



The Horsemen's Newsletter

August 2010

Volume 20 • Number 8



Ehrlich campaigns on alliance with Rosecroft

Former Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. (R) has seized upon Rosecroft Raceway as a major campaign issue in his bid to unseat current Governor Martin O'Malley (D) in the November election.

"There is no bigger issue than the issue of [Rosecroft]," Mr. Ehrlich was quoted in the Prince George's *Gazette*. "If I win this election, I will put my heart into this place."

Mr. Ehrlich has allied himself with the Rosecroft interests and developer Mark Vogel, who is negotiating to purchase the bankrupt harness facility in Oxon Hill, Md., and turn it into a "major gaming destination." Rosecroft is not among the sites specified for slots under current law, and any gaming enterprise at that location would require action by the state legislature.

Rosecroft, which is well into its third year without live racing, ceased operation completely on July 1.

Meanwhile, Rosecroft and the Thoroughbred industry are embroiled in a bitterly contested lawsuit involving Rosecroft's access to Thoroughbred signals. On August 6, a U.S. District Court judge allowed Rosecroft to continue legal proceedings against the MTHA and other industry groups.

"We are confident that our side will prevail as the facts become known in the court and in Annapolis," said MTHA counsel Alan Foreman.

Notice to trainers

Laurel Park Director of Racing Georganne Hale reminds trainers:

◆ You must have your OK cards in with the paddock judge before a first-time starter is allowed to race. The trainers must pick up the cards from the assistant starters themselves.

◆ Please tell your exercise riders to pull up on the race track when they see the lights start flashing. DO NOT continue exercising. This is very dangerous when a rider is down and a horse is loose.

◆ Starting in September, schooling days for the starting gate will be Tuesdays through Saturdays at Laurel and Bowie. The times will remain the same.

MRMA to honor Woolley, Rodman at Crab Feast on October 23

The Maryland Racing Media Association's annual Crab Feast is set for Saturday, October 23 in the Carriage Room at Laurel Park, from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

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

Maryland Thoroughbred Scholarship Fund recipients will receive their checks at this event.

MRMA's annual awards will go to Maryland's past and current track announcers Richard (Dick) Woolley, who receives the Humphrey S. Finney Award for lifetime contributions to Maryland racing, and David Rodman, who is being honored for outstanding achievement.

Tickets are \$60 each, or \$550 for a table of 10. To order tickets call David Richardson at (410) 239-7022 or e-mail drichardson@darkhollowfarm.com.

Hoofprints

Foal production drops

The Jockey Club is projecting a 2011 North American registered Thoroughbred foal crop of 27,000, a decline of 10 percent from the estimate of 30,000 registered foals for 2010.

The 2011 foal crop is projected to be the smallest since 1973, when 26,811 foals were registered.

Additional foal crop information is available at jockeyclub.com/factbook.asp.

Equibase redesigns mobile Web site

Equibase Company has redesigned its mobile Web site to capitalize on smart phone technology within the iPhone and phones with the new Android operating system.

Equibase.com mobile provides entries, results, carryovers, scratches and changes for every track in North America. The site can be accessed by going to

equibase.com on any smart phone or other Internet-enabled wireless device.

NTRA markets memorabilia

NTRA.com, the official Web site of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association, is offering horse racing memorabilia for sale on its new NTRA Memorabilia and Collectables page.

Featured are an assortment of photographs, racing programs, racing goggles, glasses and other memorabilia, including numerous signed items.

Help for unwanted horses

The Unwanted Horse Coalition provides a variety of resources to improve the welfare of horses who can no longer race. For more information go to www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org or call Ericka Caslin at (202) 296-4031.



Laurel Park fall meet follows same schedule as '09

Laurel Park will open on Saturday, September 11 for a 57-day fall meet based on a schedule that is virtually identical to 2009. The meet will conclude on December 18.

Live racing will be conducted four days a week, Wednesdays through Saturdays.

The only major departure from last year is the absence of the Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash, which will not be run in 2010 in order to preserve purse money for overnight races.

The Dash was downgraded from Grade 1 to Grade 2 following its 2009 running.

"The MTHA's Negotiating Committee carefully reviewed the situation with track management," said MTHA President Richard Hoffberger, "and it was clear that giving the Dash this year off was the right thing to do. As Tom Chuckas [Maryland Jockey Club president and COO] has publicly explained, this has nothing to do with it no longer being a Grade 1 race."

Added Mr. Hoffberger: "We are hopeful that, as the slots revenue from the Cecil County and Ocean Downs sites begins to bolster the Purse Account by the end of this year, our economic recovery will begin. We look forward to better times in 2011."

MTHA Web site a resource for horsemen

Go to www.mdhorsemen.com for a synopsis of Maryland's slots program (under News), claiming and medication rules, a Newsletter archive and much more.

Future of Maryland racing hinges on A.A. Co. referendum

On November 2, 2010, voters in Anne Arundel County will be asked to mark their ballots for or AGAINST a question that will ultimately decide the future of Maryland racing.

QUESTION A refers to zoning approval for the proposed slots site at Arundel Mills mall. If a majority of voters cast their ballot "for" QUESTION A, the slots site will be allowed to proceed, and the existence of nearby Laurel Park will be in jeopardy.

The defeat of QUESTION A will eliminate current slots zoning in the county, and potentially clear the way for the process to begin again.

Although Laurel Park still would face some hurdles in its quest to become a slots facility, owners MI Developments and Penn National Gaming are expected to launch a bid to make that happen.

A racino along the lines of the Hollywood Casinos at Penn National and Charles Town would revive the state's Thoroughbred industry and boost employment in the area.

But a modern casino complex with fine dining and entertainment at Arundel Mills mall 10 miles from Laurel Park, would draw customers away from the track, and spell doom for our industry.

QUESTION A Local Referendum by Petition Zoning, Video Lottery Facilities

Video Lottery Facilities are not permitted anywhere in Anne Arundel County under current zoning law. Bill No. 82-09 is a zoning bill and was enacted for the purpose of allowing a Video Lottery Facility as a conditional use in a W-1 Industrial Park zoning district or at a Regional Commercial Complex.

VOTE AGAINST QUESTION A

CAST YOUR VOTE TO STOP SLOTS AT ARUNDEL MILLS MALL

Scholarship applications due Sept. 23

September 23 is the deadline to apply for aid from the Maryland Thoroughbred Scholarship Fund for 2010.

Individuals employed on the backstretch at Maryland tracks or at farms, training centers or veterinary clinics in Maryland, and enrolled this fall in college or graduate school, will be considered for these scholarships. More than \$30,000 is available this year through the fund, which is supported by various industry groups and individuals, including the MTHA and Maryland



Horsemen's Assistance Fund.

The Maryland Racing Media Association sponsors the scholarship program and selects recipients, so as to avoid any potential conflict of interest.

Applications are available in the track kitchens at Bowie and Laurel and in the MTHA office at Laurel. They may also be downloaded from the MTHA Web site at www.mdhorsemen.com.

For more information contact David Richardson at (410) 239-7022; drichardson@darkhollowfarm.com.

Thoughts, from page 4

As far as the racing industry goes, there has never been a more important vote than QUESTION A on the ballot in Anne Arundel County on November 2.

If you live in Anne Arundel County, make sure you vote AGAINST QUESTION A. Urge all of your friends and acquaintances in the county to do the same. A vote AGAINST QUESTION A is a vote for the long-term future of our industry.

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

Committee bulletin

Bowie

Backstretch chairman Phil Capuano reported:

- The air conditioner in the track kitchen/recreation area has been successfully repaired.

- Problems with the television have been resolved.

IN MEMORIAM

Evelyn Rinker Shade, a former owner, died on July 27 at the age of 93.

The Horsemen's Newsletter

Published monthly by the

Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc.

6314 Windsor Mill Road,
Baltimore, Md. 21207;
(410) 265-6842;

Fax: (410) 265-6841;

E-mail: mdhorsemen@erols.com

Web site: www.mdhorsemen.com

The Horsemen's Newsletter reports on issues and events of interest to owners and trainers in Maryland.

Your suggestions are welcome.

Backstretch Appreciation Day set September 19 at Laurel



Traditional barbecue feast includes pit beef, roasted pork and chicken.

Food, fun and fellowship will highlight the MTHA's Backstretch Appreciation Day on September 19 at Laurel Park. The event will take place from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the white house area adjacent to the Racing Office/Paddock area.

Everyone's favorites will be served: pit beef and roasted pork, chicken and salads, catered by Charles Bean under the direction of Russell Clark. Soda will also be provided. Dj music from Carlyse Entertainment will set the atmosphere, and door prizes will be distributed.

All backstretch personnel are invited to attend free of charge.

Backstretch Appreciation Day honors the unsung heroes of our industry.

Recreation report

From Dan Mangum, MTHA Recreation Director. For information or to sign up for programs, call Mr. Mangum at (410) 802-5798.

Bowling

The MTHA will sponsor a bowling tournament on Tuesday, September 28 at the Laurel AMF Fairlanes in Laurel.

Sign up in the track kitchens.

Orioles tickets

Winners of the Oriole drawings for this season were: Robbie Bailes Racing Stables, Gary Capuano Racing, John Collins, Samuel Davis, Harold George, Skeets Holland, Willie Kee, Bruce Sider,

Annamarie Starnes and Victoria Plitt.

Poker

The mock Texas hold'em poker tournament from August will be continued on September 20 in the Bowie track kitchen starting at noon. For more information call Dan Mangum.

Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading material and/or other items for distribution on the backstretch: Gene Gilhooly, Alfonso Griffin, Sylvia and Arnold Heft, Johnny Poe, Doug Smith, Mark Stumpf and Tammy Wolfendale.

Horsemen's calendar

RACING

Timonium Aug. 27-29; Sept. 3-6

Laurel Park Sept. 11-Dec. 18

FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC AUCTIONS AT TIMONIUM (410) 392-5555

Eastern Fall Yearlings Oct. 5, 6

December Mixed Dec. 6

Entries close Sept. 20

OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

Keeneland September Yearlings
Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412 . . . Sept. 12-26

New York Breeders' Sales Co. Fall Mixed Saratoga Springs, N.Y. (518) 587-1555 Oct. 18

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Fall Mixed
Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154 . . . Oct. 19, 20

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Yearlings
Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555 . . . Oct. 25-27

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Selected Fall Mixed
Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555 Nov. 7

Keeneland November Breeding Stock
Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412 . . . Nov. 8-20



Maryland Million schedule

Pre-Entry Deadline—Sept. 23

Golf Tournament, Manor Country Club, Rockville—Sept. 27

Entry Draw Brunch, Laurel Park—Sept. 29

Maryland Million Gala Reception, Maryland Club, Baltimore—Oct. 1

25th Anniversary Jim McKay Maryland Million Day, Laurel Park—Oct. 2

For more information call (410) 252-2100

1,001 reasons why you should donate to the Thoroughbred Horsemen's PAC

There could be as many as 1,001 reasons why a donation to the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Political Action Committee (PAC) makes good sense for you and your Maryland-based stable. But you need only one. **It's as sound an investment as you'll ever make in this business.** A major election looms in November. Marylanders will elect a governor, and all legislative seats will be up for vote. We must do our best to ensure that those who have supported the interests of the racing industry in the past have an opportunity to do so in the future.

Donations will go toward the election campaigns of state officials who hold the best promise for our industry. *The Thoroughbred Horsemen's PAC advocates for the entire Maryland Thoroughbred industry, while promoting the interests of horsemen.*

Please make checks payable to Thoroughbred Horsemen's PAC.

Send checks to MTHA, 6314 Windsor Mill Road, Baltimore, Md. 21207.

AMOUNT OF DONATION

\$100 \$250 \$500 Other

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

By authority Wayne W. Wright, Treasurer



MTHA

6314 Windsor Mill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

August 2010

Thoughts and comment

Sad to say, many people still believe it doesn't matter where slots are located, because the Purse Account and Maryland-bred Fund are set to receive their statutory share of the revenue from all locations.

But it absolutely does matter. Although the revenue will come to us regardless, the location in Anne Arundel County is of crucial importance. (See article on page 1.)

I've heard the comments: "Things will be just fine if the slots go to Arundel Mills mall. Let them go ahead and build it—we need the money now!"

Any notion that a slots parlor at Arun-

del Mills will not destroy the racing industry in this state is faulty thinking.

If Laurel Park ceases to operate as a race track, the purse money from slots will do us no good, because we won't have anywhere to run our horses—except, perhaps, a short boutique meeting at Pimlico in the spring.

And that's what will happen if Laurel Park is forced to compete, on a daily basis, with a casino just down the road.

No business continues to operate if it is losing money, and Laurel will be guaranteed to continue as a money-loser.

See *Thoughts*, page 3

MTHA Board of Directors

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