



RCI Bulletin

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Trainer Biancone Receives 15-Day Suspension in Kentucky

Trainer Patrick **Biancone** has been ordered by Kentucky racing stewards to serve a 15-day suspension after a horse under his care tested positive for prohibited drugs at Churchill Downs this past spring, the **Kentucky Horse Racing Authority** said Aug. 30.

Biancone remains under investigation following a search of his barns earlier this year at Keeneland, officials said.

L'Aziza, a 2-year-old daughter of [Zavata](#) who won the fifth race at Churchill May 3, tested positive for caffeine and theophylline, both of which are Class B drugs under the KHRA uniform drug and medication classification schedule. Theophylline, used to treat respiratory ailments in humans, is pharmacologically similar to caffeine, which is a stimulant.

Due to the positive test results, Biancone has been ordered to serve a 15-day suspension from Sept. 5-19. The purse money from the May 3 race will be redistributed, and L'Aziza will be disqualified and placed last in the official order of finish.

"The positive test results were discovered by the Iowa State University laboratory and confirmed by the laboratory at Louisiana State University," said **John Veitch**, chief state racing steward for the KHRA.

Biancone indicated he will not appeal the penalties handed down by the stewards in the L'Aziza matter, according to a KHRA release.

The investigation by the KHRA regarding the search of three of Biancone's barns and veterinarian Dr. Rodney Stewart's vehicle is ongoing. The KHRA hasn't disclosed the contents of the barn search, but it is widely believed snake venom was found in the search. *Source: The Blood-Horse, August 30, 2007*

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Biancone vet appeals ban

Dr. Rod Stewart, the racetrack veterinarian who was suspended by the **Kentucky Racing Commission** on Aug. 16 for failing to comply with requests for records, has appealed the suspension, commission officials said on Monday after a regular meeting of the commission.

Lisa Underwood, the executive director of the commission, said that Stewart will be granted an appeal by a hearing officer, but that the commission still expects the veterinarian to turn over records and allow his computer to be searched. Stewart was asked to comply with the records requests by Aug. 9, but did not cooperate.

Stewart has been under investigation since commission investigators searched his truck and the Keeneland barns of trainer **Patrick Biancone** on June 22. According to an anonymous source close to the investigation, the search turned up vials of cobra venom, a prohibited substance that can be used as a powerful painkiller.

Phone calls to Stewart's lawyer, **Karen Murphy**, were not returned on Monday.

John Veitch, the Kentucky state steward, said after the Monday meeting that a hearing in the Biancone matter has not yet been held.

Underwood declined to answer any questions about Biancone other than to say, "It's still under investigation."
Source: Daily Racing form, Matt Hegarty, August 27, 2007

Security chief Paul Scotney: racing's corruptors now have nowhere to hide

Wednesday August 29, 2007 – Greg Wood, the Guardian

If you had a bet with Betfair yesterday, Tom and Mark will know about it. Or they could, if they wanted to. If it was a big bet, laying a horse that ran well below form, they may have looked up your betting history since 2004 too. And the next time that you have a similar bet, they will probably know about that too.

Tom and Mark are the betting analysts in the security department at the British Horseracing Authority, and the breadth and power of the information at their disposal is remarkable. The sport in general now accepts that Betfair works closely with the regulators to fight corruption. It is still startling, though, to see it at first hand.

To the analysts, individual accounts are numbers, not names, and the identities of those behind them remain Betfair's business unless the investigators have cause for concern. Every bet placed on Betfair is logged on the system within seconds, while at any one time, around 100 "flagged" accounts will be receiving particular attention. Bets are recorded, patterns noted and, where necessary, local stewards informed of suspicious betting patterns. On the other side of the desk, another member of the department is compiling information received from the betting analysts and elsewhere, which may eventually become evidence for a BHA disciplinary panel.

When Paul Scotney, an ex-policeman, arrived to head the department in 2003, he believed that it was essential to gather, process and use information as efficiently as possible. Nearly four years later, the security operation is very different from the days when it was confined to a pokey office in Portman Square that never seemed to have anyone at home.

"The real watershed for racing was betting exchanges," Scotney says, "because they didn't cause corruption, they brought it out into the open and exposed what was already there. "Take [the jockey] Gary Carter. He had been cheating in racing for years, long before exchanges came long, but it was the exchanges that gave us the opportunity to expose him."

Such well-known names as the jockeys Robert Winston and Tony Culhane have been among those banned from the sport in recent months, and the success of Scotney's team has also been noted elsewhere in the sporting world.

When a recent tennis match involving Nikolay Davydenko ended in controversy amid bizarre betting patterns, the Association of Tennis Professionals asked the BHA's team to help them investigate. Other sports may now follow their lead when the Gambling Act - which makes cheating at betting an offence punishable by up to two years in prison - comes into force on September 1.

"I've been here seven years," Phil Walker, Scotney's deputy and the head of investigations, says, "and the operation then and now are poles apart. Five years ago, the ATP would not have considered asking us for help, but now there may be a growing demand for our expertise."

That demand could prove to be a concern as well as a compliment to the department, as the sporting and betting worlds face up to the Gambling Act. Listing a job with BHA security is now an asset on a CV, and the authority may need to work hard to keep the team together.

As Scotney concedes, corruption will never be eliminated, and there is still much to be done.

"When we first signed the memorandum of understanding with Betfair [which allowed the department access to the exchange's betting information] we were sending 'red alerts' to local stewards all the time," he says, "which meant that we had deep concerns about the betting patterns on a particular horse. Now, I can hardly remember the last time we sent out a red alert."

"We are trying to change a culture of what was acceptable practice, and is no longer acceptable. Some of these jockeys come over as apprentices and conditionals and get themselves into something, and don't realise they're doing something wrong. Some of them have been groomed for corruption, and some of them have even been groomed by trainerers. It's a long process and you can't just issue new rules. There are still some groups in racing who see us an unnecessary hindrance."

A few feet away, Tom and Mark are still poring over the markets. "Of course, people will do their best to hide," Mark says, "but even if they are using several accounts, we will be able to link them together. And sooner or later, people always tend to make mistakes."

At least one more well-known jockey is likely to face disciplinary action by the British Horseracing Authority in the near future, while some others continue to risk their careers by passing information for reward, Paul Scotney, the BHA's head of security, said yesterday. "We're quite happy now in terms of the majority of jockeys," Scotney said, "but there are still some stupid ones out there and some of them are names."

Scotney was clear on one rider, who is being closely investigated by his department. "We've got one cheat still out there who is still in our sights, and we are quite confident that we will get him. He's been cheating for years, but he's involved in two investigations at the moment, and his time will come," he added.

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Racing Suspended for Three Months Because of EI

The Australian Spring Carnival in Sydney will not be held because of a virulent outbreak of equine influenza, of which there are now eight confirmed cases in Thoroughbreds.

Racing will be suspended in New South Wales for at least three months. Hundreds of jobs will be lost, and RacingNSW has called on the government to bail out thousands of Thoroughbred industry workers following the complete collapse of the sport in New South Wales.

Officials said an **Anthony Cummings**-trained 4-year-old gelding that returned a first-round positive for EI had been found positive after a confirmatory test. Then, another seven horses in the Cummings barn were found to have contracted EI.

"The fact it has come to Randwick (race course) and is spreading is sad and extraordinary," Cummings said. "But it is here now, and we need to just get on with life."

Along with the cancellation of racing, mares will not be allowed to leave their farms to visit stallions. The quarantined shuttle stallions at Eastern Creek are under lock and key until late October.

Cancellation of the \$35-million Spring Carnival is a serious blow, officials said. "It is shocking news," said Ian McDonald, a top New South Wales official. "It's the worst possible we could have received. The racing industry is now completely shut down and will be for quite a few months. Everyone is absolutely devastated."

Officials in Victoria are still hopeful the \$75-million Victorian Spring Carnival featuring the Melbourne Cup (Aust-I) will be held. Two American horses are set to arrive in Australia within two weeks to compete in the \$3-million W.S. Cox Plate (Aust-I) during the Victorian carnival. As long as the virus is contained within New South Wales, Victorian racing will continue.

RacingNSW chief executive **Peter V'Landys** said the news that EI had been found in the 700-strong horse population at Randwick is destroying thousands of people. "Many people in the sport are on \$50,000 a year or less, and this is going to destroy them," V'Landys said.

Until the positive in the Cummings horse, the EI outbreak had been confined to the non-racing horse community. The eventing horse that contracted the virus nine days ago has died, officials said.

No horses from New South Wales will be able to cross the border into Victoria, which plays host to the biggest week of racing in November.

“It is the darkest day in New South Wales racing history,” V’Landys said. “We have 50,000 participants who are already suffering. One horse transport company has already laid off 50 people. This will have a devastating effect and will cost hundreds of millions of dollars.”

Even though officials are predicting the Melbourne Spring Racing Carnival will proceed as scheduled, it will do so without any New South Wales horses. *Source: The Blood-Horse, Ric Chapman, August 30, 2007*

Spitzer receives \$632,000 from franchise bidders

New York Governor **Eliot Spitzer**, who accepted more than \$632,000 from groups seeking the state’s next Thoroughbred racing contract, says that such contributions do not pose a conflict of interest in the franchise selection process.

“None whatsoever,” he told reporters on Thursday. “We have been not only meticulous and fully transparent in what we have done ... we are weighing and balancing all the factors and look forward to announcing the next step early next week.”

Spitzer is expected on Tuesday to reveal his choice to run the franchise, which still requires legislative approval.

Three organizations—Excelsior Racing Associates, Empire Racing Associates, and Capital Play Inc.—are challenging the New York Racing Association, whose current contract expires on December 31.

Common Cause, a government watchdog group, released a report on Thursday that said the four bidders spent more than \$2.2-million on political contributions and lobbying efforts in 2006 and early this year. That figure does not include the latest round of campaign contributions filed with the state on July 15, and groups are expected to spend even more trying to influence legislators after Spitzer makes his recommendation known.

“Special interests often attempt to influence any number of political processes, this one included, by spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on what amounts to attempted bribery,” Common Cause spokesperson **Christina Bottego** said. “The current system of campaign finance is set up in such a way as to allow for campaign contributions to funnel in unregulated via loopholes.”

There are limits restricting the amount of money corporations and individuals may make. However, such regulations can be skirted by making donations through multiple business entities. Excelsior leader **Richard Fields**, a high-profile casino developer, used five limited liability corporations (LLCs) and six addresses to make donations, the report said.

He and Excelsior partner Steven Roth alone gave \$403,579 to Spitzer.

“This is how it’s done in New York state,” said **Barbara Bartoletti** of the League of Women Voters, a report co-sponsor along with New York Public Interest Research Group. “Anything goes. It’s really the Wild West. This shows how much we need reform of the system.”

“All I can say is that we have tried very hard to address those concerns, very serious concerns in a campaign finance bill that I was working hard and pushing over the course of this legislative session,” Spitzer said. “I still look forward to getting that bill passed in the coming weeks or months when the legislature comes back.”

Empire spent the most (\$792,223), primarily for lobbying, while Capital Play ranked last (\$111,783). NYRA was last in campaign contributions (\$131,771), but second behind Empire in lobbying expenses (\$480,782).

“There’s an assumption that you have to be a major player in order to be successful in the legislature,” said **Bennett Liebman**, head of Albany Law School’s Racing and Wagering Law Program. “If you were going to start a system from scratch, this isn’t the system you’d want. But the practicality is, this is the system we have. As much as we’d like it to be otherwise, this process is always going to be clouded with political concerns.” *Source: Thoroughbred Times, Paul Post, August 31, 2007*

Daily Racing Form sold to private equity firm

The Wicks Group of Companies will sell *Daily Racing Form* for just shy of \$200-million to Washington, D.C.-based private equity firm Arlington Capital Partners, according to business website *TheDeal.com*.

Calls on Tuesday from *Thoroughbred Times* to Wicks Group and Arlington Capital Partners were not returned.

Wicks Group Sports Information was formed to acquire and develop niche sports information and publishing businesses. Its first purchase was the *Daily Racing Form* from Alpine Equity Partners in May 2004 for around \$60-million.

Founded in 1894, the *Daily Racing Form* provides racing coverage and past performance information in its daily newspaper. The company has an annual circulation of more than 13-million through 30 region editions available at 7,500 retail outlets and most racing venues. *Daily Racing Form* also provides similar information on its website.

Arlington Capital Partners boasts diverse holdings, including ten radio stations in Louisville, Kentucky and Dayton, Ohio. According to *TheDeal.com*, General Electric’s media, communication, and entertainment business will provide financing. *Source: Thoroughbred Times*

Paulick, Blood-Horse part ways

Ray Paulick, who served as editor-in-chief for *The Blood-Horse* weekly magazine, confirmed on Tuesday afternoon that he has left the Thoroughbred industry magazine.

An assistant to Blood-Horse President **Stacy Bearse** said Bearse was unavailable and said he would not comment on any change in the editor-in-chief position.

Paulick has served as editor-in-chief of The Blood-Horse weekly magazine since May 1992 and managed all editorial products for Blood-Horse Publications.

Paulick spent eight years in the Los Angeles office of Daily Racing Form working as a handicapper and editor, then moved to Kentucky in 1988 to become managing editor of *Thoroughbred Times*. He left that position in 1991 to help launch the now-defunct Racing Times daily newspaper. *Source: thoroughbred Times, Frank Angst*

Simulcast conference to look at new technology

The International Simulcast Conference will examine how new technology has changed betting habits when it meets from September 17-19 in Kansas City, Missouri.

The introduction of Internet and other forms of account wagering, computerized betting teams, computer-robotic wagering, and personal wagering devices has enabled an increasingly larger portion of pari-mutuel pools to be bet in the final few minutes of wagering.

The conference will feature a presentation from **William Ziemba**, whose contributions to the development of computer-programmed wagering are renowned. He will participate in a discussion with other panelists on the future of pari-mutuel wagering. An ardent racing fan, Ziemba has taught worldwide the application of mathematical principles to pari-mutuel wagering and investing.

There also will be panels and roundtable meetings on the continuing problems caused by late odds shifts and progress toward the implementation of Wagering Transmission Protocol Version 1.0, which would allow real-time betting into the host pool from off-track locations.

Other topics will include racetrack operators advocating the analysis of wagering revenue as opposed to total handle, new wagers and takeout experiments, and increased access to international races. *Source: Thoroughbred Times, Frank Angst, August 24, 2007*

Commentary: Adjusting the Focus **By Dr. Scott Stanley and Dr. Rick Arthur**

Nothing in Thoroughbred racing is simple, and drug testing is no exception. The test barn is still referred to as the “spit box,” harking back to the time when all that was done was to look for heroin or cocaine crystals in saliva samples. We would never have a positive today by those standards, but those were simpler times. The first real veterinarian didn’t show up at Santa Anita until Louis B. Mayer brought Dr. John Peters out from the East in 1939. When Dr. Jack Robbins started practicing in California right after World War II, he became the third veterinarian on the entire California circuit. Today, there are more than 40 practicing veterinarians on the Southern California circuit alone.

Horse racing was ahead of other sports in implementing a drug-testing program, and in many ways we are still the pacesetters. We cast a broader net for more drugs than any other sport. I doubt most Little Leaguers would pass a post-race urine test at our least proficient lab.

The one exception is anabolic steroids, but that will soon change.

Why is there such a perceived problem with drugs in horse racing? Besides the established perception problem, there are three converging factors. The first is the increase in veterinary care. There are simply more medications being administered to more horses. This mimics the same situation in human medicine, where more drugs are prescribed today than in the past. The second is the rapid and dramatic increase in the sensitivity of laboratory testing in the last decade. Picogram (one part per trillion) level positives are not only possible, they are appropriate for some illegal drugs. Half a teaspoon of a substance in a thousand Olympic-sized swimming pools is the equivalent to a picogram. The last factor is rules that are unprepared for either of these first two developments.

Most positives are inadvertent. Some come from poor barn management procedures and others from a lack of understanding of pharmacokinetics and drug testing. Even with a reasonably professional effort to obtain useful data, often not enough information is available to determine accurate withdrawal times. Research has been inadequate to provide meaningful and reliable withdrawal times even ignoring laboratory variability. This ultimately leaves trainers, veterinarians, and eventually owners in unknown territory.

The **Racing Medication and Testing Consortium** is pursuing pharmacokinetic research to enable jurisdictions to determine threshold level/withdrawal times on the most problematic medications. This is not an esoteric exercise; it is simply good business. More than 80% of the positives called in California are mistakes with no intention to alter a race. The same is true across the country. These positives waste time and money and damage reputations for everyone in horse racing and for the sport itself. The public doesn't understand the difference between one drug and another. All they hear is drug, racehorse, and horse racing. The goal is to avoid unnecessary positives and focus our testing resources on drugs that matter.

The RMTTC research effort is scientifically rigorous. We aren't talking about dosing a few fat old ponies out on pasture. We are looking at 20-plus horses in race training to provide statistically meaningful data. The samples are simultaneously analyzed at multiple laboratories in multiple jurisdictions to ensure uniformity. This is work that has been woefully lacking in the past.

Limited withdrawal time data recently became available on the RMTTC's Web site (rmtcnet.com). Unfortunately, the majority of this information is anecdotal, because too little scientific information exists for many drugs. For the record, the same pharmacokinetic data that can be used to avoid positives can also be used to prosecute violations.

The RMTTC's goal is to bring a solid scientific foundation to drug and medication regulation. Everyone needs to know what is expected of them every day, and that includes our drug testing laboratories. The black box approach of the past doesn't work today. Good research will bring all of horse racing to a level needed to protect the integrity of our sport.

Dr. **Scott Stanley** is an associate professor at the Kenneth L. Maddy Equine Analytical Laboratory.

Dr. **Rick Arthur** is equine medical director of the California Horse Racing Board. *Source: The Blood-Horse, August 21, 2007*

Wagering Protests Planned by Disgruntled Bettors

A group of bettors frustrated with the fractured structure of advance deposit wagering are planning protests against racing entities they believe are responsible for the industry sector's ills.

The idea for the protests, which could include wagering boycotts of certain racetracks, grew out of a petition circulating on the Web site forum PaceAdvantage.com. The petition, which voiced angst that content-wrangling between such powers as TrackNet Media Group and TVG is hurting bettors, was signed by more than 400 people and read at the The Jockey Club Round Table Conference Aug. 19 in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Chicago-area resident **Richard Young**, who originated the petition under his forum name of "betovernetcapper," primarily blames TrackNet, the Churchill Downs Inc./Magna Entertainment Corp. consortium formed in March, for causing chaos in the ADW scene. He hopes to launch a Web site called boycotttracknet.com within in the next few days to help organize like-minded fans.

"I haven't been happy with TrackNet since their inception," said Young, who has been an active bettor for 20 years. "When they came up with the nonsense that I couldn't play this track with this account, or that track with that account, and that I couldn't play the (Kentucky) Derby, and I couldn't get rebates - that really (made me angry)."

Young and others on the PaceAdvantage.com forum are also angry with Woodbine Entertainment Group over several issues, including circumstances that led to the track's Aug. 10 signal cut-off to Premier Turf Club, an ADW located in North Dakota.

It's unclear how many would back the protests, as debate on how it should be handled continues to churn among forum members. But Young believes he has on board enough significant betting interests, including a few "whales"--large volume bettors--to make an impact.

"I expect that within a year, we are going to have appropriate simulcast rates for all ADWs," he said.

Young said he chose not to bet this year's Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (gr. I) for the first time in 20 years because neither of his respective accounts with Yobet.com or Premier Turf Club could carry the Churchill Downs signal.

"They wanted us to go through hoops to bet the Derby," Young said. "I could have bet it somehow. But I didn't want to be told I couldn't do this or that."

TrackNet president and chief executive officer **Scott Daruty** said he understands the frustration felt by bettors, but believes it was unfair the new content provider has been singled out as the enemy.

“It’s ironic to me, because that’s our goal, too,” said Daruty of TrackNet’s stated premise of making racing content available outside the exclusive contract environment operated by rival TVG for the last 10 years or so. “In an ideal world, every account wagering company -- including TVG, Youbet, Churchill, and Magna - would have access to all racing content. And then the customer could choose which provider suits them best.”

He claims TrackNet has made several overtures for short-term content sharing agreements with TVG, a premise CDI president Robert Evans reiterated at the Round Table. “They continue to be rebuffed,” Daruty said of the offers.

Other ideas being discussed in the way of protests include what Young called a “procott,” which is also sometimes known as a “buycott.” In this scenario, Young said, bettors would wager strongly into the pools of a smaller track to show the “influence” of an organized front.

Postings on PaceAdvantage.com suggest a procott is being planned for Aug. 25 by using the pools of The Downs Racetrack & Casino at Albuquerque in New Mexico. Young also wants to see Yum! Brands pull its sponsorship from the Kentucky Derby and suggested he could organize protests at the company’s restaurants.

Alan Marzelli, president of The Jockey Club, said his organization isn’t taking sides, despite reading part of the petition at the Round Table. “You get a letter, and it’s signed by 400 people ... and makes legitimate points, why would you ignore it?” Marzelli said. “It’s not to say we advocate or don’t advocate what they are doing. We are simply frustrated with the state of play.

“This industry is a group of companies that form the nucleus of an interactive sport, the greatest interactive sport in the world. And we have got to behave that way. We depend on each other, we need to work with each other, and it frustrates us at The Jockey Club when we don’t.”

Marzelli repeated his feelings first voiced at the Round Table about The Jockey Club working as a facilitator in the ADW drama. He cited Equibase, of which The Jockey Club is a partner, as an example.

“Equibase and *Daily Racing Form* eventually formed a partnership,” he said of the one-time rivals for distributing racing statistics. “If you would have said that in 1992, people would have looked at you like you just landed on a spaceship from Mars.

“We found a way to work together. What role we play from here is up to the stakeholders.”
Source: The Blood-Horse, Ryan Conley, August 22, 2007

Churchill account wagering reported \$6.3 million bet, Oregon panel says

In its first two months of operating an account-wagering site, Churchill Downs Inc.'s startup TwinSpire service handled \$6.3 million in wagers, according to the **Oregon Racing Commission**, where Churchill has its betting hub.

The Louisville-based racetrack owner has declined to release the total amount bet through the account-wagering site launched just before the Kentucky Derby.

President and Chief Executive **Bob Evans** has said that account wagering, the fastest-growing piece of a relatively stagnant overall pari-mutuel betting market, is a key to Churchill's growth.

The account-wagering industry is locked in a battle over content from racetracks that currently forces bettors to have two accounts to wager on all the major tracks. Churchill and Magna Entertainment Corp. say account-wagering companies should exchange all tracks, while TVG argues that it needs exclusive content.

The issue was a major subject of The Jockey Club's annual Round Table Conference in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., last weekend, where Evans and TVG General Manager **David Nathanson** spoke.

During the forum, Jockey Club President **Alan Marzelli** said the industry can't afford to suffer through the aftereffects of a squabble, comparing it to major league baseball's loss of momentum after the 1994 strike, according to a copy of his prepared speech. He said the industry needs collaboration to find a solution, comparing it to its creation of Equibase to be its official statistics keeper.

The wagering numbers from Oregon represent the first snapshot of TwinSpire's business in the battle over account wagering since Churchill entered the market.

A Churchill spokeswoman declined to confirm the Oregon numbers, and, regarding its performance, referred to what company officials said during a conference call with investors and analysts earlier this month. The Oregon commission releases numbers quarterly.

During that conference call, **Mike Anderson**, Churchill's acting chief financial officer, said that TwinSpire's performance was on target with internal forecasts and that officials were pleased.

Because of pre-existing agreements with TVG -- the account-wagering and television network that Churchill previously dealt with exclusively -- the TwinSpire site didn't offer races from two of its tracks during the period. Arlington Park near Chicago switched from TVG this month, and Calder Race Course near Miami will shift next year.

The amount handled is decent considering TwinSpire was starting from scratch and the launch was later than expected, said Bob Reeves, a simulcasting adviser to the National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association and board member of the Ohio HBPA.

While major account-wagering providers' numbers during the second quarter were much higher, Reeves said they're more established.

TVG reported a record handle for the second quarter of \$125 million. The network said its revenue was flat.

During the second quarter, Churchill also acquired AmericaTAB, an account-wagering franchisor, and three of its affiliated sites. The entire AmericaTAB system, including sites not owned by Churchill, handled \$62.3 million in bets, according to the Oregon commission.

That was down from \$65.9 million a year ago.

This year, amid the industry dispute, AmericaTAB did not take bets for most of the second quarter on racing from New York's largest tracks, Keeneland Race Course and Hollywood Park as it had a year ago. All of those have had exclusive agreements with TVG.

The deal made AmericaTAB part of Churchill for 19 days of the quarter. Evans has said such affiliates give Churchill about 20 percent of the pari-mutuel account-wagering market. *Source: The Courier-Journal, [as taken from HBPA.com], August 21, 2007*

Integrity--or Lack Thereof--Called Most Pressing Issue

Representatives of the horse industry claim integrity issues have never been more important, and the results of soon-to-be-released research could indicate where the betting public stands on the matter.

During the Aug. 19 Jockey Club Round Table Conference in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., Jockey Club chairman **Ogden Mills "Dinny" Phipps** offered a preview of the research authorized by the National Thoroughbred Racing Association. He said a survey revealed that of 1,250 racing fans, one-third said Thoroughbred racing has "serious integrity issues," with alleged use of illegal medication first and foremost.

After the conference, NTRA president and chief executive officer **Alex Waldrop** said the NTRA would report on the findings within the next few weeks, perhaps through a media briefing. Waldrop said the survey involved "core fans" who attend the races at least once a week and who wager at least \$100 per visit.

Waldrop said the study fits with a mission that includes marketing and legislative advocacy, both of which rely heavily on integrity.

"You can't advocate if you're perceived to be, or in fact are, corrupt," Waldrop said. "From the NTRA's perspective, integrity has been a core issue for us."

Phipps over the years has used the Round Table podium to convey the message that the racing industry must take steps to stop cheating, be it real or perceived. He again did so Aug. 19, but his comments were more targeted and forceful.

He said integrity issues cause "grave concern" to any business, especially those involved with spectator sports like horse racing.

"To be quite candid, the stewards of The Jockey Club think it's a disgrace that numerous horses in our sport's most prominent and highly visible races are routinely trained by people who have repeated medication violations," Phipps said.

"At the present time, there are no penalties for owners of horses that test positive for a banned substance," he said. "In the past, we believed that was correct. But if owners are picking trainers who are routinely fined or suspended for medication infractions, we should reconsider an owner-responsibility rule."

Phipps said “there is nothing more important” to the Jockey Club stewards than the medication issue. He said the organization is committed to providing “significant funding” to tackle the matter, but all industry stakeholders must cooperate.

Horsemen's representatives in attendance at the Round Table acknowledged the perception of cheating in the industry but questioned whether it's rampant.

On a related subject, Phipps said The Jockey Club believes anabolic steroids should be banned in racehorses and also horses at yearling and 2-year-old auctions. The industry already is taking steps to regulate steroids on race day.

The Equine Drug Research Institute, created in 2005, is developing tests to detect steroids and other designer drugs believed to be used in horses. Keeneland president **Nick Nicholson** said the institute, formed with about \$3 million in horse industry funding, will need ongoing financial resources to continue research.

The Racing Medication and Testing Consortium could use more financial support, executive director **Dr. Scot Waterman** said during the Round Table. Waterman said the RMTC has taken hits from the industry because of the somewhat methodical pace of its work, but he said there are political, philosophical, and financial restraints.

Waterman noted that about \$30 million a year is spent on post-race equine drug testing, a figure that dwarfs other sports. However, the money is split among 38 jurisdictions and 18 laboratories.

Waterman suggested regionalized, consolidated labs and increased funding from state governments. He also called for a coordinated, beefed-up approach to security at racetracks and training centers.

“After six years (of the RMTC being in operation), we believe the industry wants a world-class system, so it’s time to ask state regulators to help solve the problems, as well as all industry participants,” Waterman said.

When the Equine Drug Research Institute, based in Los Angeles, was launched, there were questions over whether it would work with the RMTC or compete with it for industry funds. After the Round Table, Jockey Club executive director **Dan Fick** said there are efforts to bring the two together.

“The (institute) has filled a gap we couldn’t fill two years ago,” said Fick, also chief executive officer of the RMTC. “Now we need to work more closely together. Why not be a unified force and seek funding for both? There already have been a couple of meetings between (the institute) and the RMTC.”

The institute is headed by **Dr. Don Catlin**, known for his work with the Olympics and developing tests for designer drugs. *Source: The Blood-Horse, Tom LaMarra, August 19, 2007*

'Contrite' Baze Accepts 15-Day Whip Penalty, Fine

An apologetic **Russell Baze** was suspended for 15 days by Bay Meadows stewards and fined \$2,500 Aug. 26 for misusing his whip as the result of a complaint arising from an incident at the Bay Area track last week.

"I'm not going to try to defend what I did," said the Hall of Fame rider. "There is no way to defend it. I made a bad decision in the heat of the moment, and I am truly sorry. I made a bad decision, and I'll take the punishment that was handed to me.

"Hopefully this will not be the defining moment of my career," added the 49-year-old Baze, North America's all-time leading rider who is closing in on 10,000 lifetime victories. "Hopefully, I'll be judged on the right decisions I've made in the past and on the right decisions I'll make in the future. In this day and age of athletes and public figures making public apologies, it can begin to ring hollow. I want people to know that I am truly sorry. Nobody knows how contrite I am in my heart."

The suspension runs Sept. 2-16, accounting for 11 racing days on the Bay Meadows racing calendar.

Baze whipped the 4-year-old gelding Imperial Eyes, who was breaking down in the shadow of the finish line during the first race at Bay Meadows Aug. 23. Imperial Eyes, a 4-5 favorite in the \$8,000 maiden claiming event at one mile, was leading by seven lengths mid-stretch before taking a bad step near the sixteenth pole. The horse changed leads and resumed running for the wire, and Baze admitted trying to get Imperial Eyes to finish by using his whip. Imperial Eyes was later euthanized after suffering a condylar fracture of the cannon bone in his left front leg. He finished second in the race.

The action came after stewards reviewed films of the incident during a 2 1/2-hour meeting Aug. 25 with Baze and his attorney, **Brian Pitnick**, also a Northern California trainer. They also heard from investigators for the **California Horse Racing Board**, assistant trainer **Steve Sherman**, who saddled Imperial Eyes, and **Dr. William Grantham**, the veterinarian who treated the injured horse.

Stewards withdrew two other CHRB-initiated complaints against Baze arising from the incident -- for cruelty to an animal and actions detrimental to horse racing.

Pitnick said he felt the misuse of whip allegation "was overblown, especially after Dr. Grantham, the vet in the case, made it clear (the whip use) was not a causal factor" in Imperial Eyes' demise. He said he felt stewards were under "strong public pressure" to assign responsibility for the incident, which drew national attention.

However, he said there was little likelihood of making an appeal to the courts.

"Russell is a stand-up guy in every sense of the word," Pitnick said. "I think he just wants to take his medicine and put this behind him."

Baze, who rode two winners Aug. 26 at Bay Meadows, has 9,826 career victories. *Source: The Blood-Horse, Jack Shinar, August 26, 2007*

CHRB Targets Integrity of Pari-Mutuel Wagering System

Hearing complaints from fans and state legislators, the **California Horse Racing Board** tried to tackle two fronts on how to maintain integrity for the sport: late wagers and board conflicts.

Meeting Aug. 21 at San Luis Rey Downs in Bonsall, the issue of perceived “past posting”--the addition of wagers to the pool after the race has begun--again came before the board, which may consider shutting off wagering from at least some sources when the first horse enters the gate or at the announced post time.

“Of all the e-mails we get and contact we get (from the public), this is a huge issue,” CHRB chairman **Richard Shapiro** said. “It’s particularly prevalent at Del Mar. We don’t want to put California on an island, but we’ve got to do something. It raises the question of our integrity.”

Terry McWilliams of Scientific Games, which recently signed a new contract to provide California track tote services, updated the board on its new technology at its Sacramento facility. Instead of being sent in batches, bets made on-track at California facilities are instantaneously blended into the pool.

Two states--Florida and Arizona--still “double hop” their pools between sites within their jurisdictions before forwarding to California, McWilliams explained. That does cause some late additions into the pools in the final 60 seconds. But the major problem comes from robotic programs that dump huge amounts into the pools at the last possible second, experts said.

“We’re dealing with computer-automated wagers,” said **Chuck Champion**, chairman and chief executive officer of Youbet.com. “Integrity of racing is central to all of us. We’re on the very edge of it.”

Ron Charles, president of Magna Entertainment Corp.’s California tracks, said his company had done extensive study of the problem and found that 90% of instances where odds changed dramatically after the gates opened came from huge bet-downs via online.

“You can’t go to a teller and bet enough money to affect the odds in this way,” Charles said. “But you can by computer. We need to find a way to solve this.”

With only four of seven commissioners present at the Aug. 21 meeting, the board directed staff to notify states that take California’s signal to correct any double hops or lose simulcast rights. The board may also consider closing wagers via online when the horses start to load or some other cutoff time.

Commissioner John Harris said he did not want to penalize account wagering providers or fans that bet online. “Many bets are made as horses are loading,” Harris said. “It would be a mistake to limit bets before the gates open.”

Meanwhile, the commission will consider a revised conflict of interest and ethics code at its September meeting before the full board. Originally adopted in 1981 and revised in 2003, the new code re-emphasizes such basics as prohibiting commissioners from private gain or advantage from their actions or having financial interests in any racetracks, track management, concession providers, or pari-mutuel companies.

State Sen. Leland Yee, a vocal critic of the board, has an active bill in Sacramento to overhaul the ethics code and prohibit no more than three horse owners or others licensed to race in California from serving on the board at one time. It also would allow the governor to dismiss board members at any time for any reason. Currently, five out of seven commissioners are licensed horse owners.

In other business, the commission approved Oak Tree Racing Association's upcoming fall meet, expanded five days to 31 dates. The meet opens Sept. 26 and runs through Nov. 4.

Santa Anita's new Cushion Track will be ready for the meet. Charles said installation of the new synthetic surface is on schedule and will be completed by its Sept. 1 target. The main track will be ready for training by Sept. 10 at the latest, he said, and arrangements have been made with Del Mar to allow horses to stay a few extra days if necessary after that meet ends Sept. 5 before shipping to Arcadia.

In addition, Santa Anita has a crew of 24 carpenters working six-day weeks on barn upgrades. That renovation project will be complete by the end of January, Charles said.

"It was a lot more elaborate job than we thought," Charles said. "But all barns will have new interiors and be much, much safer."

To celebrate Santa Anita's Cushion Track debut, Oak Tree and Santa Anita will give away paperweights with dirt from the old main track on the meet's opening day. Oak Tree will host the 2008 Breeders' Cup World Championships.

Golden Gate Fields, Santa Anita's sister track in Northern California, is installing a Tapeta Footings synthetic surface. Track general manager **Robert Hartman** said the project is 10 days ahead of schedule and now will be ready for horses to return to the Albany venue Oct. 5.

When Golden Gate's new surface comes on line, four out of five major tracks in California will have installed synthetics by the state's Jan. 1, 2008 deadline. The CHRB granted Bay Meadows, which is in the midst of redevelopment, a one-year waiver from the synthetic track mandate.

The CHRB gathered in a large grain barn at San Luis Rey Downs facility, which got a makeover for the Web-cast meeting with fresh paint, carpet, cameras, and a sound system. More than 70 people made the trek to North San Diego County about 20 miles inland from Oceanside.

Opened in 1969, San Luis Rey Downs was purchased by MEC in 1999 and has operated as individual entity, SLRD Inc. But in June, cash-strapped MEC sold the training center's 202 acres to MEC's development division, MDI, which immediately leased it back to SLRD Inc.

Currently, the training center has a three-year lease with an evergreen clause, according to Leigh Ann Howard, who manages the center. About 400 Thoroughbreds train at the facility.

San Luis Rey Downs also has the support of its neighbors and community. **Margarette Morgan**, representing the Bonsall Community Sponsor Group, told the CHRB the land-use advisory panel sees the training center as the cornerstone of the horse-friendly town and wants to keep it economically viable.

“We’re absolutely supportive of San Luis Rey Downs,” she said. “We want to keep the track and facilities available.” *Source: The Blood-Horse, Debbie Arrington, August 21, 2007*

Assembly Panel OKs Limit on CHRB Membership

Legislation limiting the number of commissioners on the **California Horse Racing Board** who can be licensed to participate in the sport has cleared the state Assembly’s appropriations committee and is headed for a full vote on the Assembly floor.

If approved by the Assembly, the bill , SB 863 authored by **Sen. Leland Yee** (D-San Francisco/San Mateo), would need final passage from the California Senate by Sept. 14 in order to become law this year, according to the senator’s office. The measure would require that no more than three licensees, including owners, could serve on the commission at one time.

Yee, who has been critical of the CHRB for some of its appointments and contracts, believes the measure will improve the agency’s accountability. There are seven commissioners on the CHRB and currently five of them are Thoroughbred owners. That includes three high-profile owners and breeders in California: vice chairman **John Harris** and commissioners **Jerry Moss** and **John Amerman**.

Opponents of the bill, such as the Oak Tree Racing Association and the Thoroughbred Owners of California, argue that the CHRB commissioners must deal with issues that are unique to horse racing. They contend that it is advantageous to have industry professionals with an extensive knowledge of racing in decision-making positions.

Under current horse racing law, a person is prohibited from serving on the commission if that individual, a spouse or dependent child holds a financial interest in any track; or a financial interest or position of management with any business entity that conducts pari-mutuel horse racing, or has a stake in management or concession contracts. Current law also encourages participation on the board by horse owners.

The legislation cleared the appropriations committee along party lines, with all 10 Democrats voting in favor on the 17-member panel. At least one Republican on the committee also plans to vote for the measure when it comes to the full Assembly, according to Yee’s office.

The bill also requires the CHRB to develop and adopt regulations regarding board member conflicts of interests and a code of ethics prior to July 1, 2008, and requires the board to receive annual ethics training. The commission began considering a code of ethics at its Aug. 21 board meeting.

“The California Horse Racing Board has seriously lacked appropriate balance,” said Yee. “The CHRB is tasked with serving the public interest, not the interests of one aspect of the industry over another. It is simply unacceptable for a public board to be dominated by an entity they are charged with regulating.”

According to Yee’s office, the states of New York, New Jersey, Illinois, Texas and Florida prohibit their racing board members from having any financial interest in the business. *Source: The Blood-Horse, Jack Shinar, August 22, 2007*

Signals Restored in Indiana, But Questions Linger

The **Indiana Horse Racing Commission's** ban on the import of signals from Arlington Park and Calder Race Course turned out to be short-lived.

Two days after the commission voted to withdraw its consent for the signals, Churchill Downs Inc. on Aug. 23 restored the two Thoroughbred signals to Indiana Downs' Evansville satellite wagering facility. The Arlington and Calder signals, which CDI started withholding from the southern Indiana betting parlor Aug. 15, were available at all outlets in the state Aug. 23.

"I received word late in the afternoon that the signals would be restored," Indiana Downs general manager **Jon Schuster** said. "I was hopeful we would have something by the weekend. Economically, it makes sense to everybody."

The Arlington and Calder signals were pulled from the Evansville outlet when CDI couldn't come to an agreement with Ellis Park management. According to a release, the withholding of the signals was part of CDI's sale agreement with businessman **Ron Geary**. Ellis Park in western Kentucky is located several miles from the Evansville betting facility.

In response, the IHRC invoked a ban on the Arlington and Calder products throughout the state. Conditions of the ban allowed the signals to be imported to all outlets once they were made available to the Evansville OTB. The Ellis Park sale contract with CDI states that should the IHRC ban a signal statewide, that provision is voided.

According to published reports, Geary doesn't agree with that interpretation.

"I thought they acted in the best interest of Indiana's racing industry," Schuster said. "(The commission) took an appropriate action to protect the interests of the state of Indiana. Fortunately, it worked out."

CDI, under the sale contract, continues to manage simulcast of the Ellis Park signal. It has a similar deal with Indiana's Hoosier Park, of which it used to be majority owner. *Source: The Blood-Horse, James Platz, August 24, 2007*

Hoosier Park Gets OK to Build Slots Facility

Hoosier Park officials were given the green light Aug. 21 to break ground on a proposed 92,000 square-foot slot-machine casino.

The **Indiana Horse Racing Commission** approved preliminary plans for the facility, clearing the way for construction to begin. The vote was the final hurdle for Centaur Racing, owner of Hoosier Park, which received approval from the Anderson Board of Zoning Appeals the evening of Aug. 20.

"We've gone through several different scenarios and have come back to this one for several reasons," Centaur Racing chief executive officer **Jeff Smith** told commissioners of the plan for a

permanent facility located to the north of Hoosier Park's existing facility. "We're still working on project costs. The construction timeline is still in process."

Smith and Hoosier Park president **Rick Moore** presented commissioners with a series of renderings, showing not only the proposed casino, which will house 2,000 slot machines, but also some of the renovations planned for the current facility. They told those in attendance the community and local legislators are excited about the project.

Smith said Centaur plans to build a facility that "has a bit of pizzazz to it." He also told commissioners the project would be complete by the end of next year, if not sooner. More details could be available in mid-September, he said.

Meanwhile, the racing commission approved the transfer of a minority interest in Indiana Downs to majority owner Oliver Racing. The South Bend, Ind.-based company purchased LHT Capital's 34.34% interest for \$58 million. Oliver Racing now holds a 95% interest in the Shelbyville track.

The terms of sale call for LHT Capital to pay a \$9-million transfer fee to the state of Indiana. The fee is earmarked for property tax relief in the state. Indiana Downs attorney **Lee McNeeley** told commissioners that, upon approval, the sale would close in two business days.

Indiana Downs also is working on plans to build a slots facility. *Source: The Blood-Horse, James Platz, August 22, 2007*

Too soon to tell if synthetic surface best at Prairie Meadows

It will be time for some track talk for Prairie Meadows at Thursday's Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission meeting.

The commission in April directed Prairie Meadows officials to examine synthetic surfaces and report back this month. After seeing tracks with Polytrack or Cushion Track, they can be expected to echo what most in the industry say: It's too early to say how much safer a rubber-based synthetic track is than a dirt track.

"There are some pros and some cons," Prairie Meadows general manager Gary Palmer said. "As the information funnels in from all different directions, everyone learns a little more every day."

The pros: Trainers almost universally say the surface is softer and easier for horses to train on. Breakdowns have gone down, although it not a panacea. Arlington Park, which installed Polytrack after having 22 horse fatalities on its dirt track in 2006, had a rash of breakdowns the past two months that raised the 2007 total to 14, according to the Daily Racing Form.

The surface doesn't cure what many say is the underlying reason for injuries: Running horses year-round.

"Most of it is wear and tear," trainer Suzanne Evans said. "I don't have any more (injuries) than I ever had, but I don't like to run mine more than every two weeks. If you do that, you can usually keep them together."

The cons: The surface costs \$8- to \$11 million. Polytrack is not as impervious to weather or maintenance-free as advertised, with Woodbine and Turfway Park already having to add wax to the material. Woodbine president David Willmot told the Los Angeles Times that "we paid for a Cadillac and got a Chevrolet."

The Polytrack surfaces at Del Mar and Keeneland are slow and tiring, causing one Daily Racing Form reader to dub it "Polyunfortunate."

Prairie Meadows has shown no desire to buy a synthetic track prior to its 2010 referendum. The commission has warned that it could order the track to go synthetic. That could depend on the number of injuries, which are up this year.

Through Aug. 18, there were 14 deaths from breakdowns - 10 racing and four training - compared to nine for all of 2006, five in 2005 and 14 in 2004.

Ten of the deaths occurred during the spring meet, where many trainers said that the track was hard after heavy April rain washed away some of the surface. The track was dug up and deepened in the break between meets, so the second meet started with an extremely slow surface that was especially tiring on the rail.

"For two weeks, it was real slow and soft," jockey Glenn Corbett said. "That extreme change, I don't think that was real good for the horses."

Then more rain came and it's now as fast as ever, although opinions are divided on whether it is too hard.

Trainers such as Dick Clark, Ray Tracy and Kelly Von Hemel, plus owners like Maggi Moss, Doug Vail and Ray Shattuck say the surface is hard on horses.

"They don't have enough cushion on it," Clark said. "That's all they need."

Bob Gorla, director of facilities said he has all the surface he needs.

Evans and trainer Lynn Chleborad said the surface is fine.

Jockeys gave the surface a passing grade.

"I don't think the Polytrack would ever hurt here, but it's in good shape right now," jockey Joel Campbell said. "There are days when it rains and gets too hard, but there's nothing you can do about that." *Source: DesMoines Register, Dan Johnson, August 28, 2007*

Kentucky Drug Council Supports Regulation of Steroids

The Kentucky Equine Drug Research Council supports the regulation of anabolic steroids in horses at racetracks and auctions in the state but has requested further explanation of withdrawal times

and other testing-related issues in the model rule offered by the **Association of Racing Commissioners International** and **Racing Medication and Testing Consortium**.

In an Aug. 23 meeting, the drug council stopped short of a recommendation for the **Kentucky Horse Racing Authority** but said it would tell the agency it favors steroid regulation. Officials said they want to make sure all parties, including horsemen, understand the rules and procedures before going forward.

There is a nationwide push for the regulation of four commonly used steroids approved for use by the Federal Drug Administration: boldenone (Equipoise), stanozolol (Winstrol), nandrolone (Durabolin), and testosterone. All other steroids would be banned.

“I think the consensus would be everybody wants constraint on anabolic steroids in racehorses and at sales,” said trainer **John Ward Jr.**, a member of the drug council. “I guess the next question is what the speed limit would be.”

Steroid withdrawal times--the period it takes for a drug to clear a horse’s system--reportedly range from 30-60 days, which would preclude their use on race day. FDA-approved steroids are widely believed to have therapeutic value.

“Anabolic steroids are extremely abused in racehorses,” said **Dr. Foster Northrop**, a racetrack veterinarian who took part in the discussion on steroids. “They do have a purpose in our industry, but they’re abused. The majority of racetrack vets will agree with you.”

Northrop said steroid use isn’t as bad in Kentucky as in other states. He claimed most abuse occurs in New York, where horses may be treated with steroids every 10 to 21 days. He said steroid use is high in Florida, as well.

“Racetrack practitioners feel it’s incredibly important that if we adopt rules for racehorses, sale companies should have to abide by the same rules,” Northrop said. “We are adamant about that.”

David Switzer, executive director of the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association, said Kentucky sale companies are working on threshold levels for anabolic steroids and could have regulations in place by early 2008.

Vets said steroids can serve two purposes. They can be “mental performance-enhancers,” the effects of which last about five days, and physical enhancers, the effects of which are gone in about two weeks. Northrop suggested a withdrawal time of even two weeks would eliminate abuse.

The Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association has asked all racing jurisdictions with graded stakes to begin testing for anabolic steroids effective Jan. 1, 2008. Even if Kentucky doesn't have regulations in place, racetracks could adopt house rules to meet those testing requirements, KHRA executive director **Lisa Underwood** said.

The drug council also discussed but took no action on a proposal to restrict administration of the bleeder medication Salix to state veterinarians, as is required at harness tracks but not Thoroughbred tracks. The plan would require hiring of additional personnel. *Source: The Blood-Horse, Tom LaMarra, August 23, 2007*

Cops reveal racetrack drug cache: But no charges are expected vs. bros.

State police yesterday unveiled a virtual smorgasbord of banned performance-enhancing drugs confiscated in an alleged doping scandal involving a pair of Plainville-based horsemen.

The massive seizure - illegal drugs, needles, tubes, funnels and other contraband from a Plainridge Racecourse barn - reflects what racing officials say is a crackdown on cheating in the “sport of kings.”

Brothers **John and Roland Sears** were preparing horses for a race Aug. 6 when the raid occurred. None of the animals tested positive for banned substances.

John Sears has already been banned from Massachusetts racetracks and fined \$5,000, but his brother is appealing his ejection by the **[Massachusetts] State Racing Commission**. No criminal charges are expected.

During a hearing yesterday at Plainridge, state police laid out boxes of banned substances, including bottles of Lidocaine and Carbocaine, which are considered to have a “high potential to affect performance” in racehorses.

In all, cops seized 13 types of banned medications in the stable, all of which can affect a horse’s performance.

The brothers, who are longtime horse trainers, deny that the illegal items belonged to them. But **Stan Bergstein**, executive vice president of Harness Tracks of America, said, “These occasions where guys are using medications are distorting the whole playing field. “It’s tough enough to try and train winners without having to contend with guys who are trying to break the rules.”

In addition to the banned substances, authorities also found empty boxes of baking soda, containers of lactated Ringer’s solution and hoses, which officials said is evidence of “tubing,” or “milk shaking” - a cruel practice in which sodium solution is pumped into a horse’s stomach to increase stamina and improve performance.

The practice can prove fatal, and did in 2005 at Plainridge when a horse died after it was dosed. The trainer in that case was fined \$2,000 and banned from state racetracks, but prosecutors did not file criminal charges.

Performance-enhancing drugs in racing has become a hot issue nationally as officials seek to crack down on violators. In Kentucky, one of thoroughbred racing’s most respected trainers, **Patrick Biancone**, is currently under investigation after officials searched his stable at Keeneland and found cobra venom - a banned anesthetic known to improve performance.

“The sooner that racing can get rid of people who use these substances, the better,” Bergstein said. *Source: The Boston Herald, Dave Wedge, August 29, 2007*

Michigan May Listen to Slots Overtures Again

Another fight is brewing over whether Michigan's racetracks should be allowed to add casino-style gambling.

Supporters of adding slot machines and other casino games to horse tracks testified Aug. 21 before the state House Regulatory Reform Committee. Though no formal proposal has yet been introduced in the state legislature, one could come soon. Supporters are trying to build momentum for their effort, saying casino gambling at racetracks would raise tax revenue for a cash-strapped state government.

Michigan racetracks have been unsuccessful in their previous attempts to add slot machines and other games. Their efforts to start so-called racinos are opposed by Detroit and American Indian tribal casinos already operating in the state, along with anti-gambling organizations.

Those groups joined forces in 2004 to spark a voter-approved change to the state constitution making it more difficult for gambling expansion. The law requires most new gambling operations, except those run by Indian tribes or at Detroit's casinos, to be approved by voters at both state and local levels before they could go forward.

Roger Martin, a spokesman for the coalition that backed Proposal 1 in 2004, said the voters' support of that measure shows Michigan citizens don't want casino games at racetracks.

"It would be a difficult campaign for them to reverse the landslide voter opposition from 2004," Martin said.

Track operators try to counteract that by stressing that gambling already takes place at their locations.

Just getting to the ballot won't be easy. Two-thirds of the members of both the state House and state Senate would have to support placing the racetrack initiative on the statewide ballot. Another option would be for groups that support the gambling expansion to launch a citizen petition drive to put their issue before voters.

Either way, the supporters of the proposal want to see some votes at either the state or local levels as early as this year, with more votes in 2008.

Representatives of Michigan racetracks said allowing full-scale casinos at seven locations would raise more than \$500 million a year for the state in new tax revenue. Some supporters have suggested that would lessen the need for a tax increase in Michigan.

Racinos also could be a way for tracks to drum up more business. Gambling has declined at the tracks over the past few decades, and a few operations have closed down. Magna Entertainment Corp. this month scrapped plans to build a raceracing track near Detroit Metropolitan Airport and also plans to close Great Lakes Downs in western Michigan after the 2007 season.

"We think this issue has the potential not only to help save the racing industry, but bring revenues to the state of Michigan," said **Joe Garcia**, a lawyer for the **Michigan Racing Association**. *Source: The Blood-Horse, August 22, 2007*

Corzine must add horse racing to his priority list

Ten years ago, New Jersey citizens approved a constitutional amendment to allow for account wagering, telephone wagering and off-track betting on horse racing. Since that time, horsemen and women have worked hard to advocate and implement strategies that would preserve New Jersey's horse racing and breeding industries for years to come.

Among our accomplishments were new laws and legal agreements that provided for: the building of 15 off-track wagering facilities; account wagering over the phone and the Internet; a four-year deal with the casino industry that provided supplemental funds for horse racing purses so New Jersey racing would remain competitive with neighboring states; the hosting of the Breeders' Cup at Monmouth Park in 2007; a stable racing calendar with no reduction of live racing days; increased incentives for New Jersey horse breeders racing their horses out of state during the months when New Jersey is not offering live racing and the addition of four horsemen to the **New Jersey Racing Commission**.

These actions under the watchful eyes of previous governors were to ensure the continued health of our industry over the short term as it faced increased competition for the wagering dollar from the casino industry and the lottery as well as other racing states that have slot machines or video lottery mechanisms within their racetracks.

It was always our belief that a long-term solution would come with the election of a new governor two years ago. This solution would include the placement of video lottery terminals and/or slot machines at the Meadowlands racetrack. This has not happened.

Because of the inaction by the **Corzine** administration, many people believe Gov. Corzine is not an ally. They believe he has closed his eyes to our industry due to his long-term relationships with certain Atlantic City casino operators and the Wall Street investors that control the casino empires.

I believe this is not the case. I remain optimistic that his intentions are admirable and he just has put other pressing issues before racing.

Nevertheless, it is time Corzine put preserving racing and breeding back on his priority list. He needs to meet with the thoroughbred industry and discuss the numerous proposals to keep racing and breeding's future viable and sustainable.

The governor needs to come to Monmouth Park and see how all of the improvements made to the track over the past year have been the catalyst to a successful season. Haskell Day had the fifth largest attendance ever with more than 40,000 people and a record total handle of \$14,122,636. Finally, he needs to advance a solution for racing such as placing video lottery terminals or slot machines at the Meadowlands racetrack.

Slot machines or video lottery terminals at the Meadowlands were contemplated long before any of the short-term solutions were adopted. A Blue Ribbon Commission on Racing was convened in the 1990s to consider the issue. It was determined then that the state would establish account

wagering, telephone wagering and off-track betting on horse racing first and then address the need for slots and/or video lottery terminals at a later date.

This conversation occurred in the transition period between **Govs. Donald DiFrancesco** and **James McGreevey** at the end of 2001. In the McGreevey Transition Report on Gaming, many options were presented, from the placement of slot machines and/or video lottery terminals at the Meadowlands to dedicating a portion of the revenue from slot machines located in designated casino areas to racing and breeding. A year later, a decision was made to give racing and breeding a four-year deal where purses were supplemented with revenues from the **Casino Reinvestment Development Authority** as well as other sources. This deal ends Dec. 31.

There are things that can be done while a long-term solution for our industry is advanced. Most importantly, the governor needs to aggressively move forward on establishment of 15 off-track wagering facilities. These facilities were to produce upwards of \$20 million for horsemen and \$40 million for racetrack operators – money that racing and breeding desperately needs.

The law to establish these facilities was passed in 2001. It is now 2007 and the **New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority** still has not opened a facility while its partner, who is also a competitor from Pennsylvania, has opened one in Vineland. There is nothing horsemen can do about it because it is in the hands of the racetrack operator, who happens to be the state of New Jersey.

New Jersey racing and breeding interests are now in panic mode because we are only four months away from the end of the year and nothing has been done to ensure a viable racing season for next year and subsequent years.

Contrary to incorrect information given by the casino industry, the deal with the casino industry to supplement purses ends Dec. 31. Without a supplement or another mechanism for generating revenue for purses starting Jan. 1, New Jersey racing may as well pick up a shovel and dig its own grave.

The governor's office keeps telling us "something" will be worked out after a report commissioned by the governor on the impact neighboring competition has on New Jersey and its racing and casino industry is released after the November election. However, no one in racing knows what this "something" is.

The racing industry has received commitments from the legislative leadership that the industry will survive and prosper. It is time we receive the same commitment from the governor. We need his leadership and guidance. We cannot wait until studies are conducted and elections are over. The livelihood of too many people, too many families, too many farm operations and too many communities are at risk. We've waited long enough. We need action now. *Dennis A. Drazin, Fair Haven, is president of the New Jersey Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. Source: Asbury Park Press, Dennis A. Drazin, August 26, 2007*

Betting Group Launches Protest Actions

A group of bettors angered at the divisive state of advance deposit wagering has taken action by staging what it termed a "boycott" at a New Mexico racetrack, and also launched a protest Web

site against a content provider.

The initial wagering protest involved focused betting on the Aug. 25 card at The Downs Racetrack & Casino at Albuquerque. The group claimed victory, saying its influence was felt in helping raise the off-track handle 78.6% to \$126,057 from a \$70,596 total recorded at the track Aug. 18.

“Unofficially, today's handle was the highest of the meet,” the track’s racing secretary, **Stuart Slagle**, wrote Aug. 25 in a post on PaceAdvantage.com

The PaceAdvantage Web site is where the protest concept was launched earlier this month. Posters claimed the Albuquerque total would have been higher, but many bettors who would have participated in the action couldn't wager because their accounts didn't carry the track.

Another poster claimed only three North American tracks showed increases in handle when comparing Aug. 18 to Aug. 25 - Saratoga, Monmouth and the Albuquerque track, which featured four Quarter Horse races on its 10-race card.

Additionally, a Web site called boycotttracknet.com was launched with the intent of better organizing bettors, and to voice frustration with TrackNet Media Group, the joint content venture formed earlier this year by Churchill Downs and Magna Entertainment.

Chicago-area bettor **Richard Young**, who organized the boycott Web site and is a forum poster, said he was personally pleased with the early results of the protests.

“I think what happened at Albuquerque is phenomenal,” he said. “I am only speaking for myself, but I think every track in the country wants to have the next 'boycott' at their track. And there are a couple of tracks that may be considered for a boycott.” *Source: The Blood-Horse, Ryan Conley, August 27, 2007*

New Mexico Second State to Mandate 'Safety Reins'

New Mexico became the second state to adopt a “safety reins” rule when the **New Mexico Racing Commission** approved the measure Aug. 21. The **Ohio State Racing Commission** adopted a similar rule in March.

The New Mexico regulation will take effect May 15, 2008, to give horsemen and jockeys time to get up to speed. The Jockeys' Guild has been lobbying regulatory agencies around the country to mandate use of the reins, which requires a secondary rein that serves as a back-up should a rein break.

“The Guild would like to thank the New Mexico Racing Commission and the New Mexico Horsemen's Association for their dedication to safety reins,” said **John Beech**, the Southwest regional manager for the Guild who attended the Aug. 21 meeting. “They want to give everybody (time to comply), so it goes into effect next year.”

A safety rein is a rein with a wire or nylon cord stitched into the traditional leather or nylon rein during the manufacturing process, with the cord attached to the bit with a metal clasp. If the leather reins break, jockeys can grab the nylon.

Art Gray, who developed the reins, told *The Blood-Horse* earlier this year they have been certified by a testing laboratory as providing additional strength to conventional reins. Gray has background as a horseman and racing official and currently operates a security firm in New York. *Source: The Blood-Horse, Tom LaMarra, August 22, 2007*

NYRA defends costly integrity deal

SARATOGA SPRINGS - New York Racing Association President and CEO **Charles Hayward** has defended his bankrupt firm's hiring of a high-profile New York law firm for \$125,000 per month. Shortly before the Saratoga meet, NYRA retained New York-based **Getnick & Getnick** to deal with a variety of integrity-related racetrack practices, from horse drug-testing to backstretch employee conditions.

This is the same firm that a federal court appointed to monitor NYRA's business operations for 18 months following a money laundering scandal among pari-mutuel clerks. That monitorship lasted 18 months from early 2004 until mid-2005.

Afterward, managing partner Neil V. Getnick issued a glowing report that praised NYRA for making a major turnaround and adopting new integrity policies that set the standard for the entire thoroughbred racing industry. NYRA was required to pay for Getnick & Getnick's work that cost \$4 million.

Gary Pretlow, D-Yonkers, who chairs the state Assembly's Racing and Wagering Committee, blasted NYRA's new contract with the firm, which he called excessive in light of NYRA's poor financial condition.

"It's ridiculous," he said. "I'd like to know how they came up with those numbers."

He also questioned the length of the five-year pact, because NYRA's current franchise expires on Dec. 31 and three other firms are vying to replace NYRA.

But Hayward said the contract is null and void if NYRA fails to retain the franchise.

Bennett Liebman, head of Albany Law School's Racing and Wagering Law Program, raised two points of concern about the deal. First, there's the appearance of Getnick being rewarded for writing a favorable report. Also, the contract wasn't subject to competitive bid.

Hayward said the monthly \$125,000 fees are considerably less than what Getnick charges some clients.

"You can't put a price on integrity," he said. "It's a lot of money, but there's a lot of good services coming as a result of that."

Hayward defended the lack of competitive bidding, saying that Getnick & Getnick is experienced, familiar with NYRA and committed to its reform.

Last year, the state issued a request for proposals seeking firms to bid on the next racing contract.

A state ad hoc committee, created by **former Gov. George Pataki**, evaluated proposals under a weighted scoring system with integrity counting for 20 percent of the final tally.

However, then-Attorney General **Eliot Spitzer** criticized the process, saying that integrity should be a prerequisite of any firm seeking the franchise, not one of several factors to consider.

NYRA's hiring of Getnick & Getnick reflects its commitment to integrity's importance, Hayward said. For the time being, however, it's being done at taxpayers' expense, because NYRA is operating with state loans worth tens of millions of dollars. NYRA filed for bankruptcy last Nov. 4 and the courts approved state loans totaling \$40 million to keep NYRA afloat through 2007.

Hayward said NYRA might not get out of bankruptcy until mid-2008, even if it keeps the franchise, because it would take that long to work out a reorganization plan and have a bankruptcy judge approve it. *Source: The Saratogian, August 21, 2007, by Paul Post, The Associated Press*

K-9 units implemented at Vernon Downs to detect illicit drugs

Vernon Downs, Tioga Downs and Gray & Associates Consulting have instituted K-9 Units to patrol both Vernon and Tioga Downs.

The first patrol and barn inspection took place this morning at Vernon Downs.

Art Gray stated, "I believe this is the first time dogs have been trained and used to ensure the integrity of racing. In addition to marijuana, cocaine, heroin and crystal meth these dogs have been trained to detect illicit drugs and any equipment used to administer drugs in violation of racetrack and commission rules and regulations."

Standard operating procedures dictate the staff work in teams and that any possible violations be securely bagged and documented. The first day turned up several potential violations. The substances will be sent to a lab for identification.

The K-9s, Buck and Bo, were trained by **Jack Felicita**, Security Director at Tioga Downs and **Nancy Mitchell**, also a member of the Tioga Security Staff both of whom are retired K-9 Unit officers with over twenty years' experience.

Jeff Gural, who owns both Vernon Downs and Tioga Downs, issued this statement: "It is the responsibility of the racetrack owners in all facets of racing to do everything in their power to complement the efforts of the racing commissions to maintain the integrity of racing. The K-9 units will be an integral part of our integrity program. The vast majority of owners and trainers simply want to compete on a level playing field and anything we can do to advance that agenda is worth the extra cost involved. As a breeder who sees these wonderful animals born and raised it is repugnant to think that someone would put a tube with baking soda down their throats or use any other experimental drugs to win a race. It is my hope that racetrack owners around the country will follow our lead." *Source: USTrotting.com; August 23, 2007 - by Jason Settlemoir, regional VP of racing operations, Vernon Downs*

Customer wins in racing commission ruling

OKLAHOMA CITY - On May 23, customer David Alsip bought a ticket at Remington Park placing a \$108 Pick-4 wager on a simulcast race to be held that day at Hollywood Park in California. But when Alsip later went to collect his expected \$853 in winnings, he was instead offered a \$108 refund.

A telecommunications failure in Ohio created a problem for Oklahoma City's Remington Park. Racetrack officials expressed their concern last week over the perceived precedent the **Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission** set with their ruling in the case, which grapples with a seemingly contradictory commission rule.

Wagers made at Remington Park are relayed to the Ohio hub of AmTote, an international supplier of wagering systems software and hardware for the pari-mutuel wagering industry now owned by Remington Park's parent company, Magna Entertainment. In turn, the AmTote Ohio hub relays the wagers to the racetracks hosting simulcast races.

Remington Park successfully relayed Alsip's wager to the AmTote Ohio hub, but AmTote suffered a total communications failure at roughly the same time the race at Hollywood Park was scheduled to begin. The phone lines at the AmTote Ohio hub were inoperable for about three hours.

Gregg Scoggins, national director of regulatory affairs for Magna Entertainment Corp., said the proper course of action was to offer customers a refund on their tickets, since their wagers were never merged into the pool for the races they bet on.

"We don't know how they would have affected the odds," said Scoggins. Remington Park did not make any money from the lost wagers, since the track only gets commission on wagers that are merged into the pool, he said. The racetrack denied Alsip's claim in light of the precedent that might be set.

"If we paid him, we'd have everyone else saying 'we want the highest track odds,'" he said. According to Horse Racing Commission rules, the racetrack had two options. The rule states that if, for any reason, the bets placed at the racetrack cannot be merged into the common pool, the racetrack "shall make payoffs in accordance with payoff prices that would have been in effect if prices for the pool of bets were calculated without regard to wagers placed elsewhere."

However, the rules provide that, with the permission of the Commission, the racetrack may decide whether to pay winning tickets at payoff prices or void the bets and refund the purchase price of the tickets. Alsip questioned the reasoning of a rule that allows for two very different outcomes depending only upon the commission's permission.

Remington Park regarded a letter issued by former commission director **Gordon Hare** in 2003, granting the track permission to issue refunds for a specific instance that year, as granting permission for future instances as well. Due to the communications failure on May 23, the track

had to refund more than 1,000 tickets totaling \$14,600. As of June 30, the track had refunded all but about 400 tickets valued at \$3,000, notifying customers of the incident with a sign posted at the racetrack.

The commission held a hearing on Alsip's claim at its August meeting. Scroggins said the AmTote representative was prevented from attending the meeting because a family member was undergoing chemotherapy treatment, but that AmTote had filed a complaint against telecommunications provider AT&T.

Commissioners questioned representatives of the racetrack at length, and objected to the lack of hard evidence presented to the commission regarding the communications failure.

"This is the classic definition of 'hearsay,'" said member **Randy Calvert**. "We need someone who can present the facts of the case."

Track officials assured commissioners that in the future, notice of the policy of refunding wagers that are not merged will be posted in a place where customers can read of the policy before making a wager.

The commission ruled that Remington Park did not adequately present evidence to support its case, and ordered the racetrack to pay Alsip the amount he would have won had his bet been merged, \$853. *Source: The Journal Record, Janice Francis-Smith, August 23, 2007*

State horse racing official calls for more funds

OKLAHOMA CITY - The 2008 legislative session will be the third session for Constantin Rieger as executive director of the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission. And Rieger is hoping the third time is a charm. "We plan to be more aggressive this year," in requesting additional funding for the agency, said Rieger. "This will be my third year, and more legislators are getting to know my ugly mug."

The Legislature's success in boosting Oklahoma's horse racing industry has resulted in so much increased business that the Horse Racing Commission staff has to scramble to keep up. "More outfits are coming in because the purses are so good," said Rieger. "And that's putting a strain on our staff."

The commission's enforcement agents are woefully underpaid, he said. But Rieger expects his biggest challenge will be in obtaining nine more staff members to handle certain animal testing duties. The racetracks currently handle the job of collecting urine samples from horses to screen for illegal substances. But Rieger said he was concerned with the level of training provided to those assigned the task of collecting samples.

"I don't know who I'm going to get," said Rieger, as just about any racetrack employee may be assigned to the job as needed. "There are serious chain of custody issues." For instance, if the employee had traces of cocaine on his or her hands when collecting the sample, the test could incorrectly find that the horse had been drugged.

"We don't want to prosecute a trainer who is not guilty," he said, as the first in a list of legal concerns. When the benefits and insurance costs are factored in for nine new employees at approximately \$9 per hour, the proposal could add up to a \$300,000 hit on the state budget. But

given the legal implications, the proposal could result in a long-term savings for the state, Rieger said. *Source: The Journal Record, Janice Francis-Smith, August 21, 2007*

Audit Shows Table Games Passed for Dog Track

An audit of a vote on table games at a Greyhound racetrack near Charleston, W.Va., showed the measure passed 23,192-22,849, but there has been a call for a recount.

Voters in Kanawha County went to the polls Aug. 11 to vote on the expansion of gambling at Tri-State Racetrack and Gaming Center, which already has video lottery terminals. Initial reports showed the measure passed by only about 30 votes, but the audit showed the margin at more than 300.

Voters earlier had approved table games in Hancock County for Mountaineer Race Track & Gaming Resort, and in Ohio County for Wheeling Island Racetrack & Gaming Center, another dog track. Voters in Jefferson County rejected the measure for Charles Town Races & Slots.

The West Virginia legislature earlier this year passed a bill allow local-option votes on table games, which are expected to bring millions of dollars in revenue. Tracks will be able to add blackjack, craps, poker, and roulette.

According to public reports, the former director of a state program for gambling addicts has asked for a recount in Kanawha County. More than 46,000 ballots would need to be recounted.

Tri-State is located about 40 minutes from the eastern Kentucky border. If the referendum withstands the challenge, it would become the closest full-scale land-based casino in Kentucky, where expanded gambling is an issue in this year's gubernatorial race. *Source: The Blood-Horse, John Kady, August 22, 2007*

ORC bans horseman for 10 years

Brett Robinson is the latest harness horseman to feel the sting of the **Ontario Racing Commission**.

The 36-year-old son of famed trainer **Bill Robinson** yesterday was handed a 10-year suspension and \$40,000 fine following confirmation that a prohibited substance was found in one of his racehorses.

ORC deputy director **Rob McKinney** said the suspension would encompass all four licences currently held by Robinson: trainer, driver, owner and authorized agent.

McKinney identified the substance as the performance-enhancing medication erythropoietin, commonly known as EPO, which, in effect, creates more red blood cells.

Fox Valley Tribal, the horse involved in the incident, has been suspended from racing. The 4-year-old was to compete in this evening's 11th race at Mohawk. He had won two of six starts this year and has earned \$560,000 in his career.

Robinson also had one horse - Vysoke Tatry - entered in tomorrow night's \$392,000 Breeders Crown Pace for older mares.

McKinney said the ORC has been actively engaged in a campaign to stamp out EPO for some time now. Only recently two other horsemen, **Todd Gray** and **Brian Scott**, were handed 10-year suspensions and \$100,000 fines for a similar offence. On appeal, the ORC reduced the fines to \$40,000 and \$20,000, respectively, but maintained the duration of the original suspensions.

Robinson, who could not be reached for comment, grew up in harness racing as his father, Bill, was one of the leading trainers in North America for more than 20 years. Brett Robinson started his own stable in 2002 and his horses have earned more than \$1 million in each of the past three years.

Source: The Star (Toronto), Hans Grottke, Special to The Star, August 31, 2007

AmTote Secures Contract with Attractions Hippiques Quebec

AmTote Canada will continue to be the tote services provider for Attractions Hippiques Quebec, it was announced Aug. 29.

Attractions Hippiques Quebec owns and manages racetracks in Montreal, Quebec City, Aylmer and Trois-Rivieres, as well as the Hippo Clubs du Quebec off-track network and PariTel / WebPhoneBet account wagering services. AmTote Canada is a subsidiary of Magna Entertainment Corp., which also owns parent company AmTote International.

Financial terms were not disclosed.

"We are excited at continuing to develop our relationship with AHQ" says **Steve Keech**, president of AmTote International. "By providing patrons of AHQ with proven pari-mutuel wagering technology, along with new wagering tools derived from our significant investment in wagering innovation, we expect to help AHQ revitalize harness racing in Quebec. Building on our recent long-term partnership with Woodbine Entertainment Group, this transaction represents another vote of confidence in AmTote and our commitment to horseracing world wide."

AmTote International, headquartered in Hunt Valley, Md., is a global provider of totalizator and wagering technology. AmTote currently has service contracts with over 70 customers worldwide, including North American and international racetracks, sports books, and online wagering entities.

Source: The Blood-Horse, August 29, 2007 (edited press release)

U.S. Commingling of Bets on Hong Kong Races Approved

Horseplayers in the United States will be able to wager directly into Hong Kong Jockey Club pools under a plan approved by the Nevada Gaming Commission.

Hong Kong racing has been available at some U.S. wagering outlets for years, but the bets have gone into separate pools. The HKJC said approved by Nevada regulators in the first major step in distributing the Hong Kong signal to U.S. markets.

The HKJC has a deal with Nevada-based Las Vegas Dissemination Co. to handle the import of its signal and the commingling of wagers.

“We thank the Nevada Gaming Control Board and Gaming Commission for their approval to import Hong Kong’s world-class racing product,” HKJC chief executive officer **Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges** said in a statement. “We have a mission to maintain the Hong Kong Jockey Club’s status as a world leader in racing and sports betting entertainment businesses, and with globalization, we see the importance regarding our brand image.

“Any ventures into overseas markets must be done in the right way, consistent with our commitment for best practices. It is our view there is no better place in the world with respect to best practices than the state of Nevada with its worldwide reputation as a premier regulatory authority in a very competitive gaming environment. We believe that Nevada is the right entry point for our first overseas commingling venture.”

LVDC president and CEO **John Gaughan** said the “impact of the Hong Kong races will reverberate throughout the racing and casino industries and will enhance the way American race books and racetracks operate their businesses.” He noted that 78 days of racing during the 2006-07 HKJC season generated handle of \$8.2 billion--about half the total handle in the U.S. each year.

The agreement endorses LVDC as the exclusive U.S. hub for commingling bets into the pools of the HKJC. All U.S. wagers will be serviced by LVDC as it disseminates their races to an expanded marketplace, the HKJC said.

Racing in Hong Kong is held at Sha Tin racecourse and Happy Valley. In Nevada, the product will be offered at race books in the evening given the time difference. *Source: The Blood-Horse, August 24, 2007.*

Industry Meetings and Events Calendar

2007

September

27-30 Ontario Racing Commission -
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.

RCI 2008 Annual Conference on Racing and Wagering Integrity

Hold the Dates!!!!

March 24-28, 2008

In Austin, Texas

To: All Racing Commissioners and Executives, Gaming Regulators, RCI Associate Members, Thoroughbred, Standardbred, Quarterhorse and Greyhound Track Executives, Horsemen's Representatives, Industry Associations, Government Officials and Service Providers and international representatives

From: Peter Burnett, RCI Chairman; Ed Martin, RCI President/CEO.

Variety of Speakers

Panel Discussions

Committee Meetings

Social Events

Committee Meetings commencing
March 24 with conference programming
continuing through **March 28.**

Details on registration and special room rates & hotel reservations will be posted on ARCI.COM when available.



www.driskillhotel.com

Job Opening: Associate Director, Equine Drug Testing Laboratory - #07322

Cornell University is a bold, innovative, inclusive and dynamic teaching and research university where staff, faculty, and students alike are challenged to make an enduring contribution to the betterment of humanity.

The Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University is seeking applications for the position of Associate Director of the Equine Drug Testing Laboratory at a rank of Senior Extension Associate. The Equine Drug Testing (EDT) program is a cooperative program between Cornell University and the New York State Racing & Wagering Board. This program offers regulatory testing for the horse racing industry in the State of New York. The program maintains a research program for developing and validating assay procedures to keep up with the demand for new and better means of detecting drugs in racehorses. Located in Ithaca, in the Finger Lakes region of New York State.

This is a professional position that involves developing and carrying out independent and collaborative testing programs dealing with the horse racing industry. The successful candidate will be expected to participate in the leadership and the management of the EDT program. These activities include: 1) Conducting drug testing on blood and urine samples submitted by the New York State Racing and Wagering Board using standard operating protocols. Analytical techniques used include liquid-liquid extractions, solid phase extractions, thin layer chromatography, gas chromatography, gas chromatography/mass spectrometry, high performance liquid chromatography liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry, capillary electrophoresis and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays; 2) Supervising analytical chemists and technicians involved in the conduct of drug testing; 3) Interfacing with appropriate officers of the New York State Racing and Wagering Board; 4) Maintaining accurate, detailed records of all test results and laboratory operations for legal scrutiny; 5) Compiling test results of positive drug finding for presentation at New York State Racing and Wagering Board hearings; 6) Testifying at New York State Racing and Wagering Board hearings concerning analytical chemistry, pharmacology and Laboratory operations; 7) Monitoring and evaluating the scientific literature concerning drug testing developments and new drugs that have the potential for illegal use in horse racing; 8) Complying with University, State and Federal health and safety standards; 9) Complying with animal use regulations mandated by University, State and Federal laws, and 10) Interfacing with chemists and veterinarians in other racing jurisdictions.

Qualifications: The successful candidate will have a DVM or equivalent degree and /or an advanced degree in pharmacology or chemistry; as well as experience and expertise in veterinary medicine, pharmacology and analytical chemistry. The successful candidate will have demonstrated expertise and experience in two of these requisites, through either work experience or post graduate training. Ability to direct a laboratory, including management of operation and personnel, is also required. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

Interested candidates should provide a letter of application, curriculum vitae, and names of three references to Dr. George Maylin, Chair, Search Committee, c/o Cathy Andersen, Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences, Cornell University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Ithaca, NY 14853 or via e-mail to: caa2@cornell.edu.

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



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