



The Horsemen's Newsletter

August 2007

Volume 17 • Number 8

Penn National makes deal to buy Rosecroft

Rosecroft Raceway, the larger of Maryland's two harness tracks, could soon be sold to Penn National Gaming Inc. (PNG), the Wyomissing, Pa.-based firm that owns a wide array of gambling enterprises, including Penn National and Charles Town.

PNG has entered a binding letter of intent to purchase Rosecroft, which is located in the Washington suburb of Oxon Hill. Rosecroft is owned by a corporate entity held by its horsemen's group, Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Association, which has voted to approve the deal.

Cloverleaf has attempted to sell Rosecroft several times in recent years. In May 2004, a group closely affiliated with Philadelphia Park was set to purchase Rosecroft, until the Maryland Racing Commission blocked the sale.

Financial details of Penn National's prospective purchase have not yet been publicly disclosed.

MRMA Crab Feast set Oct. 5 at Laurel

The Maryland Racing Media Association's annual Crab Feast will take place on Friday, October 5 in the Carriage Room at Laurel Park.

As usual, the menu includes all-you-can-eat crabs, plus a buffet featuring chicken and side dishes and an open bar with beer, wine and soft drinks.

Tickets are \$55 each, or \$500 for a table of 10.

To order your tickets call Lucy Acton at (410) 337-0036.

State report deems racing "well worth saving"

Study documents competitive pressures

A key advisor to Governor Martin O'Malley has presented the Governor with a lengthy report concluding that Maryland's racing and breeding industries (both Thoroughbred and Standardbred) are "in serious economic distress" and that they are "well worth saving."

Thomas E. Perez, Secretary of the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, compiled the 19-page report entitled "Slot Machines and the Racing Industry: A Review of Existing Data in Maryland and Neighboring States," made public on August 14.

It closes with the following statement:

The two principal options for saving the [racing and breeding] industry are to use current general funds to provide subsidies, or to enact slots legislation that will earmark some of the proceeds for the industry. If we fail to identify a stable funding source, the industry will wither away in my judgment, and the economic consequences will be significant.

Commented MTHA President Richard Hoffberger: "This report clearly reinforces our hope that the state will take positive action in the near future. Secre-

See **Report**, page 2

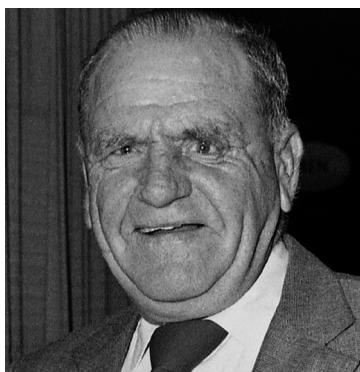
Tuffy Hacker: renowned trainer and horsemen's advocate

Beverly P.—"Tuffy"—Hacker, one of the best trainers ever to make his career in Maryland, as well as an ardent advocate for horsemen, died on August 13. He was 85.

A memorial service for Mr. Hacker will be conducted on Monday, August 27 at 7 p.m. in the Great Room at Savage Mill, on Rte. 1 in Laurel.

He is survived by his wife of more than 60 years, Evelyn.

Mr. Hacker, who retired from training in the 1980s, developed numerous stakes winners, including Rollicking and Christopher R. (each a Maryland-bred



champion) and the highly accomplished Shelter Half.

Throughout his 30-plus years as a Maryland trainer, Mr. Hacker involved himself in almost every issue affecting the welfare of horsemen. He was a longtime director of the horsemen's group that preceded the MTHA in Maryland.

"During his exceptional training career, there was no greater advocate for the industry and in particular backstretch workers," said MTHA Executive

See **Hacker**, page 3



Board actions

Meeting held August 15 at Laurel
Members present: Richard J. Hoffberger, President; Richard J. Meyer, Vice President; John V. Alecci, Dale Capuano, Phillip L. Capuano, William T. Fitzgibbons, Sr., Linda S. Gaudet, H. Neil Glasser, Arnold A. Heft, Timothy L. Keefe, Lawrence E. Murray, John J. Robb, Valora A. Testerman, Katharine M. Voss

Member absent: Howard M. Bender

Scholarship program

The board voted unanimously to approve a \$5,000 contribution to the 2007 Maryland Thoroughbred Scholarship Fund. This amount is identical to the MTHA's contribution in past years.

Committee bulletins

Bowie

Backstretch chairman Phil Capuano reported:

- Foreign objects have been found on the race track.
- Numerous problems have occurred in the track kitchen.
- Manure and trash containers are not being used properly.
- There is an excessive amount of debris on the roadways.

Laurel

Backstretch chairman Larry Murray reported:

- A better system is needed for handling manure.

Simulcasting extension

The board agreed, by unanimous vote, to approve simulcasting from July 1 through December 31, 2007.

Financial report

The MTHA's financial report for the period January 1 through June 30, 2007 was reviewed and unanimously approved as presented.

Annual audit

The audit of the MTHA's financial statements for 2006 was presented and accepted.

Ellin & Tucker, Chartered performed the audit.

New immigration rules to take effect in mid-September

The Departments of Homeland Security (DHS) and Commerce have jointly announced new immigration measures to take effect in mid-September.

These measures are expected to simplify the process of employing aliens under the H-2A and H-2B programs, but they also establish tougher penalties for employers who "knowingly" hire undocumented workers.

Under the new regulations, fines imposed on employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants will be raised 25 percent. Current fines are \$2,200 for the first offense and up to \$10,000 for repeat offenses. The 25 percent increase is the maximum allowed under current law.

For more information contact the American Horse Council at (202) 296-4031; e-mail: AHC@horsecouncil.org or visit www.horsecouncil.org.

Report, from page 1

tary Perez obviously has an accurate and thorough understanding of the problems confronting our industry. His report does an excellent job of illustrating the vital role of racing within the state of Maryland. And he emphasizes the economic impact of allowing Maryland racing to regain its preeminent role within the region."

Following are some additional excerpts from Secretary Perez's report:

• *Maryland's horse racing industry historically has been an economic powerhouse.*

• *As the slots debate continues, it is important to understand the amount of money spent on slots in other states that originates in Maryland.*

• *As Maryland's population grows and development pressures force farmers out, protecting the state's horse industry becomes more and more critical to sustaining the legacy of rural Maryland and maintaining a healthy environment.*

- Better manure containers are also necessary.

- Vehicles are being driven on horse paths.

Pimlico

Backstretch chairman Lori Testerman said clean-up from the Virgin Festival in early August was not yet complete. Some items were left on the turf course.

Backstretch chairman Bill Fitzgibbons explained that hucksters' horses relocated from downtown Baltimore are occupying temporary stalls at Pimlico and are expected to remain for the next few months.

Hoofprints

Timonium trainer's bonus

Timonium will distribute a total of \$10,000 in bonuses to the four winningest trainers at its upcoming meet, August 24 through September 3.

The bonus amounts will be: first, \$4,000; second, \$3,000; third, \$2,000; and fourth, \$1,000.

Maryland Horse Radio

Stan Salter's Maryland Horse Radio is scheduled to resume on September 8 for a 17-week fall run.

The live hour-long shows will air at 9 a.m. on Saturdays at WBIS-AM 1190. Broadcasts can also be heard at www.wbis1190.com.

Shows feature reports and commentary on racing in Maryland, highlighting local performers.

Black-type standards to change

Owners and trainers are reminded that the minimum purse value for North American black-type races will increase from \$45,000 to \$50,000 beginning January 1, 2008.

For more information call the Society of International Thoroughbred Auctioneers at (352) 804-7899.

MDA Web site lists hay suppliers

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) provides a list of hay suppliers on its Web site, www.mda.state.md.us.

A print-out of the listings may also be ordered from the MDA at (410) 841-5770.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF JIM MCCUE

Thoughts, from page 4

been handled by MRMA, so as to eliminate any concerns about conflict of interest.

Scholarship winners are announced at the annual MRMA Crab Feast, to be held this year on October 5 in the Carriage Room at Laurel Park.

We have every reason to expect that this will be another successful year for the program. And we thank the horsemen's organizations, in particular MTHA President Richard Hoffberger and MHAF President Richard Meyer, for joining with us in this important, and highly gratifying, effort.

David Richardson
MRMA President

Hacker, from page 1

Secretary Wayne Wright.

Standing 5'2", Mr. Hacker justified his nickname on other fronts as well. He had a successful career as a jockey before being drafted into the Army. During World War II, he served in France and was decorated with several battle stars.

"Tuffy was an icon within Maryland racing," said MTHA President Richard Hoffberger. "Everybody knew him, and he generated enormous respect."

IN MEMORIAM

Joseph J. Muldoon, 73, a longtime owner/breeder, died on July 15. His best runners included stakes winners Kiss Me Katie and Home Run Hitter, campaigned in partnership with Charles J. Reed.

The Horsemen's Newsletter

Published monthly by the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc.
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The Horsemen's Newsletter reports on issues and events of interest to owners and trainers in Maryland. Your suggestions are welcome.

Backstretch Appreciation Day: Sept. 16 at Laurel Park

It's time, once again, to celebrate Maryland's hard-working, skilled and loyal backstretch workforce.

The MTHA will sponsor a Backstretch Appreciation Day cookout at Laurel Park on Sunday, September 16 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. It will take place in the area next to the white house, near the racing office and paddock.

All backstretch employees are invited to participate—compliments of the MTHA.

The menu will include pit beef and ham. There will be door prizes and DJ music by Absolute Sound. Soda will be served. For more information call Dan Mangum at (410) 802-5798.

Recreation report

From Dan Mangum,
MTHA Recreation Director.
For information on the recreation
program call (410) 802-5798.

Golf

Winners of the MTHA golf outing on August 13 at Ft. Meade are as follows:

Low gross: 1—Craig Nicholson; 2—Steve Sibiski; 3—Jerry Hroback.

Low net: 1—Jay Burtis; 2—Gary Capuano; 3—Ed Pryzbyla.

Two closest to the pin—Carol Garcia, Ed Pryzbyla.

Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading materi-

al and/or other items for distribution on the backstretch: Fran Clemens, Gene Gilhooly, John Heisler, Ruth Katzenlenbogen and Lydia Williams.

Free rabies vaccinations for cats

Dr. James M. Casey, a practicing veterinarian as well as a trainer, offers free rabies vaccinations for cats.

For more information, contact Dr. Casey in Barn 28 at Laurel Park.

Horsemen's calendar

RACING

Timonium Aug. 24 through Sept. 3
Laurel Sept. 5 through Dec. 31

FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC AUCTIONS AT TIMONIUM

(410) 392-5555
Eastern Fall Yearlings Oct. 1-3
December Mixed Dec. 2, 3
(Entries close Sept. 21)

OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

Keeneland September Yearlings,
Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412. . . Sept. 10-25

**Charles Town Thoroughbred Horse
Sales Fall Mixed**, Charles Town, W.Va.
(304) 725-8026. Sept. 24

**Ocala Breeders' Sales Company
Fall Mixed**,
Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154. Oct. 8-12

**New York Breeders' Sales Company
Fall Mixed**, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
(518) 587-1555. Oct. 14

Virginia Tech MARE Center Yearlings,
Middleburg, Va. (540) 687-3521. . . . Oct. 14

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Yearlings,
Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555. . . Oct. 22-24

**Fasig-Tipton Kentucky
Selected Fall Mixed**,
Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555. Nov. 4

Keeneland November Breeding Stock,
Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412. . . . Nov. 4-18

**Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Adena Springs
Mixed**, Lexington, Ky.
(859) 255-1555. Nov. 8

Keeneland January Horses of All Ages,
Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412. Jan. 7-14

Maryland Million schedule

Pre-Entry Deadline: Oct. 4
Golf Tournament, Piney Branch Golf
Club, Hampstead: Sept. 24
Entry Draw Brunch, Laurel: Oct. 8
Gala, Maryland Club, Baltimore: Oct. 12
Handicapping Seminar, Laurel: Oct. 13
Maryland Million Day, Laurel: Oct. 13



Horsemen urged to protest Baltimore Sun's cutback in racing coverage

Beginning with Laurel's August meet, the Baltimore *Sun* stopped publishing racing entries and results in its daily print editions. The information is now provided by the *Sun* on its Web site only.

The *Sun* made a similar cutback several years ago, but reversed its decision after numerous readers protested.

"This information gap is truly bad news for racing," said MTHA President Richard Hoffberger. "We urge horsemen to contact the *Sun* and let the editors know how important their newspaper is to the racing community. Many racing followers don't have access to the Internet, and they rely on the *Sun* to keep them up-to-date on the sport."

To make your views known, contact Tim Wheatley, Executive Sports Editor (tim.wheatley@baltsun.com), Ron Fritz, Sports Editor (ron.fritz@baltsun.com) or sports@baltsun.com. The phone number for the sports desk is (410) 332-6200.



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August 2007

Thoughts and comment

To say that the Maryland Thoroughbred Scholarship Fund has grown would be an understatement.

Over the past three years, the fund has dispersed a total of \$100,000 to backstretch and farm workers enrolled in college or graduate school.

The program began in the 1980s when the Maryland Racing Writers Association (now the Maryland Racing Media Association or MRMA) focused on a single deserving candidate—the son of trainer Harrison Johnson, who had recently died in a plane crash.

It expanded modestly until the mid-

1990s, when the MTHA and Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund became our partners in the program.

Since then, the scholarships have helped finance the education of many individuals, two of whom—Laura Watson and Lark Carroll—are now practicing veterinarians. Many years ago, well before he became an MTHA board member, trainer Tim Keefe was a scholarship recipient, as was Stan Salter, who promotes the industry through his Maryland Horse Radio.

The selection process has always
See *Thoughts*, page 3

Scholarship applications due Sept. 1

Reminder: The application deadline for this year's Maryland Thoroughbred Scholarship Fund is September 1.

Backstretch and farm workers enrolled in college or graduate school are eligible to apply.

Applications may be downloaded from the MTHA Web site at www.mdhorsemen.com.

For more information call Vinnie Perrone at (301) 890-8776.

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