



Owner Candidate

LEO S. NECHAMKIN, II

For many years, Leo Nechamkin II kept a hectic schedule as Chief Financial Officer of Design Collective, a Baltimore architectural firm, and a Thoroughbred trainer. He is retiring at the end of 2020—but not from horse racing.

Nechamkin, who still has an active trainers license, is primarily an owner. He has three horses at Laurel Park with Robert Bailes and has purchased four yearlings. He is retiring from his job at Design Collective after almost 24 years of service and will have more time to devote to racing and its promotion.

“It’s time to turn over the reins there and take the reins of my babies,” Nechamkin said. “I strongly believe you get what you inspect. I love racing and started walking hots at the age of 18 when I was at John Hopkins University. I really want to make sure this game perseveres. People don’t understand what happens on the backside and how well horses are cared for. If people saw it, it would appeal to them.”

Nechamkin’s top horse was the New Jersey-bred Gators N Bears, a colt he purchased as a 2-year-old from the estate of the late trainer Bob Camac. Gators N Bears broke his maiden in his first career start at Meadowlands and went on to win 10 races, including two graded stakes, and earn more than \$800,000 for the owner/trainer.

At one point in his career, Nechamkin was an auditor in the admissions departments at Laurel Park, Bowie Race Course and Pimlico Race Course, and later served as Controller at Laurel Park under John Shapiro. It provided insight into frontside operations.

Nechamkin is very interested in the Maryland Stadium Authority project to rebuild Laurel and Pimlico and noted Design Collective is one of the bidders for architectural/engineering services. He said the overall project “is very aggressive” and should be a wonderful development for the Maryland racing industry.

“I would be nice if even 50% of it happened,” Nechamkin said. “I think we have a great future here and I’m excited to be able to help the horse-men and horsewomen that love our sport.”