



The Horsemen's Newsletter

January 2008

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Revised requirements for workouts now in effect

A rule change regarding published workouts took effect on January 14. The revised rule states:

A horse which has never raced or has not started for a period of 60 days or more may not be permitted to start unless it has a published workout at a distance acceptable to the stewards within 45 days of starting. If a horse worked, but through no fault of the trainer the workout does not appear in the past performances, the horse shall be permitted to race and the correct workout and date announced on the public address system.

The Maryland Racing Commission gave final approval for the rule change at its December meeting.

Synopsis of slots legislation posted on MTHA Web site

Key elements of the slots program that will be put to a statewide referendum in the November 2008 election are posted on the MTHA Web site at www.mdhorsemen.com.

The synopsis was prepared by Bruce C. Spizler, Senior Assistant Attorney General and Counsel to the Maryland Racing Commission.

Maryland to consider new rules regarding steroids

Maryland won't be ready to implement changes in the rules regarding steroids by April 1 (a previously announced target date), and some neighboring states also require additional time to make changes.

The Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association (THA), which represents several horsemen's groups in the Mid-Atlantic region, including the MTHA, is advocating a national approach, with any changes to begin January 1, 2009.

"To implement a program like this one on a piecemeal basis would cause a lot of problems," said THA president Alan Foreman. "The horse population in the Mid-Atlantic region, especially in the summer, doesn't stay in one place. The situation would be ripe for trainers to incur positives. The goal is not to hand out penalties."

Approximately 100 days are required for steroids to clear a horse's system.

Maryland is expected to consider the model rule endorsed by the Association

of Racing Commissioners International and Racing Medication and Testing Consortium. The model rule prohibits all steroids, with the exception of threshold amounts of Equipoise, Winstrol, nandrolone and testosterone. It is important to understand that "threshold" is defined as a steroid level that occurs naturally in a horse.

The Maryland Racing Commission has yet to take definitive action. Its next meeting is scheduled for January 29. If the Commission votes in favor of changes at that meeting, the proposal must still proceed through the state's rules changing process, which takes several months to complete.

Understandably, many questions remain unanswered. They include procedures for claimed horses and those recently gelded (but left with testosterone levels that may take some time to recede). These and other questions will be reviewed in detail by the Commission's medication committee.

Maryland trainers qualify for 194 workers under H-2B program

Twenty-one Maryland trainers participated in the H-2B visa program for 2008, and as a group they qualified for 194 workers, according to Pete Lizarzaburu of International Personnel Resources.

The number of visas to be issued nationally under the H-2B program in 2008 is capped at 66,000, and the cap was met on January 2.

Maryland was "very fortunate," said Mr. Lizarzaburu. "Most [of those who received visas to come to Maryland] are returning workers who are experienced

grooms."

Added Mr. Lizarzaburu: "Our other horsemen's association clients in Delaware, New Jersey and Kentucky have no chance of getting any H-2B workers unless Congress passes the Save Our Small and Seasonal Businesses Act. We have been working diligently with employers and lobbyists to raise awareness about this issue before it's too late."

For more information visit www.savesmallbusiness.org or call Mr. Lizarzaburu at (302) 250-8313.



Cole, Lake post another banner season in '07



Jim McCune (2)

Owner Robert Cole and trainer Scott Lake led their respective rankings in Maryland for 2007.

Mr. Cole, claiming the state's owners' title for the second year in a row, had 33 victories in 120 starts at Laurel and Pimlico last year—for a strike rate of 27.5 percent.

Horses owned by Mr. Cole cut a wide swathe at other tracks as well. His overall stats for 2007 were 465-159-97-64, giving him a win ratio of 34 percent, and a 69 percent ratio of in-the-money finishes.

Nationally, Mr. Cole ranked third by wins and 15th by purse earnings (\$2,703,898).

Mr. Cole was honored by the MTHA as outstanding owner in 2006.

Scott Lake

Mr. Lake—Maryland's leading trainer in each of the last three seasons, and number one by wins nationally in 2000, '01, '03 and '06—just missed another title as the nation's leading trainer by wins, but swept to honors in Maryland with 113 victories.

With the help of his Maryland assistant, Hugh McMahon, Mr. Lake captured the Laurel winter, Pimlico spring and Laurel fall training titles.

Overall, Mr. Lake was credited with 485 wins (three fewer than leader Steve Asmussen) and purse earnings of \$9,724,556; he ranked sixth in the nation by earnings.

Mike Trombetta led Maryland trainers by percentage of wins. His horses scored in 48 of 186 starts (25.8 percent).

Pony those youngsters!

Trainers are reminded to school young horses with a lead pony.

A young horse who is unfamiliar with ponies can be difficult for the out-rider—and his pony—to handle when there is a need to do so. This creates a hazardous situation on the track.

Colonial Downs goes on the market

With no prospect of alternative gaming in sight for Colonial Downs, owner Jacobs Entertainment has put the track in New Kent, Va., and its nine off-track betting facilities up for sale.

"Unfortunately, we have been unable to secure the tools necessary to allow us to grow live racing in Virginia to its full potential," the company's CEO Jeff Ja-

cobs stated in a press release.

The Virginia Racing Commission has approved a 45-day live Thoroughbred meet for Colonial Downs from June through August 2008.

Jacobs Entertainment, based in Golden, Colo., is owned in partnership by Jeff Jacobs and his father, Richard Jacobs.

Hoofprints

Maryland's new millionaire

The MTHA congratulates owner/breeders Steve Quick and Chris Feifarek and trainer Chris Grove on the accomplishments of Silmaril, who passed the million-dollar mark in earnings while winning the What a Summer Stakes at Laurel Park on January 12.

Silmaril has been retired to the broodmare band at her birthplace, St. Omer's Farm in Forest Hill, Md., a breeding establishment maintained for three decades by Quick and his wife, Sue. Her mating for 2008 was still undecided in mid-January.

Silmaril won 16 of her 36 career starts, including 12 stakes victories, earning \$1,032,973.

She was one of three stakes winners trained last season by Grove, whom the MTHA honored as Maryland trainer of the year for 2007.

New Magna executives

Magna Entertainment Corp. (MEC) has announced two new executive appointments: Ron Charles to the post of chief operating officer, and Scott Borgemenke, executive vice-president of racing.

Mr. Charles will also continue in the capacity of executive director of MEC California and Santa Anita president.

Mr. Borgemenke, former chairman of the Ohio Racing Commission, most recently served as chief of staff for Ohio House of Representatives Speaker Jon Husted.

NTRA rallies support from horseplayers

The National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA) is in the process of forming a coalition of horseplayers to further its lobbying efforts in Washington, D.C.

"[Horseplayers are] unique in their ability to articulate the problems and unfairness in the way that the industry is taxed at the federal level and consequently the state level," NTRA president Alex Waldrop told *Thoroughbred Times*.

The NTRA also has announced the formation of the National Handicapping Championship Tour that will give top contest handicappers a chance to compete throughout the year. Members of the tour automatically will be enrolled in the coalition.

Pension sign-up time near

Annual registration for the MTHA's Backstretch Pension Program begins in March. Exact dates will appear in next month's newsletter. The plan is open to all individuals employed in the care of horses on the backstretch. Employees do not make financial contributions to the plan. However, registration is required every year.

1099s available online

Horsemen are reminded that account information, including 1099 forms for 2007, is available online.

The InCompass computer system in the Horsemen's Bookkeeper's office provides online access 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This service is facilitated by the MTHA.

To sign up for account access, call the bookkeeper's office at (410) 792-7775 or (301) 725-0400.

Naming deadline: February 1

The Jockey Club reminds owners that a valid attempt to name foals of 2006 must be made by February 1, to avoid a \$75 late fee. To submit names or find more information, visit www.jockeyclub.com.

Chester's last win

When the aptly named Positive Path won the 10th race on the December 22 card at Laurel—the last race run in Maryland before Christmas—it was a bitter-sweet victory for the 8-year-old gelding's owner, Bob Haynes.

Mr. Haynes donated the winner's share of the purse—\$5,700—toward the funeral expenses of his good friend Chester Moore, Sr.

Over his many years of owning horses, Mr. Haynes has helped to provide funerals and burials for many racetrackers.

"It's all about respect," he said, "and giving people a final farewell."

But the tribute for Mr. Moore, a Bowie-based horseman from the old

school, was more generous than most.

"Chester and I happened to be walking in from the parking lot to the horsemen's gate at the same time that day (December 22) and we wished each other a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year," recalled Mr. Haynes.

"He had a strong, firm handshake, and seemed in better health than I'd seen him in a while. That was the last time I saw him; he died two days later, on Christmas Eve. I knew I had to dedicate that race to him," Mr. Haynes said.

Gospel music filled the air at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Laurel on January 2, as several hundred people gathered to remember Mr. Moore.



Thoughts, from page 4

lature's 2007 special session—and now awaiting a yes or no decision by voters in a statewide referendum next November—that obstacle has been removed.

Beyond the enhancement, of course, the referendum looms as the ultimate goal.

The Maryland Racing Commission, led by chairman John Franzone, with additional guidance and support from former chairman John McDaniel, is attempting to unite the entire industry.

Nothing less than 100 percent commitment from everyone involved will be necessary to support the cause.

Industry leaders are approaching the slots referendum as if the future of Maryland racing depends on the outcome—because it absolutely does.

You can help further the efforts by simply spreading the message. Remember to tell your family, friends and every other Maryland voter you know: Vote YES FOR SLOTS next November.

/Arnold A. Heft, MTHA Director and Legislative Committee Chairman



Pennsylvania's slots outdraw their competition

Pennsylvania's slots program continues to rack up huge numbers, and it is still growing.

Slots in Pennsylvania generate more money per machine than those in any other East Coast casinos, according to a report released this month by Spectrum Gaming, an international gaming consulting group.

The report ranks East Coast casinos according to how much money they grossed per slot machine in the fall of 2007.

Four of the five top rankings are in

Pennsylvania.

Number one was Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs, which generated an average of \$403 per machine daily between September 1 and November 30.

Mohegan Sun in Connecticut ranked second at \$390 per machine, followed by Philadelphia Park (\$369), the Meadows (\$347) and Harrah's Chester (\$322).

"Pennsylvania has been very strong right out of the box," Joe Weinert, vice-president for Spectrum Gaming, told *The Morning Call* of Allentown.

Plans call for Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs to more than double its original quota of machines—to 2,500—by late this summer.

The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board posts wagering figures at its Web site, www.pgcb.state.pa.us.

A total of six sites are now operational in Pennsylvania, with Penn National expected to launch its Hollywood Casino within the next several weeks.

State law allows for 14 slots locations and as many as 61,000 machines.

IN MEMORIAM

Chester Moore, Sr., who owned and trained horses in Maryland for more than 50 years, died on December 24 at the age of 76.

Robert L. Hilton, 63, an employee of trainer Rodney Jenkins, died on December 12.

Dr. Nicholas Mallis, a former owner, died on January 5 at the age of 83.

Robert P. Rawlings, a former owner/trainer/breeder who campaigned horses at tracks throughout the region, died on December 25. He was 76. Mr. Rawlings's biggest success as a trainer came with Cortan, a multiple stakes winner in the late 1970s and 1980.

Patricia Palmer, 67, a West Virginia-based owner/breeder and widow of horseman Robert L. Palmer, died on December 17.

R. Gordon Thomson, retired from a long career as an owner/trainer in the region, died on December 22. He was 85.

Recreation report

From Dan Mangum, MTHA Recreation Director

Poker

The mock Texas hold'em tournament at Bowie has been rescheduled for Monday, February 25, beginning at noon.

Donations

The following generous people have donated clothing, reading material and/or other items for distribution on the backstretch: Jeanne Baker, Christine Bricker, Kay Christman, Kelly Cox, Chuck Fawley, Joe Fonte, Diana Goddard, Phil Grove, Sylvia and Arnold Heft, Lucy Howard, Ruth Katzenellenbogen, Pat Kelly, Buck Minderlein, Claire Minderlein, Caroline Stautberg and That's Amore Stable.

Horsemen's Counseling Program

The Horsemen's Counseling Program is here to help.

For immediate and confidential services call Bill Borchardt at (301) 776-0404; (410) 542-4040; or (410) 368-5570 (pager).

Horsemen's calendar

RACING

Laurel..... Now through April 12
Pimlico..... April 17 through date to be announced

FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC AUCTIONS AT TIMONIUM

(410) 392-5555
Winter Mixed..... Feb. 4
Two-year-olds in Training... May 19, 20 (Entries close Feb. 15)

OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Winter Mixed Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555... Feb. 10, 11
Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Selected Two-Year-Olds in Training Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154... Feb. 12

Fasig-Tipton Florida Selected Two-Year-Olds in Training Calder Race Course, Miami, Fla. (859) 255-1555... Feb. 26

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Adena Springs Two-Year-Olds in Training Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154... March 17

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Selected Two-Year-Olds in Training Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154... March 18, 19

Keeneland Two-Year-Olds in Training Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412... April 8, 9

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Spring Two-Year-Olds in Training Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154... April 21-24

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Two-Year-Olds and Horses of Racing Age Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154... June 17, 18

The Horsemen's Newsletter

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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.



MTHA
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January 2008

Thoughts and comment

Over the next few weeks, and for months to come, Maryland's racing industry will be dealing with challenges the likes of which we have never seen before.

Our most immediate goal is to secure a purse enhancement that will allow us to have a full complement of racing days in 2008, and keep purses as competitive as possible.

The industry plans to ask the state legislature to approve an enhancement of approximately \$25 million—to be divided among Thoroughbred and Standardbred interests and their respective purse accounts and breeding funds ac-

cording to the established formula—on a yearly basis until slots revenue becomes available.

The industry is proposing that funding for the enhancement be derived from the Maryland Lottery's Racetrax game, which the state operates in direct competition with our racing product.

Legislation to establish a purse enhancement passed the House of Delegates in 2006 and '07, but failed in the Senate, where the leadership was focused on securing slots. With slots legislation having been approved in the legis-

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