, leading the process. Hodgson is a former president of Magna Entertainment. He plans to issue a report to the company’s board of directors by September.

Revenues increased 13% during the quarter from \$179,716,000 to \$203,063,000 because of the company’s increased stake in AmTote as well as the operation of slot machines at Gulfstream Park in South Florida. That said, Chief Financial Officer Blake Tohana said that Gulfstream’s expanded gaming operation is underperforming. *Source: Thoroughbred Times*

Mills Resigns Magna Board

Denis Mills, a director and vice chairman of Magna Entertainment Corp., resigned those positions, and the board has appointed Ron Charles, executive director of Magna’s California operations, to take his place.

“On behalf of the entire board, I would like to thank Dennis Mills for his efforts on behalf of Magna. He has worked tirelessly to champion many of Magna’s initiatives,” said Frank Stronach, Magna’s founder, chairman, and interim chief executive officer. “I would also like to welcome Ron Charles to the board. Ron has a wealth of industry knowledge and experience and is a valuable addition to the board.”

In his executive director role, Charles also serves as president of Santa Anita Park, leading the Southern California facility to attendance and handle increases this season. He is a founding member and former chairman of the Thoroughbred Owners of California. *Source: Thoroughbred Times*

Arapahoe Park Posts On-Track Attendance Increase

Arapahoe Park concluded its 35-day mixed meet on August 12 with a 13.7% increase in on-track attendance compared to last year.

Despite running four fewer days than last year, on-track attendance totaled 68,062. In 2006, 59,878 on-track fans attended the races.

Average daily attendance increased from 1,535 last year to 1,945.

Arapahoe Park opened its 2007 meet on Memorial Day weekend, two weeks earlier than in '06. Closing day also was moved ahead two weeks.

Fewer live racing days led to the total mutuel handle decreasing 7.1% from \$4,557,941 last year to \$4,234,777. The average daily mutuel handle was \$120,994, a 3.5% increase compared to last year's \$116,870 figure. Travis Wales led all Thoroughbred jockeys with 65 wins. Trainer John Arnett saddled 61 winners to earn his third straight conditioning title by saddling 61 winners.

Arnett trains for Harry Veruchi, who led all owners with 28 Thoroughbred victories. *Source: Thoroughbred Times*

Churchill Cuts Signals To Evansville Outlet

As part of an agreement with Ellis Park, Churchill Downs Inc. will stop sending racing signals from its track to an Evansville, Indiana, off-track facility owned and operated by Indiana Downs.

Beginning Wednesday, signals from the two Churchill tracks currently operating, Arlington Park and Calder Race Course, will not be available at the Evansville outlet.

Churchill agreed to discontinue sending simulcast signals from the racetracks it owns and operates to the Evansville outlet as part of its sale agreement with the operators of Ellis Park in Henderson, Kentucky, which is near Evansville.

In September, Churchill sold Ellis Park to a company owned by Kentucky businessman Ron Geary.

Steve Sexton, who serves as a Churchill executive vice president as well as president of Churchill Downs racetrack, said talks continued between Churchill and Ellis regarding whether simulcast signals from Churchill-owned tracks could continue to be distributed to Indiana Downs' Evansville OTB. While discussions went on for several months, a compromise was not reached.

Churchill directed its simulcast sales agent, TrackNet Media Group, to stop distributing signals from Arlington and Calder to the Evansville outlet.

"We regret not being able to offer racing signals from Churchill Downs Incorporated tracks to customers of the Evansville OTB," Sexton said. "The Ellis Park sales agreement was negotiated by members of the Churchill Downs Incorporated management team who are no longer with our company. When we realized the sales contract required a change in our former signal distribution practices to the Evansville wagering outlet, we tried

to find another solution that would be acceptable to both the Ellis Park team and our company. We were unable to find such a solution.”

Racing signals from Churchill racetracks continue to be available through Ellis Park’s simulcast offerings.

Source: Thoroughbred Times

Rival Alleges Owner Influenced Horse Race

The owner of the thoroughbred that won a \$100,000 race at Charles Town tricked the West Virginia Racing Commission into scratching the horse's top rival and should be made to forfeit the \$60,000 winning purse, a lawyer for the rival's owner has alleged.

Glenn Bushel, on behalf of Daniel Ryan, owner of the horse that was scratched -- Forest Park -- has asked the racing commission to investigate. Bushel is a Baltimore attorney with the law firm of Tydings & Rosenberg. Commission Chairman George Sidiropolis referred questions to Joseph Cuomo, the commission's director of audits and racing. Cuomo referred questions to the commission's lawyer, Christie Utt of the state Attorney General's office. Utt was not reached for comment on Wednesday.

Bushel's allegations are aimed at Raymond "Randy" Funkhouser, who is president of the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association's Charles Town Division.

The association represents 35,000 horse owners and trainers in the United States and Canada. Funkhouser also is a principal in O'Sullivan Farms, which owns the horse Confucius Say.

Forest Park and Confucius Say were both entered in the Charles Town Dash Invitational Handicap on July 4. But Forest Park was scratched before the race.

In a July 26 letter to the racing commission, Bushel claimed that the commission scratched Forest Park after it received a July 2 letter from Paul Weiss of the Martinsburg law firm of Martin & Seibert.

The July 2 letter from Martin & Seibert said, "This firm's client, Charles Town HBPA Inc., on behalf of all horsemen participating in racing at Charles Town Races, protests the entry of the horse, Forest Park," in the race.

The letter said the horsemen had been provided information that Forest Park had been placed on the veterinarian's list at Delaware Park on June 30 and, in accord with long-standing principles of reciprocity, was therefore ineligible to race at Charles Town on July 4.

A veterinarian's list is a list of all horses determined by an official veterinarian to be unfit to compete in a race due to illness, physical distress, unsoundness, infirmity or other medical condition.

John Wayne, executive director of the Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission, would not talk about Delaware Park's June 30 veterinarian's list. He said the Delaware commission does not comment on pending investigations. He referred questions to Linda Lacy, executive secretary of the West Virginia Racing Commission. Lacy was not reached for comment on Wednesday.

Daniel Ryan, the owner of the horse, could not be reached for comment Wednesday evening.

The July 2 letter from Martin & Seibert demanded that the West Virginia Racing Commission declare Forest Park ineligible.

According to the July 6 issue of the West Virginia Register, the racing commission was scheduled to hold an "emergency phone conference to discuss eligibility of thoroughbred in a race" on July 3.

The commission apparently had that phone conference call and ordered Forest Park scratched from the race. Bushel referred to the call in his letter, saying, "To date I have yet to receive a copy of any ruling emanating from the commission in the wake of the July 3 conference call . . . and await the preparation of the minutes of that session."

Bushel contended that the Martin & Seibert letter was not written on behalf of the Charles Town horsemen's association. "This statement was false, misleading and improper," he wrote. "Whether or not known to the writer at the time, this letter was not written on behalf of the HPBA Charles Town Division, the board of which was never presented with the issue, much less endorsed it, in thorough violation of the organization's constitution and bylaws.

"Rather, the letter resulted from the personal efforts of Mr. Funkhouser for his sole and exclusive benefit," Bushel alleged.

In addition, Bushel contended that the HBPA does not have the right to make the type of protest presented in the Martin & Seibert letter, and that Mr. Funkhouser went directly to the commission, in violation of the rules. "Mr. Funkhouser orchestrated these events for his personal benefit to the detriment of Mr. Ryan and other horsemen and racing regulators, misusing and in direct conflict of interest with his HBPA position, to cause the creation of the July 2 letter, in an effort to improperly influence the outcome of a race," Bushel claimed. "These misrepresentations, improprieties and rule violations deliberately misled the racing commission into misconstruing a rule of racing and ordering the scratch of Mr. Ryan's horse. . .

"Forest Park, subject to Delaware rules at the time in question, was eligible to run in Delaware as of July 4, as acknowledged by Delaware Steward Jack Houghton Jr., who so advised the Charles Town stewards," Bushel claimed. "In accordance with established racing practice, including West Virginia, the applicable state's rule follows the horse for reciprocity purposes.

"Having presented inaccurate and incomplete information to the Racing Commission, in the course of violating several rules, Mr. Funkhouser caused the commission to order a principal rival scratched, enhancing his own beclouded interests," Bushel claimed. "Without Forest Park in the competition, Confucius Say won the Charles Town Dash by over 12 lengths."

An employee at Martin & Seibert said Bushel is on vacation until Monday. He did not return a message left at his office Wednesday.

Funkhouser said Wednesday, "I won't speak without an attorney but I will tell you the horse was scratched out of Delaware Park and was therefore ineligible to run.

"There are a lot of factual inaccuracies (in Bushel's letter) that will be addressed," he said.

An article that appeared in The Journal of Martinsburg the day after the Charles Town Dash is posted on O'Sullivan Farms' Web site. The article reported that Confucius Say entered the race as a 2-to-1 favorite and

won by nine lengths. The article said the nine-year-old West Virginia-bred horse was easily the oldest in the six-horse field.

According to eBetUSA.com Inc., a \$2 bet on Confucius Say to win the race paid \$6, while a bet that the horse would place paid \$3.40 and a bet to show paid \$2.20.

Bettors who correctly picked the race's first- and second-place finishers in the correct order -- a type of bet known as an exacta - received \$14.80. Bettors who correctly picked the race's first-, second- and third-place finishers in the correct order -- a trifecta -- received \$65.20. Bettors who correctly picked the races top four finishers in the correct order -- a superfecta - received \$232.60.

Confucius Say has won 13 of 20 career starts at Charles Town, including back-to-back West Virginia Breeders Classic races in 2001 and 2002 and last year's \$100,000 West Virginia "Onion Juice" Breeders Classic, the Journal article said.

Funkhouser is planning to enter Confucius Say in this year's West Virginia Breeders Classic, a \$500,000 stakes race scheduled Oct. 20 at Charles Town, the article said. *Source: Charleston Daily Mail*

Saratoga Attendance Record Eclipsed Sunday

Sunday's attendance at Saratoga Race Course was 72,745, breaking the previous one-day record of 71,337 set on August 17, 2003.

The record-breaking crowd was attributed in part to the track's first-ever folding chair giveaway, according to a press release.

The day's featured race was the West Point Handicap, won by Classic Pack. The featured race on the record day in 2003 was the Lake Placid Handicap, when a wall clock was a track giveaway.

Track officials reported that Saratoga's new multiple admissions policy, instituted this year, worked according to plan.

"We were able to move the fans through the turnstiles and into the track much more quickly and comfortably," said Gavin Landry, NYRA senior vice president of sales and market development. "Most of our patrons spent far less time in line than in previous years, and had more time to enjoy another great day at Saratoga Race Course." *Source: Thoroughbred Times*

Aiming Sky High At Downs

Darren Dunn has seen tremendous growth during his time at Assiniboia Downs and that continues to be the case this summer. But, with the 50- year-old infrastructure that currently houses the Downs, the potential horse racing has in Winnipeg is quickly reaching its ceiling.

"We have tight margins to work with to say the least and a tight ship to run, but we've been able to do that," said Dunn, director of operations at the Downs.

"The quality of horses that ran here this year and are on the grounds still are the best we've ever had, easily. In saying that though, our entire program is on a bit of a holding pattern though while we wait for the results of a review and a study issued by the government.

"We have great aspirations, but we need some opportunities to grow further. Otherwise we are going to be in a plateau situation."

Due out later this year, the bulk of the study deals with developing the Downs into a premier gaming and entertainment facility, which the track needs in order to compete with the other high-end entertainment venues in Winnipeg, such as the MTS Centre, CanWest Global Park and a possible new home for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

"We need something that can drive revenues, drive growth and we don't have those opportunities right now," Dunn said.

"The gaming and entertainment industry is unbelievably competitive. Even in Winnipeg alone, in the summer time we compete against other sporting venues, all kinds of festivals."

The study aside, Dunn feels this summer, so far, has been of the one of the most successful at the west Perimeter track under his watch.

'REMARKABLE'

"We had one of the most positive Manitoba Derby days we've had in years and maybe even a decade when you have wagering of \$475,000, well over 6,000 people and a day that was remarkable weather wise, field wise and competition wise," he said.

And the success has been more than a one-day event. The jockey and trainer standings have been spirited all summer, outside of wily veteran Alan Cuthbertson, who has a 27-win lead.

"While Alan Cuthbertson leads the way by a country mile, it's still very competitive in there," Dunn said. The scary incident in which jockey Carlos Marquez was lost for the season when a horse flipped over on him in June 30 aside, the jockeys have remained relatively healthy.

"The fact we can maintain 20 jockeys this late in the year is very hard to do," Dunn said. "That in itself is a feather in our cap that we've be able to look after them. They feel like they've been able to earn their keep and earn their opportunities."

In the stables, there have been more than enough options for bettors.

"We've had a very large horse supply, which now, as it usually happens, starts to trickle down as horses hit the sidelines due to injury or development issues," said Dunn.

"We may have put up some of the largest field sizes in the history of the Jockey Club this year. ... The races have been competitive and it's everything that you want in that sense."

So now the question remains, how high can Assiniboia Downs go? How high can the ceiling be jacked up? "We'll never get to the level of Woodbine (in Toronto). That is probably very unrealistic," Dunn figures. "Will we ever been the second-best race track in Canada? Absolutely. Could we be a marquee draw for a large surrounding area? No question about it. We've seen it in other markets. *Source: Winnipeg Sun*

Kentucky Racing Industry Could Feel Tighter Squeeze



Photo: Pat Lang

The advent of a potentially strong competitor in western Pennsylvania might have minimal impact on the upcoming meet at Turfway Park, but track president Bob Elliston said it won't go unnoticed as far as Kentucky Thoroughbred racing is concerned.

Turfway, which races 22 programs from Sept. 5-Oct. 4, will be up against Presque Isle Downs, a new track near Erie, Pa., that will offer about \$500,000 a day in purses for a 25-night meet that spans Sept. 1-29. Purses for the fall meet at Turfway traditionally average \$165,000-\$175,000 per program.

"I certainly admire and am actually envious of what they are giving away in purse money," Elliston said. "It just demonstrates even more the fragile nature of Kentucky's status as the best circuit around."

Kentucky racing and breeding interests have lobbied for expanded gambling with no success since the early 1990s. Since then, casinos or slot-machine facilities have cropped up in neighboring Illinois, Indiana, and West Virginia. Officials claim the lure of bigger purses in other states is a threat to the state's horse industry, and they plan to lobby next year for gaming.

Though horsemen compete for \$400,000-\$600,000 a day in purses during the Keeneland and Churchill Downs meets, those tracks are open roughly five months out of the year. Purses at Ellis Park and Turfway average \$150,000-\$175,000 a day the other seven months in Kentucky.

Elliston said Kentucky Thoroughbred Development Fund purse incentives and bonuses from the Kentucky Thoroughbred Breeders' Incentive Fund are benefits to racing in the state that should keep horses in the entry box for the upcoming meet. He said many of the state's top trainers, including Steve Asmussen, Greg Foley, Eddie Kenneally, and Dallas Stewart, will be well-represented at Turfway.

"Our stall applications were very good--nearly 1,400 requests for 900 stalls," Elliston said. "It looks very strong in terms of numbers and quality of horses. I'm not that concerned, but (Presque Isle) is another track that wasn't competing with us before."

Competition for Kentucky isn't limited to Presque Isle, which derives purse revenue from slot machines that began operating earlier this year. The bottom purse at Turfway, for \$5,000 maiden-claimers, will be \$6,000; Hoosier Park, the Indiana track that opens Sept. 1 and next year will get revenue from on-track slot machines, will offer \$9,000 for the same class under a purse structure that caters to lower-end classes.

Also, maiden special weight and allowance events at Turfway rely heavily on KTDF supplements. In September, a \$22,000 maiden allowance test will include \$10,600 in KTDF money, which leaves a total purse of \$11,400 for horses not bred in Kentucky; an open maiden allowance event at Hoosier Park, however, is worth \$14,000.

Presque Isle has carded open maiden special weight events at a base purse of \$40,000, but the actual purse will be \$70,000 because the track by law must pay out all accrued purse money--projected at \$13 million by the end of August--during its first season.

According to the Presque Isle condition book, several Kentucky-based riders--Jesus Castanon, Corey Lanerie, Godofredo Laurente, and Miguel Mena--plan to ride during the inaugural meet, which features racing six nights a week. There has been high demand for stalls, track officials said.

Agent Steve Elzey, who handles Mena's book, said the jockey will be based at Presque Isle for the entire meet because of the big pots. Mena, a regular at Turfway, recently won four of eight stakes, including three Claiming Crown events, in one week at Ellis Park.

"I'm going up there full-time with Mena," Elzey said. "I've had several good leading riders, and personally I believe Miguel Mena is as good as there is in the business. We're going into new territory (at Presque Isle), but right now I've got quality people coming to Mena."

Elzey, who noted Mena will return to Kentucky for the more lucrative Keeneland and Churchill Downs fall meets, said there is an opportunity for horsemen to make a lot of money at Presque Isle, but he said the competition could prove tough.

"Don't be surprised if you catch two or three from Saratoga in a maiden special weight," Elzey said. "They'll show up when you give away that kind of money."

Promising apprentice Dylan Williams, currently based at Ellis Park with Mena, will move to Hoosier Park, not Turfway, said his agent, Elzey. "I think he can go to Indiana and have a big meet," he said.

Presque Isle will be the first track to use the Tapeta Footings synthetic surface for racing. Turfway has had a Polytrack synthetic surface since September 2005, and this summer it was tweaked again with a look toward the track's late fall and winter dates.

"We added a new kind of wax," Elliston said. "It probably won't have much affect in September; the intention was the new wax might benefit us in cooler temperatures to avoid some stickiness issues."

Adjustments have been made at Turfway based on input from horsemen and jockeys. Since the winter/spring meet ended in early April, there have been no catastrophic breakdowns during off-season training, Elliston said.
Source: The Blood Horse

Scientific Games Lands California Contract

California's Thoroughbred racetracks will continue to use Scientific Games as its totalizator after the California Horse Racing Industry awarded the New York-based company a five-year contract expected to generate approximately \$41.7-million.

The contract, which includes one possible three-year extension and two possible one-year extensions, includes 16 racetrack associations in the state and all of California's Thoroughbred tracks.

"California is one of our most important racing customers, and we are thrilled that they have awarded us this new contract," said Lorne Weil, chairman of Scientific Games.

Scientific Games, which earned the contract after a competitive procurement process, plans to reduce its number of hubs to two. The company will operate the California system from the West Coast Quantum Data

Center (hub), located in Sacramento, with stand-by for redundancy and disaster recovery provided from the New Jersey hub.

The hubs offer enterprise-level computing, standards, and best practices in facilities designed to support pari-mutuel wagering. All California operations will be migrated to the Sacramento Quantum Data Center by the fourth quarter of 2007.

Scientific Games also will install 3,865 new BetJet terminals as well as hand-held wireless wagering devices. The company's latest devices provide a full array of point-of-sale wagering services, including handicapping tools and banking network integration, along with intuitive user interface.

"We believe the upgrade to our Quantum Data Centers along with our new BetJet terminals will improve the patron experience at every California track and help to grow handle in this extremely competitive gaming marketplace," Weil said.

California officials said Scientific Games impressed with its ideas.

"We were seeking a technical partner with a demonstrated record of innovation and flexibility as well as the technical and financial resources to provide the services the CHRI requires, and we found that partner in Scientific Games," said Craig Fravel, executive vice president of Del Mar. *Source: Thoroughbred Times*

Pennsylvania Projects Sires Stake Purses For 2008

Harrisburg, PA --- The Pennsylvania Sires Stakes, responding to inquires about 2008 purses and strategy for purchase of yearlings at upcoming sales, is issuing the following money projections for next year.

Pari-Mutuel: Purses for the four preliminary legs should at least double in 2008, with added money expected to be around \$200,000 per event. Finals will go from \$100,000 this year to \$150,000 in 2008. In all, approximately \$4 million is expected to be added to the Pennsylvania Pari-Mutuel program next season from slot revenue.

Fairs: A projected \$1 million from slots revenue is expected to be added to the fair program in 2008. There will be no A/Bdivisions next year; one main division is expected to be worth \$8,000-\$8,500, with individual purses dependent on the number of horses entered. Fair Championships are scheduled to be worth \$20,000 each in 2008.

Depending on the further growth of slot income, largely from the building of stand-alone casinos, purse projections will be further revised in the future, when more definitive information is known. *Source: USTA Newsroom*

Curlin Co-Owners Ordered To Jail

Shirley Cunningham and Bill Gallion, the co-owners of Preakness Stakes (G1) winner Curlin, were ordered to jail in Northern Kentucky on Friday after a judge agreed to postpone their criminal trial.

Cunningham, Gallion, and Melbourne Mills Jr., all former Lexington attorneys, were indicted on one count each of conspiracy to commit wire fraud for allegedly taking \$64-million of a \$200-million diet drug settlement that should have gone to their clients.

United States District Judge William Bertelsman granted the request for a trial postponement from the attorneys for Cunningham, Gallion, and Mills, but he revoked their bond and ordered them to jail, the Lexington Herald-Leader reports. The trial was scheduled to start on October 15 in Covington, Kentucky.

Bertelsman agreed to delay the trial until January.

Last Friday, a judge ruled in a civil lawsuit that Cunningham, Gallion, and Mills must repay at least \$62.1-million in settlement funds and interest to their clients. A trial of the lawsuit has been postponed until after the criminal trial.

Cunningham and Gallion race as Midnight Cry Stable. They sold 80% of Curlin to Stonestreet Stables, Padua Stables, and George Bolton after the colt won his career debut on February 3.

Midnight Cry also campaigns Grade 1 winner Einstein *Source: Thoroughbred Times*

USTA Seeks Rule Change Proposals

The U.S. Trotting Association is making its annual solicitation for proposals for changes to the USTA rules, that will be reviewed by the various District Boards and the full Board of Directors at its annual meeting.

Proposed rules changes, please include the following:

- Name of person requesting the change;
- Reason for the change;
- Supporting information and statistics where appropriate;
- A detailed explanation of the proposal; and
- Specific wording for the rule change proposal, if possible.

Rule change proposals must be submitted no later than Friday, August 31, 2007, to:

The U.S. Trotting Association
ATTN: Kent Hastings
750 Michigan Avenue
Columbus, OH 43215

Source: USTA Newsroom

Industry Meetings and Events Calendar

2007

August

- 19 The Jockey Club Round Table – Saratoga Springs, NY
- 21 7th Annual NYRA Charity Golf Tournament - Saratoga National, Saratoga, NY
Event Contact - Jenifer Van Deinse, 212-521-5327 - jvandeinse@jockeyclub.com

September

- 27-30 Ontario Racing Commission - Region 8 Meeting
Contact: Diane Simpson @ 416-213-7822

October

- 5-8 IFHA Meeting, Paris
- 26 Breeders' Cup Celebration, Monmouth University, Wilson Hall, West Long Branch, NJ
Event Contact - Nancy C. Kelly. 212-521-5305, nkelly@jockeyclub.com

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

March

- 24-28 RCI Annual Meeting and Conference on Racing Integrity - Driskill Hotel , Austin, Texas.
Additional details will be forthcoming.



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!