

# THE BUCKEYE Harness Horseman

SEPTEMBER 2023 | VOLUME 53 | NUMBER 3

The Official Publication of the  
Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association



***Sugar  
Instead***  
How Sweet it is!



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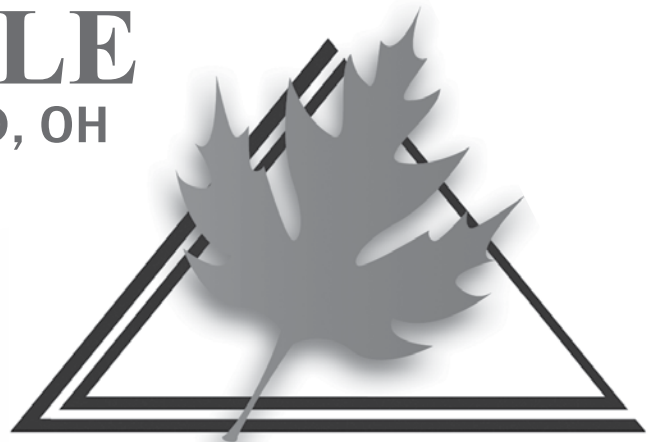
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# DOMINATING... Sugar Instead



Photo: Conrad Photo

When the hammer came down on Hip #57 at the Blooded Horse Sale in August of 2022, owner Susan Sickel and trainer Ronnie Gillespie did not know what they were getting. The \$11,000 yearling was part of the first crop by Volstead. It was the cheapest of the 17 Volstead foals that sold at auction that year. The most expensive was \$170,000.

It turns out Hip #57, Sugar Instead, was the steal of the auction.

From the day Sugar Instead arrived at Gillespie's barn, he knew he had something special. "She is just so intelligent and that makes her different from the average two-year-old. I never sat behind a horse that seemed like it had done it before. She did it so easily," said Gillespie.

Gillespie was so confident in the filly's ability early on that he told Sickel to stake her to the Breeders Crown.

During the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association "Freshman Focus," Gillespie said Sugar Instead was proving to be the best in the barn. "I haven't had anything in the barn to test her," said Gillespie. "I trained her with a few of my pacers and she went right by them."

As Sugar Instead continued training at the Muskingum County Fairgrounds in Zanesville, others were starting to take notice.

"For more years than I like to count, we would always come over to the fairgrounds

on Saturday and Sunday morning to watch the horses train," said Dick McClelland. "Ronnie would stop along the fence and tell me he had a nice filly."

At first, McClelland wasn't sold. "I didn't think she was that nice, but the more I talked to Ronnie, the more he sold me on her."

"We watched her all spring and for what I knew about horses, she was kind of the real deal," said McClelland.



Photo: Conrad Photo

McClelland said he asked Ronnie if they ever thought about selling Sugar Instead and asked for an opportunity to buy her.

After a couple of qualifiers, discussions about buying the horse heated up. "I talked to Ronnie, but I had heard the horse had

been sold overseas," said McClelland. McClelland says he called Virgil Morgan Jr., who trains horses for his wife, Joyce, and Morgan started the conversation with Sickel and Gillespie. After about three hours, a deal was struck for a reported \$150,000.

Sugar Instead has not disappointed new owners, Joyce McClelland and Larry Wills.

The first race for the filly was the \$150,000 Next Generation, which meant purchasing a slot in the race for \$10,000.

The decision was made to let Gillespie drive Sugar Instead. "In talking to Ronnie, we thought he was certainly familiar with the filly, and we wanted to give him the opportunity to drive her," said McClelland. "He was kind of on a one-race trial. Ronnie was a little nervous, but he has done a really good job with her."

The trial has turned into a regular drive for Gillespie who is thankful he got the chance to keep driving Sugar Instead. "I really appreciate the new owners giving me the opportunity to keep sitting behind her," he stated.

Following the second-place finish in the Next Generation, Sugar Instead rolled to

wins in the first three legs of the Ohio Sires Stakes.

In the first leg at MGM Northfield Park, she went off as the 1-2 favorite. Sugar Instead trailed by two lengths turning to home



# is five for five in the Sires Stakes



“Winning all five legs of the Sires Stakes is something special,” said Gillespie. “She just never seems to let anything affect her on or off the track.”

Heading into the Ohio Sires Stakes finals, Sugar Instead has won five of seven starts with two second-place finishes. She has earned \$181,125 which is the second most in North America among two-year-old trotting fillies.

McClelland says they are very happy with the results so far. “Virgil has done a good job keeping her fresh and Ronnie has done a good job driving her.”

Sugar Instead is staked to the Breeders Crown and Gillespie thinks she has a chance. “I feel she can trot in :54 here if she gets the right trip. Do that at Hoosier Park and I think she has a big shot. But that’s a decision for the owners and the trainer.”



and had to charge down the lane to win by a neck in 1:58.1.

At Eldorado Scioto Downs for the second leg, it was a little easier. Sugar Instead grabbed the lead heading to three-quarters and went on to win by a length in 1:56.2.

Back at MGM Northfield Park for the third leg, it was even easier. Sugar Instead raced to the lead off the gate and won easily by five lengths in 1:56.4.

Sugar Instead’s bid to win four in a row was derailed in the Ohio State Fair Stakes. Gillespie said the race did not set up as he hoped. Iam Independent raced to the lead and fought off a challenge from Sugar Instead around the final turn to win by two lengths.

Sugar Instead was back on track the following week, going gate-to-wire to win the fourth leg in 1:56.2.

Heading to the final leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes, Sugar Instead was the only two- or three-year-old with the chance to win all five legs. The issue was never in doubt as Gillespie raced the 1-9 favorite to lead off the gate and cruised to an easy five-length win in a new lifetime mark of 1:56.





# Sires Stakes ***SUPERSTARS***



Jet Hill with Ronnie Wrenn Jr. and Edward Miller **Photo:** Cassalnova Photography



McSeaside and Chris Page **Photo:** Conrad Photo

While Sugar Instead has stolen the spotlight as the only horse to go five for five in Ohio Sires Stakes action this year, two others have been close to perfection. Jet Hill and McSeaside have each won four legs.

In the sophomore colt trotting division, Jet Hill's only blemish was the fourth leg at MGM Northfield Park. In that race, Jet Hill finished third. Trained by Edward Miller, Jet Hill has won seven of 10 this year. In addition to his four Sires Stakes wins, Jet Hill has won the James K. Hackett Memorial at Miami Valley in April, the Ohio Fair Stakes at Eldorado Scioto Downs in August, and one overnight. In the second leg of the Sires Stakes, Jet Hill set a world record for three-year-old gelded trotters at MGM Northfield Park. Ronnie Wrenn Jr. drove the son of What The Hill to the win in 1:52.2.

After a fourth-place finish in the first leg for three-year-old filly pacers, McSeaside has notched victories in the next four legs. The daughter of Downbytheseaside has won five of 11 starts this year. McSeaside's other win this year was at Miami Valley in the Hackett Memorial. The Downbytheseaside filly set a track record at Eldorado Scioto Downs winning the second leg in 1:49.4.

Four horses in the three-year-old ranks have three Sires Stakes victories.

Two filly trotters, Rose Run Yanae and Rose Run Yolanda each have three wins, while sophomore filly pacer Dragon By The Sea has won three. The only three-year-old colt to win three is trotter John Dutton.

Six two-year-olds have won three Sires Stakes races with the colt trotting division having three three-time winners. Royal Precedent, Spaaaanzano, and Tennessee Tom accomplished the feat.

Freshman filly pacers Flyin Bullets and Seaside Diva have won three, while colt pacer Clever Cody has three wins in the division.



# CHARLIE MAY Smashes Track Record in Riegler Memorial BY JAY WOLF

Owner Don Tiger announced that his homebred star Charlie May had 'unfinished business' in this year's Gene Riegler Memorial. When the race ended, Charlie May had finished the job and scorched the Darke County Fairgrounds in a record 1:50.



Photo: Conrad Photo

When the field of five was sent on their way in the \$35,000 Open Pace, He's A Dickens (Jeff Nisonger) and the two-time Riegler champ Sectionline Bigry (Brandon Bates) dueled it out through blistering fractions of :26.3 and :53. Driver Brett Miller sat patiently in third with the eventual winner and grabbed control of the race down the backstretch well before the three-quarters in 1:21.2. Charlie May used a :28.3 final quarter to score the 9-1/4 length romp over a rallying Odds On Shaggy (Kayne Kauffman) and Dancin Sancho (Sam Widger).

The final time of 1:50 demolished the previous track mark of 1:51.4 set by Swing City in the 2017 Riegler Memorial.

Steve Carter trains the gelding whose career earnings are just \$11,000 short of the \$2 million mark.

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# Bob Schmitz To LBJ Wall of Fame by Jay Wolf



Robert "Bob" Schmitz, former Chairman of the Ohio State Racing Commission, has been selected as the 38th Little Brown Jug Wall of Fame honoree by the Delaware County Fair.

Schmitz is an avid supporter of harness racing and for over 50 years he has championed the sport in many ways, including representing racetracks and the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association (OHHA).

He was appointed to the Ohio State Racing Commission in 2011 by Governor John Kasich and served two terms as Chairman of the commission, retiring in March 2019.

Schmitz lobbied for the OHHA from 2001 until 2011. He was appointed to the Standardbred Development Fund in 2001 and served until his appointment to the commission in 2011.

He operates Robert K. Schmitz Associates, located in downtown Columbus, and his knowledge and expertise as a government affairs specialist is extensive. He has more than 45 years of experience working with the Ohio General Assembly.

He has been an owner and breeder of standardbred horses since 1983 and has bred horses with fellow Wall of Famer, Jim Buchy, and Midland Acres as part of their 98 Degree Farm.

Schmitz was awarded the Harness Horsemen International's 'Person of the Year Award' in 2013 and he received the OHHA's Maynard and Stella Hagemeyer 'Significant Contribution Award' in 2019.

"I love the Little Brown Jug and have only missed one Jug since my first in 1969. The year I missed, I was clerking in the Ohio Senate and the General Assembly was in session," said Schmitz. "I am truly humbled by this honor."

A Columbus, Ohio native, Schmitz has been married to the former Jenny Hamman since 1973 and has three daughters and two grandchildren.

He will be honored the Tuesday evening (September 19) before the 78th edition of the \$1,000,000 (est.) Little Brown Jug.

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# Editor *Dave Briggs* to receive Tom White Media Award

by Jay Wolf



Hall of Fame Communicator Dave Briggs has been named the Tom White Media Award winner for 2023 by the Little Brown Jug and the Delaware County Fair.

A native of Windsor, Ontario, Briggs graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a Masters of Journalism degree and began working at the London Free Press. He quickly parlayed an early career story on Western Fair Raceway into a job at The Canadian Sportsman – at the time, Canada's longest running publication.

Briggs worked for The Canadian Sportsman for 19 years before it ceased publication in 2013. He currently serves as the editor of Harness Racing Update and for Catena Media.

Briggs has won nearly 30 national and international awards – including a record 12 United States Harness Writers Association's (USHWA) John Hervey Awards and four Standardbred Canada O'Brien Media Excellence Awards.

In 2017, Briggs received the sport's highest honor, induction into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame's Communicator's Corner by the members of USHWA.

Briggs will be presented his award at a ceremony on Tuesday, September 19th in the Delaware County Fair Log Cabin.

The award honors the legacy of long-time Little Brown Jug and Hall of Fame publicist, Tom White, who passed away in 2019.

Past Tom White Media Award winners were Paul Ramlow (2019), Brad Schmaltz (2021) and Dean Hoffman (2022).



# Kathy Parker Is the Lady Pace Honoree for 2023

by Jay Wolf

Kathy Parker, Hall of Fame Communicator and longtime editor of *The Horseman* and *Fair World* magazine, will be saluted as the 2023 Lady Pace honoree by the Delaware County Fair.

Parker was born into a harness racing family and grew up in Ohio and western Pennsylvania. She graduated from the University of Kentucky with a degree in journalism and began working for the *Horseman* and *Fair World* magazine, the industry's leading periodical, in 1980. She was named the publication's editor and general manager in 1995 and served in those positions until the magazine's closure in February 2021.

She won a John Hervey Award for excellence in harness racing journalism in 1992.

In the spring of 2021, Parker was named the editor of *Hoof Beats* magazine, the official publication of the United States Trotting Association. She retired from *Hoof Beats* earlier this year and lives in Lexington, KY with her husband, Dan Coon, one of the industry's top track construction and maintenance experts.

Parker will be honored in a winner's circle ceremony on Jug Day (Thursday, Sept. 21).



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## Dave Brower to be Honored with 2022 Neville Award

by Jay Wolf

Dave Brower, the former Little Brown Jug Simulcast host, will be honored as the 2023 Joseph Neville Memorial Award winner by the Little Brown Jug and the Delaware County Fair.



Brower was a graduate of St. John's University with a degree in Journalism. He served as the oddsmaker, TV host, handicapper and broadcaster for the Meadowlands Racetrack in East Rutherford, NJ. He started working at the Delaware County Fair and the Little Brown Jug in 2017.

In addition to multiple TV credentials, the native of Passaic, NJ was also a published author, penning "Harnessing Winners" in 2009.

In 2019, Brower was awarded the Phil Pines Award by the Monticello-Goshen Chapter of the United States Harness Writers Association (USHWA) for his outstanding media coverage of the sport of Harness Racing.

Brower is currently a finalist for induction into the Communicators Hall of Fame in Goshen, NY in 2024. He is expected to be a unanimous choice by the members of USHWA.

Dave Brower passed away on October 7, 2022 at the age of 53.



# OHIO USHWA SENDS MADISON KINNER TO CLYDE HIRT WORKSHOP

By Madison Kinner

I've been a casual follower of harness racing for a long time. Growing up, I would go to my local fair, the Darke County Fair, and watch the races with my family. My dad would let me pick a horse and then place a small bet on the one I chose. Despite these years of watching harness racing, I knew very little about the sport. When I heard about the Clyde Hirt Journalism Workshop, it seemed like a great opportunity to learn more. I applied, and when I was accepted, I was excited but nervous. Covering the Hambletonian, one of the biggest events in harness racing, seemed daunting. In the end, though, it was one of the most rewarding experiences I've ever had.

On the first day of the workshop, we were immediately thrown into the world of harness racing. On Wednesday morning, we drove up to Goshen, New York, to Ray Schnittker's farm. We met his horses, and then we got to jog a horse. I jogged a pacer named Billy Clyde, and it was one of my favorite experiences of the workshop. We then took a quick tour of the harness racing museum before going to the Meadowlands to write our advance stories for the Hambletonian. I wrote for the Trentonian and with the help of Ken Weingartner and Dave Little, I had a story I was proud of by the end of the night.

Before the story was published, we visited The New York Post. We met with former workshop participant Lia Eustachewich, who is now the managing editor of news at The Post. She gave us a tour, let us sit in on a meeting, and edited my story.

Thursday evening, we went back to the Meadowlands. There, we learned as much as we could in a night about harness racing. Debbie Little, Garnet Barnsdale, and Nick Barnsdale showed us videos of past races, taught us the terms we needed to know, and gave us examples of good race recap stories. By the end of the night, I was exhausted but more confident about my ability to cover the Hambletonian.

Friday morning, we took a step away from racing and went to the New York Giants training camp. We met Pat Leonard, the Giants reporter for the New York Daily News. He was very helpful and willing to answer any of our questions about the sports media industry. We met head coach Brian Daboll and watched the practice from the sidelines. Following practice, we got to interview some Giants players. We interviewed first-round draft pick Deonte Banks and tight end Tommy Sweeney. Both were incredibly nice.

After Giants camp, we returned to the Meadowlands. We did some more learning and then when racing began, we got to experience what racing at the Meadowlands actually looked like. We presented in the Winner's Circle, toured the paddock, and rode in the starting car, another highlight of the trip for me.

Saturday was the big day. In the morning, I did some public relations work with Heather Vitale, helping with the driver and trainer autograph session and the fan zone. In the afternoon, I watched a few races before the Hambletonian went off. For the Hambo, I was paired with Kelly Young, who made me feel calm despite my nerves. We watched Tactical Approach become the first horse to win from post position 10 in the Hambletonian in Meadowlands history.

With help from Kelly, I began writing my story immediately after the race. Less than two hours after the race was finished, I sent my story to the Trentonian. It was published shortly after that.

This workshop was an amazing experience. From learning about harness racing to interviewing NFL players to having two stories published, I enjoyed every moment and every experience. Debbie Little and all of the other advisors were incredible, and I cannot thank them enough for all of their help. I am so grateful for the experience and so happy I applied.



Madison Kinner (second from the right)



Workshop attendees attended New York Giants training camp and met head coach Brian Daboll.



Madison Kinner (middle)



Getting to drive a racehorse



# Cheers

## A Day To Remember!

Many thanks to all the owners, breeders, trainers, drivers, caretakers, fans and bettors who make every Hambletonian day a memorable one.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes to our host track partner The Meadowlands, their dedicated staff, our television and international wagering partners and the large "stable" of free-lancers and Hambletonian staff who make the day happen.



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# OHHA AWARDS FOURTEEN SCHOLARSHIPS TO

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association is awarding fourteen scholarships, totaling \$15,000, to college students for the 2023-2024 academic year.

The OHHA Scholarship is available to graduating high school seniors and students enrolled in a degree or certificate program. Graduate students are eligible if they are enrolled in a harness racing-specific graduate or professional-level program. The scholarships are based on academic merit and financial need and must be used towards the cost and expenses directly related to coursework and a degree being pursued at a college or university. In addition, the applicant or a family member must be an OHHA member.

This year's recipients are: Avery Barker, Sophia Henson, Lane Hess, Drew Lane, Danielle Legault, Victoria Moore, Lauren Mueller, Dani Nesselroad, Aubrey Schwartz, Brett Sugg, Lily Sunderhaus, Blake Taylor, Lexi Twaddle, and Meadow Twaddle.



Avery Barker, Chillicothe, Ohio, is a graduate of Southeastern High School and is currently attending Ohio University. The daughter of James and Bonnie Barker, Avery is majoring in Communication Studies

with plans to attend law school after graduation. "My end goal is to obtain a law degree and work in political law," said Avery.



Sophia Henson of Orient, Ohio is the daughter of Joe and Kristen Henson and Dan Noble. Sophia is a graduate of Westfall High School and is attending the University of Findlay where

she is enrolled in the pre-vet/animal science program and plans to attend veterinary school. Sophia comes from harness racing royalty as her grandfather is Sam "Chip" Noble. She says her work ethic in the horse barn has given her a good understanding of what really hard work is.



Lane Hess of Johnstown, Ohio has his sights also on veterinary school. A graduate of North Ridge High School, Lane is currently attending Columbus State University. The son of Carrie and the late James Hess, Lane is working on his degree in animal science

and plans on specializing in large animals. Lane currently owns four broodmares with his mother.



Drew Lane of Chillicothe, Ohio is the son of TC and Shannon Lane and is a graduate of Zane Trace High School where he was the class valedictorian. He is attending classes at The Ohio State

University majoring in business and plans to attend law school. Lane has served as a member of the Ross County Harness Horsemen's Committee and assists with preparing for the races at the county fair.



Danielle Legault of Lebanon, Ohio is a graduate of Lebanon High School and is currently attending Hocking College. The daughter of Leslie Clemmons is enrolled in the Farrier Science and Business

program. Danielle says horses have been her passion since her grandfather took her to see his horse race.

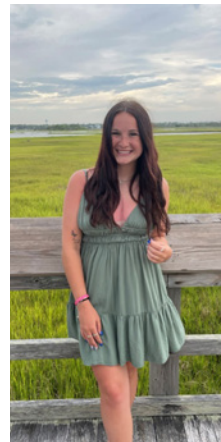


Victoria Moore, the daughter of Ellen and Jeremy Moore, is from Washington Court House, Ohio. A graduate of Miami Trace High School, Victoria is attending

Wilmington College with the goal of becoming a pediatric occupational therapist in foster care homes and adoption centers.



Lauren Mueller of Huron, Ohio graduated from Saint Joseph Academy and is currently at West Virginia University. The daughter of Gregg and Dana Mueller is studying Marketing and hopes to work promoting different companies and focusing on the creativity of different products and services.



Dani Nesselroad of Stockport, Ohio is the daughter of Eric and Dawn Nesselroad. Dani graduated from Morgan High School and is attending Marietta College, majoring in Strategic Communications with plans to obtain a master's degree in healthcare administration. Dani

says her father's dedication and passion have taught her many life lessons and directed her throughout her life.

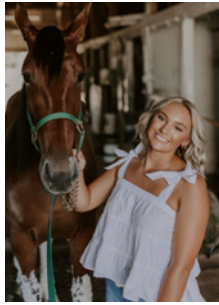


# OUTSTANDING STUDENTS



Aubrey Schwartz of Washington Court House, Ohio is a graduate of Miami Trace High School and is currently attending Wilmington College. The daughter of Bret and Robin

Schwartz, Aubrey is working on a double major in Agriculture and Education. Aubrey is back in school after taking a gap year to serve as Ohio FFA State President.



Lily Sunderhaus, the daughter of Paul and Mary Sunderhaus, is from Celina, Ohio. A graduate of Celina High School, Lily is attending Bowling Green University where she is majoring in Business Management. She says she hopes to use her knowledge to bring attention to harness racing, which is an undervalued sport.

Lexi and Meadow Twaddle of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania both have been awarded OHHA scholarships. The daughters of Timothy and Sophia Twaddle graduated from Canon-McMillan High School.



Lexi is attending Walsh University and majoring in Biology Pre-Med. She says helping people has been important to her and that is why she wants to become a

perfusionist which assists with heart surgeries. "I want nothing more than to help people in situations with heart disease," said Lexi.



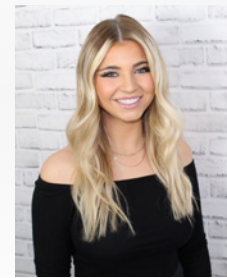
Brett Sugg of Deshler, Ohio is the son of John and Lisa Sugg. Brett is a graduate of Patrick Henry High School and is currently attending the University of Toledo where he is studying

to be a pharmacist. Brett says he hopes to give back to organizations in the future. "I greatly respect philanthropists and if I can leave behind any sort of legacy, giving back to those in need is what I want to be remembered for."



Blake Taylor of Marysville, Ohio is a graduate of North Union High School. The son of Jeromy Taylor and Dr. Laurie Gallatin, Blake is attending Marion Technical College where he is studying

Mechanical Engineering. "I will explore specialized areas within mechanical engineering, such as robotics, which offers tremendous potential for innovation."



Meadow is attending Washington and Jefferson College studying Psychology. She plans to use her degree to work in the racing industry and be an advocate for harness racing

working in marketing, public relations, and communications.





# The Idea that Opened Doors

In 2012, Tim Harless had an idea, to have a race at the Darke County Fair with only women drivers. That idea has turned into one of the most competitive series on the Ohio County Fair circuit.

The first-ever Ladies Night race was held on August 24. Mary Birkhold, Emily Hay, Stephanie Huebner, Mandy Jones, and Stacy Nisonger were the five women who broke the glass ceiling.

“There were three of us that came up with it, but it was Tim who really put it out there,” said Hay.

Short an overnight race on the last night of racing in Greenville, Harless’ idea took shape, and the race was slotted to follow the Gene Reigel Memorial. It carried a purse of \$1,000.

The women who entered did not have a lot of experience driving. Huebner was the veteran with 48 starts under her belt. The rest of the field had a combined 32 starts.

Nisonger had made her first career start earlier in the day on the fair’s afternoon card. She won the four-horse invitational race which included her husband, Jeff.

When the gate opened, Vince The Man with Birkhold raced to the lead. As the field hit the top of the stretch Nisonger



and Huebner were fourth and Aloha Kelly and Hay fifth.

It was the second win of the day for Nisonger and in the words of Hay, “She was one and done.” Those were the only two races Nisonger ever drove, winning both.

The following year, Hay was on the speed committee at the Mercer County Fair and Bill Peters was the race secretary. The two worked to add the race to the schedule and the event became a series with races at the Darke County and Mercer County Fairs.

Hay says things really took hold when Ohio Representative Jim Buchy heard about the series. “He asked why there were only three fairs for the series and said it should be offered to all the fairs and have the final

at Delaware.” Hay said she told him that would be great, but she didn’t have those kinds of connections and he replied that he did.

Those connections paid off. In 2015, the Lady Pace Driving Series began at the Paulding County Fair in June with Maria Howard winning the first race. Howard also won the finals at the Delaware County Fair in September, but Jones won the first title.

Over the years, the series has evolved and added more fairs. In 2019 Spring Haven Farm came on board as a sponsor and the series was renamed the Spring Haven Farm Ladies’ Driving Series.

One of the biggest changes over the years has been the quality of horses the women are driving. Peters says the original thought was the women would have their own horses, but they had to recruit horses that would fit the class. “We have been fortunate that over the years, trainers have offered horses of the series,” said Peters. “This year we went to a free-for-all all and it has worked out pretty well.” Peter says he has had to do some handicapping when there has been more than one division to make the races competitive.

Competitiveness is not lacking when the women do take the track. Hays says the women don’t give holes, “When you race with the guys, they are a little more courteous. With the ladies, they’ll park you.”



Emily Hay

and Cherokee Ryder made their move and pulled away to win by seven lengths in 2:01. Birkhold was second. Thank You Mamma with Jones was third, while Noble Huebie





Mandy Jones

Peters says one of the most competitive women in the series is Mandy Jones.

Jones was a collegiate athlete and says the series allows her to compete again. "This is my way of being competitive. You have that competitive edge if you played sports growing up. You just don't lose it overnight." She says since the women don't race every day, they go all out when they hit the track.



Emma Wahlberg

The competitive spirit is what drives Swedish-born Emma Wahlberg who has been racing horses since she was eight. Wahlberg came to the United States in 2015. "In Sweden, we drive the little ponies and I have always done that. I got my driving license in Sweden when I was 16 and have also raced under saddle.

Wahlberg says the excitement of being behind the horse is hard to describe. "Just going up behind the gate is my favorite part.

There is so much power and adrenaline."

Kacey Kelly who drives against the men says the series has opened doors for some women. "I think of Jennifer Mains and Emily Hay who have been around for years and didn't drive because there were just stakes races and not the opportunity to compete."

Hay says that was one of the goals, to get more women involved as drivers. She said it makes her feel good that more women are getting involved.

Main is one of those women. She started to drive in the series after seeing other women drive her horse Bold Decision in the series. "I like the horse so much I decided if anyone was going to drive him poorly it would be me and that pushed me to get my license."



Jennifer Main

The series helped Main make the decision to drive at pari-mutuel tracks. "I thought I would just have fun with the Ladies Pace and it kind of snowballed. She says the two years of driving in the series have helped her drive against the guys on the big tracks. "When I drive with the guys there is usually a spot for everybody, and the horse gets a better trip at the racetrack than in the Ladies Pace at the fairgrounds," Main says the women go hard the entire mile and that makes it the most competitive race of the day at every fair.

Main says it is fun going fair to fair and she would like to see a series like this expand to other states but finding enough women drivers is difficult in other states.

Bobbi Joe Brewer is a newcomer to the series and said she never got into the business to be a driver. "I just love training my horses. I had an old horse, Royal Cam-Hall that Emily Hay told me to put in the Ladies' Pace. He started it all." Brewer picked up her first driving win of the year in July and said the experience has given her a new respect for all drivers.

Lauri Farness-Smith had not driven since 2020 and made her return to the track at Marysville this summer. "I had a little mare

that was coming back from injury, and I thought the Ladies Pace would be ideal for her. Little did I know how fast and competitive the women are. They are cutthroat. It's not a powder puff race."

Farness-Smith knows the importance of the series and attracting more women to the sport. "I am very pro-women and I personally think women can do anything men can do. There are a lot of competitive women out there and we are seeing more and more women driving. There are a few role models out there that are hopefully inspiring other women."



# Ohio's Mt. Rushmore of Fair Announcers

If there was a Mt. Rushmore for all sports, there would always be a debate about who makes up the four figures.

Every sport has a great one that deserves the honor. In baseball, it is Babe Ruth. Football has Tom Brady. Basketball claims Michael Jordan. And hockey has Wayne Gretzky. In harness racing, John Campbell is on that pedestal. The other three are always debatable.

When it comes to the county fair announcers, there is no doubt who belongs on Ohio's Mt. Rushmore. Roger Huston, Bill Peters, Doug Ballinger, and Ayers Ratliff are the four who should be immortalized on the side of a mountain.

Combined they have over 200 years of announcing history.



The elder statesman of the four is Roger Huston. The 80-year-old Huston got his start in harness racing at the Green County Fair in Xenia selling programs. It was at the Warren County Fair in Lebanon that he called his first fair when his Uncle Don had to be at Latonia and gave him the job.

Huston says it is hard to put into words why the fairs mean so much to him. "At the big racetracks, it seems like a business. When you go to a county fair it is more of a relaxed mode. I just love going to all the places, working with the different people

each week, and getting to know all the horsemen. It's just more fun."

As Huston's career progressed, he had to give up many of his fairs when he went to work at Pompano Park. "I was calling races at about 17 fairs in the 60s, but when I went to Pompano, they had me doing quarter horse races during the summer, so I gave up most of my fairs."

Huston says Ballinger took over most of them, but he still held on to a few. "Now that I'm semi, semi, semi-retired, I'm back up to 15 or 16 fairs," said Huston.

Huston is known for some great lines during his calls, like "Three in a row in Ohio" and "Looked him in the eye and went right on by." Huston says he doesn't know why he said them, they just came to him. "I know Jay Wolf gave me one: "They have an eighth of a mile to go in Ohio."

Huston has been sued by a racing announcer for using a line during race calls. "He had trademarked the line," said Huston. "I had found tapes and I had been using the line since 1985. I didn't know who he was and had I known what he was doing, I probably would have fought him for it."

While Huston admits to slowing down a little, he doesn't see the end in sight. "It's not up to me, it is up to the good Lord. I don't think I can totally quit. Even now, I had a week off and was home with the family; it drove me crazy."

Peters started announcing in 1960 at the Paulding County Fair when he was 14 years old. "The year before, my uncle told the speed superintendent who was doing the announcing that his nephew could do a better job than he could. The speed superintendent told him to bring me around next year and I could do it. That's how I got started," said Peters.

Peters says the best part of the job is that you are in every race. "A driver might have seven drives on a ten-race card, but when



you are the announcer, you are in every race, and that's what I like."

A ten-race card is child's play compared to what Peters did on Labor Day in 1992 at the Van Wert County Fair when he called 47 races. "They had a double session scheduled for Monday afternoon and evening. On Saturday night they got rained out, so they rescheduled it between the two cards," said Peters.

After the race, you hear one of Peter's catchphrases as the winning horse heads to the winner's circle, "where all the winners go." Peters says he is not sure where it came from, but it might have been Jack Calvert. "I picked up a lot of things from him. I think he was the most naturally gifted announcer I've heard."

In addition to announcing, Peters is one of the two regional coordinators for the Ohio Fair Racing Conference. A typical race day will find him taking entries, selling programs, calling the races, and handing out checks. He doesn't see himself slowing down anytime soon. "My wife keeps me in training. Not only do I do physical training, I also do mental training. I have no plans to quit," said Peters.

When he was introduced as the 2022 recipient of the Ohio Chapter of the United

“It's not up to me, it is up to the good Lord. I don't think I can totally quit. Even now, I had a week off and was home with the family; it drove me crazy.”

- ROGER HUSTON





States Harness Writers Association Rambling Willie Award, Doug Ballinger was called the first unofficial graduate of the Roger Huston School of Announcing. It was Huston that got Ballinger started in the business in 1969.

“I was a 16-year-old grooming a horse named Katfish at the Champaign County Fairgrounds when I heard this voice like no other coming across the speakers. The excitement the announcer put in the race call gave me chills. I knew right then I wanted to become an announcer,” said Ballinger. That voice was Roger Huston’s.

Ballinger said Katfish won the race, and he got a copy of Roger’s race call. He listened to that tape over and over. “That summer we would race our bikes around the fairgrounds, and I was the announcer. Fifty-four years later I can still name the horses in that race.”

It was a horse in a matinee when Ballinger was a senior in high school that stands out in his career. “I didn’t know it at the time, but I called Rambling Willie’s first start,” said Ballinger. “My wife wanted me to get rid of some old programs and I found one from the Celina Matinee where Rambling Willie made his first start and finished fifth in 2:23.”

Fifty years later, Ballinger received the Rambling Willie Award as the Ohioan who has done the most for harness racing over the past two decades.

Ballinger has called races at both fairs and pari-mutuel tracks. He had opportunities to work at the big tracks but didn’t want to leave his hometown of Celina, Ohio. “I really enjoy the fairs. I get the feel of the big track because I fill in, but to do that every night would be tough night in and night out.”

Ballinger says the fairs are special because of the amount of racing in the state. “It’s unheard of, 128 fair race cards. The fans and the number of horses is unreal.”



Ratliff is the youngest of the group and Peters considers him one of the few naturally gifted announcers he’s heard.

He got his start when he was introduced to Chris Patterson. While attending college at Ohio State, Ratliff worked as a teller at Scioto Downs. The teller next to him was the daughter of the speed superintendent at Stark County who introduced him to Patterson.

“I followed Chris around for two summers and would announce a couple of races each day and drove all over the state of Ohio to do it,” said Ratliff.

This summer Ratliff is doing 20 fairs and just loves it. Give him a field of six two-year-old filly trotters and that is what he enjoys. “I love to see the young horses and young drivers develop their skills.”

One of the things Ratliff enjoys about announcing at the fair tracks is he gets to have a little fun with catchphrases he would never have used when he was the full-time announcer at MGM Northfield Park.

“The one that usually gets a big laugh from the grandstand is when two horses are going at it like Donald Trump and CNN. It fits well at the county level.”

Another one of Ratliff’s catchphrases is “If this was a fight, they would have stopped it.” He said Chris Patterson used something close to that and he modified it.

Ratliff says the support of county fair racing and the different participants make it special. “You can have a 17-year-old drive against a 78-year-old and a woman drive against both. It’s the melting pot of harness racing when you come to a fair.”

When you listen to the four, Huston says they are all different. “Doug and I are similar, some people get us confused, thinking it’s Roger when it’s Doug or Doug when it is Roger. Ayers and Bill each have different styles. We are all our own announcers.”

Late in 2022, Patterson who called races for many years passed away. His passing left a void in the Southern Valley Colt Circuit.

Patterson’s fairs were picked up by Huston, Ballinger, and Ratliff. Ken Terpenning who has called Ohio fairs in the past and is the regular announcer at Northville Downs in Michigan, picked up the Noble County Fair. Terpenning enjoys crossing the border to call Ohio fairs. “I enjoy interacting with the fans. The racing is exciting everywhere, but the fairs bring me back to the grassroots of racing.”

Brian Georges calls just one fair, his home fair in Wilmington. He got his start when he volunteered to do it for free when cuts were being made to the racing program. “I opened my mouth and said I would do it for free and 12 years later, I’m still doing it for free; it’s donated time. For two days a year, it’s fun.”

So, remember, the next time you hear one of Ohio’s county fair track announcers, you are hearing the best in the business.



# Be There!

BY ROGER E. HUSTON



Believe it or not, the county fair racing season is beginning to wind down. Over the years I have been called a county fair announcer, a title I am very proud of. In a career dating back to 1960, each of those years I announced seven to 17 county fairs in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Indiana, West Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, and Virginia.

There have been many memories of events in each of those states. The following will be a few of those happenings.

I first attended County Fair races in the 1940s at the Greene County Fair, well before my career began. My parents told me I would ride my tricycle when I was three or four calling out horses' names.

In 1951 when I was nine, the family went to the fair in Urbana. Knowing that I would call the races they took seats in the very top row away from other fans in attendance. They were right, I mimicked the announcer, Hap Shreve.

Fast forward to 1960, my senior year at Xenia High School. I went with Uncle Don Huston to matinee races in Wilmington, Ohio. After the first race, I was paged to the Judges Stand. Uncle Don had me do the post-parade while he made a trip to the men's room. He didn't return that afternoon and I called nine races.

What followed was a meeting with Frank Wilkins and Junior Luse from Urbana asking me to announce the races at their county fair.

One of the early memories from Urbana was the track record performance by B.F.Coaltown and driver Carl Larson.

One of the early fairs I announced was the Warren County Fair. In a race featuring Sweet Singer and Terrymite I got the drivers reversed. Charlie Miller was about 130 pounds and Eddie Morgan Sr. was about 250 pounds. Both wore brown colors. Somehow, I got them turned around at the three-quarter pole and had Terrymite the winner. The presiding judge was a gen-

tleman named Mr. Bonham. He told me that was a great call but that I had the wrong horse winning. The owner of Terrymite was Russell Terry who had bad eyesight but could hear well. He was in the Winner's Circle when Sweet Singer returned.

One year at the Madison County Fair, McKinley Kirk was racing the great pacing mare Great Pleasure on the trot. She won the race rather easily and returned to the Winner's Circle. Hap Shreve was the presiding judge and he yelled down to McKinley, "Was she pacing coming home?" McKinley responded, "She sure was." Great Pleasure went on to be a double-gaited world champion.

There was a horse named Ray Barnes who had been barred from racing at the pari-mutuel tracks for destroying their paddocks. Cliff Albertsons Jr. was racing him at the fairs. The track at London has no outside fence. In the race, the horse failed to make the final turn and disappeared into a cornfield. A few minutes later out of the cornfield came Ray Barnes and Albertsons and a number of cornstalks to finish his race.

I remember a race at the Greene County Fair in Xenia. The woman driver was 8 ½ months pregnant. Two weeks after the race, she gave birth. Needless to say, there was a driver change at Troy.

In 1967, officials from Pompano Park came to hear me at the Greene County Fair. General Manager Dick Wilson and Treasurer Bill VanBuren of Castleton Industries left after hearing me announce one race. It was a non-winner \$200 lifetime, also eligible two-year-old trotters, race. It was a field of 12, and eleven of the horses made breaks with the winner timed in 2:17. That's how I got the job at "The Winter Capital of Harness Racing".

As Paul Harvey would say "Now you know the rest of the story".

**Be There!**



# 20 questions with Mike Sweeney

## Were your parents involved in racing?

Yes, they did it as a hobby. My great-grandfather, my grandfather, and my parents all did it as a hobby. That makes me a fourth-generation horseman.

## Were you involved in any school activities growing up?

I boxed, played football, played baseball and I rode bulls. I played a lot of sports.

## Did you attend college?

No, I got in a wreck and broke my back. It kind of ended my playing football and bull riding. It didn't stop me from driving horses; it just made me more determined.

## Did you ever think of doing something else besides harness racing?

Yes, but not for very long. I took a job at General Motors for a few months working security while I was healing up and it just didn't seem right.

## You got your first license when you were 12. When did you start to drive on a regular basis?

When I was young, I drove at the matinees in Michigan. The fairs always had matinees before the fair season. I started at the county fairs because they would not allow you to drive at the pari-mutuel tracks. At that time, it was 21 because of betting so I raced at the county fairs. Then they made an exception in Michigan to allow me to start driving at 18.

## Were you driving for your dad or picking up catch drives?

I had some of my own that I trained. Some were my dad's, and some were my uncle's horses and just friends of ours'. I didn't catch drive a lot; you drove for people you know. Back then most of the trainers drove their own horses.

## Do you remember the first win?

Yes, I do. It was in Bay City, Michigan with a horse named Alcona M on a fair track. I went in about 2:18 or 2:20.

## When did you move to Delaware, Ohio?

It is coming up on five years. When I came up from Florida the last time I came to Delaware. I liked it here. Michigan was not doing well at the time. We sold our farm in Michigan and haven't been back.



## How many horses do you have in the barn?

We usually have about 20. We have a mixture of everything. I have no preference between pacers and trotters.

## How do you determine who will drive for you?

For the fairs, I try to find someone who will drive all the horses for the whole summer. I used Drew Neill last year and I have Pierce Henry doing it this year. Once in a while you get a horse that needs a certain type of driver, so you find that person.

## What has been your biggest thrill in harness racing?

Probably winning the Dan Rathka Award, being inducted on the Lapeer Wall of Honor, and getting inducted into the Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association Hall of Fame.

## What is your favorite food?

Steak

## What is your favorite sport to watch on television?

Bull riding. I used to ride bulls.

## Were you ever seriously injured riding bulls?

I hurt my knee and my ankle, but nothing very serious.

## Away from racing what do you like to do?

Geez, I don't do much other than that. I

guess I like to go on vacation once in a while.

## What is your favorite vacation spot?

We really like Jamaica and Mexico. We haven't taken a vacation in about ten years. It's about time. I'm going to start going back to the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas. I used to go but got away from that, but I'm going to try to go back.

## Do you have a favorite TV show to watch?

No, I don't watch much TV. Racing takes up most of the time.

## Do you read many books?

I don't read a lot of books. I read magazines. I just don't have the time to sit down and read a story.

## Do you study the racing program, or do you leave that up to the driver?

I leave that up to the driver. You tell the driver what the horse is like and leave it up to them. Most times I just leave it up to the driver or ask their opinion. If I were better than them, I would be driving them myself.

## What is on Mike Sweeney's bucket list?

I'd like to go back out west to see some of the western country like Montana.

# Welcome our new directors!

## MEET THE NEW DIRECTOR Kelsey Grose



While Kelsey Grose's family was involved in harness racing, her attention was drawn to quarter horses. "I grew up showing horses, so it has always been in my blood." Her love for horses helped forge her path to a career in the equine industry.

Following high school, Grose enrolled in equine dental school in Florida. Her family had a training center in the Sunshine State and that is where her focus turned to standardbreds. "Every day I would get up, clean stalls, and jog horses before I went to class," said Grose. "That's where I got the bug. I was able to get to drive them and learn all about them."

After graduating, Grose returned to Ohio. Her plans changed as she went to work for the Quarter Horse Congress. Eventually, she made her way to Hickory Lane Farm in Findlay.

Grose said all of the careers she has had have been equine based. "I kind of jumped around trying to figure out what part of the equine industry I wanted to base my life around."

She was fortunate to land a job at Hickory Lane Farm. "Brad (Wallace) and Kevin (Greenfield) taught me a ton of stuff about the business and what it takes to be successful."

It was the reproductive side of the business that really interested Grose, "That was my calling, I love the babies."

Grose started Spurwood Farms three years ago. "By the time I was ready to come home we had a large group of mares, so I was able to start my own operation," said Grose.

Grose says Ohio is a good place to be. "Ohio stands very good stallions and as purse money increases and breeders get higher prices at the sales, they can purchase better mares and that produces better quality."

### What are your thoughts on the current state of harness racing?

"I think the industry is in a good spot."

### What can be done to improve the sport and industry?

"I really think we need to continue to bring on the next generation. From a breeder's standpoint, I worry about where our Ohio breeding farms are going to go in the future. There are no children to take over. That is really scary. We need to get more youth and the younger generation involved to keep things going. Once the people are older and out of it, some of the older farms are dispersing because there is no one to take over."

### How do you feel about joining the board of directors?

I am very excited to be a part of it. I always wanted to help. I have a younger viewpoint. Everything is changing and evolving. New ideas will go a long way.

### How do you feel about being one of just three women on the board?

It's great. We need more females in this business. Any female who has been successful and tries to help is fantastic. I hope I can fulfill that role and continue to carry on. I'd like to be president one day.

Seena (Esty) is a great role model; I've worked with her in the past. It's nice to be beside her and Mary Jo (Bross) on the board.

### What is your favorite harness racing memory?

I really don't have just a harness racing memory. When I was in school and dental school, I was able to sit behind two- and three-year-olds who went on to be very successful horses. We just had our first filly race in the Adioo Volo which is our first big stake race that one of ours that we raised has been in. Memories are only going to get better, especially with the babies we are raising. Hopefully, we can make it to the winner's circle in some big races.

### What is your favorite fair?

That's a tough one. I would say Delaware because of the crowd it brings in and everyone wants to race in Delaware. It is kind of a goal; you always want to race at Delaware. With the Jug and the Jugette and all the people that come, definitely Delaware.

### What is on your harness racing bucket list?

For one of our foals that we raised and sold to end up in one of the biggest races, whether that be the Jugette, the Jug, the Hambletonian, or something really big.



# MEET THE NEW DIRECTOR Steve Zeehandelar



Horses have given Steve Zeehandelar some of the greatest moments of his life, but they have also been part of the worst moment in his life. The joy has been winning four Ohio Sires Stakes championships. The pain was losing his wife to a horse-riding accident.

A Cincinnati native, Zeehandelar attended the University of Cincinnati. After graduation, he married his wife, Mary, and they moved to Columbus where he attended law school at Ohio State. “We thought we would be here for a year. Forty-five years later, I’m not going back,” said Zeehandelar.

Zeehandelar has always been a horse racing fan having attended the races at Lebanon and Latonia growing up. “When we moved to Columbus, I started going to the Little Brown Jug in the 70s and have been going ever since.”

A thoroughbred owner first, he got into the standardbred business in 2010. “I met Chris Beaver through Jim Gallagher, a former law partner. He and Chris were racing Triumphant Caviar.”

“The first horse I bought with Chris was Donato’s Peach, an Indiana bred,” said Zeehandelar. “I owned a couple of non-descript horses with Chris. It was the fourth or fifth horse we bought for about \$2,000 named Sunrise Nibbles that became the 2014 filly trotting champion.”

About three weeks before the championships, Zeehandelar’s wife of 36 years, Mary, was killed in a horse-riding accident. “Mary was not a person that was in love with the racing. She had her own horse and had ridden for a long time. It was a freak accident. You can’t blame the horse; it was no one’s fault.”

One of Zeehandelar’s dreams was always to own a championship horse. “I owned thoroughbreds for years and quickly learned it was almost impossible to own a champion,” said Zeehandelar. “I had told Mary that Sunrise Nibbles was a very good filly, and she might be a champion. She told me not to get my hopes up.”

As the year went on, Zeehandelar said Mary was getting more and more excited. “I’m not a real religious person, but I do think I got a little divine intervention when Nibbles won that championship.”

## What are your thoughts on the current state of harness racing?

In Ohio, we are living in the golden era. I hope and pray that it continues. I see no reason why it shouldn’t in the short term. Nationwide, there are a few issues the industry is facing but attempts are being made to address them and the future is bright.

## What can be done to improve the sport?

We need to get people to understand the benefits of horse ownership and that you can get involved in partnerships. It doesn’t take a huge investment to be part of a good horse. I have never owned a Standardbred entirely myself. Part of the fun of this is joining with others. Trying to get more people involved in ownership is key. I learned a long time ago; it is better to own 25% of a good horse than 100% of a bad one.

## How do you feel about joining the board of directors?

I felt honored to be asked to be on the board. I am one of the beneficiaries of this golden age of racing that we’re in right now in Ohio. If I can do anything to maintain or expand that I am willing to give it a try.

## What is your favorite harness racing memory?

Without a doubt when Sunrise Nibbles won the 2014 Ohio Sires Stakes championship, which was about three weeks after my wife was killed.

## What is your favorite fair?

I would have to say Delaware and Jug week. Number two is Champaign County. We have always had good fortune there.

## What is on your harness racing bucket list?

Maintaining where we are. Trying to get the next Sires Stakes champion. That is my dream. One of my favorite days of the year is championship night every year. Winning the Ohio Sires Stakes is like Christmas, Thanksgiving, and all the holidays wrapped into one.



# **BRETT MILLER** Wins 10,000th Race

Brett Miller won the 10,000th race of his career when he drove Flyin Bullets to victory in Ohio Sires Stakes action at Eldorado Scioto Downs.

Miller entered the card needing two wins to reach the plateau. He picked up his first win in the second race and hit the milestone in the eighth race.

Miller began driving in 1991. He had just one drive that year. In 1992, he recorded his first win when he drove Slickasaseel to victory at Northfield Park.

Miller's career took off in 1999 when he recorded 1,213 drives, winning 178 races. The following year, Miller won 511 races.

Since then, he has won at least 200 races every year and has earned more than \$1 million in purses each of those years.

Miller's highest win total was in 2004 when he won 639 races. In 2014 he had his best money year, earning \$7,939,143 in purses.

In his career, Miller is nearing 61,000 starts while earning over \$111 million dollars.

**Photos:** Conrad Photo



Brett Miller wins his 10,000th race driving Flyin Bullets



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LOST IN TIME - BLUE RAE	
<i>ATI TIMEFORBEACHIN</i>	BROWN FILLY
LOST IN TIME - CRUISIN' CORRINE	
<i>ATI LOSTINTH DANCE</i>	BAY FILLY
LOST IN TIME - DANCING ON MY OWN	
<i>ATI LOSTNWONDRAND</i>	BAY FILLY
LOST IN TIME - MISS K NORA	
<i>ATI LOSTINTH BAYOU</i>	BAY FLYLY
LOST IN TIME - REAL FOXY LADY	

### PACING COLTS:

<i>ATI TIMEFORTROUBLE</i>	BAY COLT
LOST IN TIME - GRACEY MERL	
<i>ATI BARLEY BALOO</i>	BROWN COLT
CHARLEY BARLEY - JUST THINKIN'	
<i>ATI ROCKIN TRICKS</i>	BAY COLT
ROCKIN AMADEUS - TRICKY TRENDY	





## Smokin Oak Original Smokies and Jerky

Elk Jerky	Giant Slab Teriyaki Jerky
Buffalo Jerky	Venison Jerky
Honey Glazed	Super Hot Venison Jerky
Original Tenderloin	Hot Pepper Sirloin

### SMOKIN OAK SHOW DATES

#### September 7-10

Lewiston Peach Festival – Lewiston, NY

#### September 9-10; September 16-17; September 23 -24

Yankee Peddler Festival – Canal Fulton, Ohio

#### September 15-17

4 Wheel Jamboree Nationals –  
Indianapolis, Indiana Fairgrounds

#### September 22-24

North East Wine Festival – North East, Pa

#### October 1-3

Big East Powersports Show – Syracuse NY

#### October 6-8

Paul Bunyan Show – Cambridge Ohio

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# TRACK NOTES



Get The Cash with Logan Ebersole **Photo:** Casalino Photography



Logan Ebersole

After winning for the first time in his career at the Carroll County Fair in July, Logan Ebersole won for the first time at a pari-mutuel track when he drove Get The Cash to victory at MGM Northfield Park.

Bart Stimer picked up his 1,000th driving win on August 22 at the Defiance County Fair in Hicksville. Stimer piloted Stoneborough to victory in 2:02.3. The 53-year-old Stimer began his driving career in 1986.

Ron Burke picked up his 14,000th career win on August 5th. Burke hit the milestone when Bythemissal won the Sam McKee Memorial Pace at the Meadowlands. Burke's first training win came in 1993.

Dunkin' continues to be the winningest horse in North America. The three-year-old pacer owned and trained by Betty Clegg won for the 16th time this year with its victory at Wellington. Dunkin's 16 wins have come in 33 starts.

Hydraulic Hazel remained perfect this year, winning for the 11th time in as many starts. She claimed win number 11 at the Defiance County Fair in Hicksville. Her 11 wins are the most in North America by a three-year-old filly. Hydraulic Hazel is trained by Brian Boring and owned by Ernest Ayers and Ellen Bellemore.

Catch Me Conrad won for the 50th time in his career as he won the Signature Series Pace at the Attica Independent Fair on August 9. Justin Irvine drove the son of Tellitlikeitis to the win in 2:01.3. Catch Me Conrad has earned over \$272,000 in his career.

# County Fair Records



Hillbillypacinhill **Photo:** Conrad Photo

N Cress with Dan Noble set the new mark of 1:58.1 only to see Naked On A Hill with Jeff Nisonger shave off over a second four races later. The new mark is 1:57.

At Napoleon, a new track record was set only to see it broke later in the day. Dunkin' with Nick Clegg set a new mark for three-year-old pacing colts of 1:58.2. Later in the card, Monaco Hanover and Drew Neill lowered the mark to 1:57.4.

The same thing happened at Woodsfield. VH Volt with Derek Watiker set a new all-aged pace record winning in 1:56.1. Shortly after that Rockin Requiem with Ronnie Gillespie broke the mark pacing in 1:54.4. VH Volt's mark will stand as the record for three-year-old colt pacers.

Hillbillypacinhill put his name in the Caldwell record book. Lucas Myer drove the Racing Hill gelding to the new mark of 1:56.2. It broke the 26-year-old record of 1:57.2 set by Glive.

County fair track records have been falling all over the state.

At Bowling Green, Lady With No Fear set a new mark for three-year-old filly pacers with a time of 1:59.3. Ed Hennessey drove for trainer Sandy Hennessey.

At Wapakoneta, Trooper L and Hank Levan set a new record for three-year-old colt pacers and tied the all-age pacing record of 1:56.1. Later that night, Dancinbytheseaside and Cam McCown set a new record for three-year-old filly pacers of 1:56 which broke Trooper L's all-aged record.

Also at Wapakoneta, Four Wheelin with Alex Hawk set a new mark for all-aged trotters of 1:59.

A new record for two-year-old filly pacers was set at Urbana. Legend

# Records Fall at Scioto and Northfield



Jet Hill with Ronnie Wrenn Jr.

Jet Hill wrapped up the final leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes for sophomore colt trotters in record fashion on August 25. The son of What The Hill established a new Eldorado Scioto Downs track record for three-year-old gelded trotters winning in 1:51.4. It was the seventh win of the year for Jet Hill who is trained by Edward Miller and owned by Serenity Racing Stables.

The Flying Turns at MGM Northfield Park produced a world record-tying performance and a track record-tying performance on August 12.



John Dutton

clock in 1:51.2 to win the fourth leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes. Clever Cody is owned by Clever Cody Stable.

**Photos:** Conrad Photo

John Dutton tied the world record for three-year-old gelded trotters on a half-mile track in Ohio Sires Stakes action on August 12. The What The Hill gelding rolled to victory in 1:52.2. It tied the mark set by Jet Hill earlier in the year. John Dutton is trained by Ron Burke and owned by Burke Racing Stable, Knox Services, Johnny Yoder, and RAS Racing.

Clever Cody tied the track record at Northfield for two-year-old pacing colts. Trained by Dr. Ian Moore, Clever Cody stopped the



## OHIO BREEDERS AWARD REQUIREMENTS

**Mares registered in 2019** (Foals of 2020)  
**mare registration date 11/30/19**

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Foal Born 2020	Membership Required
Yearling 2021	No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2022, 2023	No Membership Required

**Mares registered in 2020** (Foals of 2021)  
**mare registration date 11/30/20**

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Foal Born 2021	Membership Required
Yearling 2022	No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2023, 2024	No Membership Required

**Mares registered in 2021** (Foals of 2022)  
**mare registration date 11/30/21**

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Foal Born 2022	Membership Required
Yearling 2023	No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2024, 2025	No Membership Required

**Mares registered in 2022** (Foals of 2023)  
**mare registration date 11/30/22**

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Foal Born 2023	Membership Required
Yearling 2024	No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2025, 2026	No Membership Required

**Mares registered in 2023** (Foals of 2024)  
**mare registration date 11/30/23**

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Foal Born 2024	Membership Required
Yearling 2025	No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2026, 2027	No Membership Required

**Registration Fee:** \$20 per mare. For mares registered in 2019 forward, **in addition to the \$20 registration fee per mare, registrations received from December 1st to December 31st must add a \$100 per-mare late fee. Registration will not be accepted until all fees are paid in full.**

**Membership Requirements:** All owners of the mare (including those in businesses or stables) are required to join as Active OHHA Members. All business entities or stables listed as owners are also required to join as Associate Members.

**Mare Residency:** Mare in foal to an Ohio Stallion, must foal in Ohio, and reside in Ohio for 187 consecutive days in the year of foaling.

### OHHA SENDS OUR CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF

Patricia Ebersole, Charles Lane, Robert Twaddle

## Thank You to our 2023 P.A.C.E.R. Contributors

**OHHA Pacesetters as of 8/30/23**

Jeffery Allen	Timothy & Denise Maier
James Arledge	Rick & Donas Martindale
Ernie Ayers	David McElrath
Stephen Bateson	Joe McLead
Harold Bauder	Mel Rose Stable LLC
Marion Beachy	John Ryan Melsheimer
Donald Bean	John W Melsheimer
Christopher Beaver	Shawn Melsheimer
Lucinda Belcher	Ben Miller
Andrew Betts	Dean Miller
Brad & Lisa Bixler	Jerry Miller
Tracy Bower	Scott Mogan
Mary Jo & Doyle Bross	Jacob Mossbarger
Jim Buchy	Jay Mossbarger
Roy & Melissa Burns	John & Kyle Mossbarger
Steve Bush	Dr. Hallie Nesselroad
Urie Byler	Dan & Christi Noble
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Kathy Grose	Melvin Schmucker
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James Hassel	Perry Soderberg
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Jonas Hershberger	Charles Taylor
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Calvin & Amy Hollar	Randy & Jennifer Turner
Carson & Joe Hollar-Kale	Allan & Ann Vorhees
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Randy & Tia Leopard	Larry Wills
Tiffany Liles	Casey Wolfe
Greg Luther	Ola Yoder
Todd Luther & Toni Dale Hollar	Randy Young

# Speed Horse - Lesson Horse - PANSKRIT DOES IT ALL

Panskrit raced seven consecutive years, mostly in Ohio in the midrange claimers. The strikingly handsome son of The Panderosa started 162 times and earned \$123,000. In December 2015, it became evident to trainer Fred Morgan that the soon to be eight-year-old didn't want to race anymore. Owner Fred Hummel's wife, Linda, deeply loved the gelding and was stressed over his looming retirement for fear he'd fall into bad hands. Hummel eased Linda's mind by giving Panskrit to her for Christmas. Though Linda didn't feel confident to try to ride Panskrit herself, she could tell he loved children and didn't hesitate to put her 3-year-old granddaughter on his back. "He was so careful with our granddaughter," Linda said. "She would hug his head and he'd just stand there patiently soaking it up. He was the kindest, sweetest horse."

Five years elapsed and Linda had a total knee replacement. It became hard for her to go to the barn and care for Panskrit. Sadly, she realized it was time to find her beloved gelding a new home,



Panskrit and Silvana Christianson compete extremely well in barrel racing against the quarter horses and thoroughbreds that typically dominate the sport. (Credit: Suzi Huffman photography)

and once again, she was desperately afraid for his future. Hummel called Winnie Nemeth in February 2021 to see if New Vocations had room for their gelding. "I was so thankful that they were able to take him," Linda said. "I knew they'd find him a good home."

Panskrit went to trainer Bridget Heasley who was in Sunbury at the time. "He was a big, kind horse and so very sweet," she said. "He'd been given wonderful care; it was obvious his owners dearly loved him." It wasn't surprising that Panskrit was agreeable under saddle. Even though he'd only been led with children on his back, he was responsive and willing with Bridget. "He was very regal, yet so quiet and kind; a real gem," she said.

Panskrit was soon adopted by Hillary Willis of Delaware, Ohio, for trail riding. Her updates consistently sang his praises, "Pan is doing great!! We went trail riding with some friends, and he had a blast. It

seemed like his element, and I could tell he was having a wonderful time." And "Panskrit is doing awesome! We moved to a new stable in Pataskala, Rising Star Ranch, and he has made lots of friends. He is such a sweet boy; everybody loves him!"

The move was fortuitous for Hillary, Panskrit and Rising Star Ranch. Hillary soon discovered she was pregnant and was at high risk of encountering problems. With a baby on the way and her activities curtailed, the decision to let Panskrit go was made easier when stable owner Karla Smith offered to take over his adoption. She had a substantial lesson program and Panskrit's patience and love of children made him a perfect fit. Three months later, at the age of 15, Panskrit competed with two of his kids in his first show.

"Pan has been a wonderful addition to the barn and the family," Karla said. "When I took over his adoption, his personality was very stoic and hard to read, but he was always kind and gentle, and super willing to learn. As the months went by, he became more open. I think he knew he needed a sense of humor with the kids at the barn."

One of Karla's teenaged students, Silvana Christianson, took an instant liking to Panskrit and helped bring him along in his riding last year. "They competed in 4-H, consistently placing within the top four in barrel racing against some pretty heavy competition," Karla said. "They have even been competitive contesting at rodeos."



Adopter Karla Smith schooling Panskrit. (Photo: Erin Keegan)



# Child's Horse

"It's no surprise to me they have been able to do so much with Panskrit," said Bridget. "I would take a whole barn full of him. I see the adopter regularly and they have done everything from jumping to gaming! I love that he's out showing the versatility of the breed. It doesn't hurt that he's a stunner too!"

On Pan's time off from speed events, he teaches beginners and advanced students alike. "He has become one of our best beginner safe lesson horses," said Karla. "He is always happy and content to share his knowledge as well as dink around the arena while the student figures out how to steer."

At 16.3h, Panskrit is a true gentle giant. Most horses that big are intimidating to the inexperienced, but Pan is quite the exception. "He's the most careful and caring horse I've ever met," Karla said. "He so trustworthy and watchful that a 5-year-old girl is allowed to walk him by herself without us worrying if he will spook and drag her or not be mindful of where she is. Pan purposefully keeps his head down at her level and makes sure he keeps his steps slow and small. He goes as far as to stop until she gets ahead of him then follows. Pan is so extremely loved not by just me, but by the community at our barn. He is such a wonderful companion and teacher."



Panskrit is very watchful of young Emmy Smith and keeps his steps slow and small.

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# OUTSTANDING GROOMS



**Alexis Schwartz** - Washington Court House



**Steve Gibson** - Woodstock

Don't miss the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association coverage of

## LITTLE BROWN JUG WEEK



2022 LITTLE BROWN JUG CHAMPION - Bythemissal

# 5 DAYS IN DELAWARE

Sept. 17 - 21



HarnessRacingOhio.com





## Nomination for the Ohio Outstanding Groom Award

Grooms are that special group of people who underpin the success of our entire sport, ever present but rarely in the spotlight. The Ohio Outstanding Groom award seeks to highlight a groom who really goes above and beyond for their horses and the sport of harness racing in Ohio. You can include up to one more sheet of additional information if needed. Please be thorough, the more comprehensive the nomination is, the better chance your nominee has of being chosen.

**DEADLINE OCTOBER 1, 2023.**

I. Please fill out the following information about the person being nominated:

Name:

Location:

II. Explain the role this person has had in the stable.

III. How long have they been involved in harness racing? How did they get started?

IV. What other activities is the nominee involved in?

V. Any additional information you would like to share:

Nomination by:

Name:

Email:

Phone:



## Nomination for the Terry Holton Youth Award

The 21st Annual Terry Holton Youth Award is awarded to youth aged thirteen to nineteen who have actively participated in harness racing during 2023, as a driver, trainer, owner, groom, breeder, official, race office/publicity assistant, track maintenance crew or any capacity that has provided outstanding service to harness racing. You can include up to one more sheet of additional information if needed. Please be thorough, the more comprehensive the nomination is, the better chance your nominee has of being chosen. **DEADLINE OCTOBER 1, 2023.**

I. Please fill out the following information about the person being nominated:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

If in school, grade, and name of school attending:

II. Explain the role this person has had in the harness racing industry in 2023.

III. How long have they been involved in harness racing? How did they get started?

IV. What other activities is the nominee involved in?

V. Any additional information you would like to share:

Nomination by:

Name:

Email:

Phone:





## Ohio Breeders Awards Program Form

(For Mares Bred in 2023)

**Initial Mare Registration: Due November 30<sup>th</sup> of Year Bred**

### 1. INITIAL MARE REGISTRATION: Complete 1 for Initial Registration

Broodmare Information: *One Mare Per Form.* List two *only if* Embryo Transfer- List Recipient and Donor Mare.

Mare's Registered Name: (If ET notate Recipient or Donor Mare)	USTA Registration #	Ohio Stallion Mare Bred to:

### 2. 187 DAY RESIDENCY: Complete 1, 2, & 3 for Final Verification

Location of Mare for Foaling and 187 Day: Residency (Include: Start and End Date)	Contact Person and Address: (Include: City, State, Zip)	Telephone:
		E-mail:

*If Mare is a Permanent Resident at this Location Check the Box ⇨*

### 3. CERTIFICATION: Please read, Initial, and Sign. Each applicable section must be completed in its entirety by the deadline stated. Any deficiencies will be considered an incomplete submission.

I hereby state that all information provided herein is true and correct. I further certify if the mare leaves the State for any reason I will notify the OHHA within 72 hours of return, complete and return the separate, "Emergency Exception Form". I understand that any false or fraudulent statements made by me or on my behalf may result in automatic removal from the Breeder's Awards Program and may be punishable under Ohio Law.

For verification purposes I consent to the OHHA entering upon the property, farm, or other residence and permit them to inspect any veterinary records or breeding or billing records, validate the mare's presence at the provided and status. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless in law and equity the OHHA for any action that causes any damage to the OHHA, or any agent acting on behalf of the OHHA.

**Initials**

Failure to submit this form within the timeframe outlined in each section may result in the Mare or Breeder's automatic removal from the Breeder's Awards Program. The severity or frequency of any failure(s) may bar and preclude future participation.

**Initials**

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association reserves all rights including the ability to make changes to the program or abolish the program in its entirety in their complete and unfettered discretion. Program rules for the program year are included by reference herein. All decisions made by the OHHA on all matters concerning the Breeder's Awards Program is Final. Upon remittance, the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association shall be completely held harmless and indemnified in any dispute, claim, or loss incurred by any party and specifically by the Breeder listed First on the Mare's United States Trotting Association's Registration. Any subsequent action or claim arising from the Breeder's Awards Program must first be arbitrated prior to initiating any claim in Court or with any Administrative Agency. At law, the Court of Common Pleas of Franklin County, Ohio has exclusive jurisdiction over any claims.

**Initial**



<p><b>Authorized Signature Date: (mm/dd/yyyy)</b></p>
<p><b>Include the Initial Registration Fee - Payable to the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association</b></p>
<p><b>Include applicable OHHA Membership Fee for all Breeders</b> (per USTA Breed Registry)          \$65-Full Active Membership, \$25-Business Entity Only</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Total Remitted:</b></p>
<p>Attach any additional documentation as outlined in each section and a completed W-9. Return to the OHHA: Via Fax: 614-221-8726, Via E-mail: <a href="mailto:breedersawards@ohha.com">breedersawards@ohha.com</a>, or via First Class Mail (Postage Pre-paid) to 2237 Sonora Drive, Grove City, Ohio 43123. The official Post Postmark</p>

**INSTRUCTIONS:** This form is intended to be used for all submissions except in the case of the mare being removed from the State of Ohio for an Emergency during the 187-day contiguous residency period. If the mare leaves the state for any reason during the 187-day contiguous residency period you must report that to the OHHA on the separate “Emergency Exception Form” within 72 hours of return. Each Section must be completely filled out by the November 30<sup>th</sup> deadline in the year the Mare was bred. The complete initial registration form and money to be paid must be postmarked or received (file stamped upon receipt) by the OHHA Office on or before the deadline date.

**Section 1:** This is the Initial Registration for the Mare. **ONE MARE PER FORM** unless you are breeding a mare via embryo transfer **only**. If utilizing embryo transfer, please provide **BOTH** the Donor Mare and the Recipient Mare’s information in the space provided, use the Recipient Mare’s information for Residency. All Membership Fees and \$20 Registration Fee shall be paid at Initial Registration. The Membership and/or Registration Fees will not be refunded or carried over to subsequent years.

**Section 2:** The Mare’s 187 Day Residency Verification is the location the Mare will reside for the contiguous 187 Day mandatory residence in the year of foaling. If the expectation is that the Mare will split her time between two Ohio locations provide the details and expected start and end date that the Mare will reside at each location. If utilizing artificial insemination without moving the Mare back-and-forth, note that here. If the mare is a permanent resident at this location, check the box.

**Section 3: Certification and Signature Box:** Please initial each box to the right of the certifications acknowledging that you have read and accept the terms outlined in each section of the Certification. **Any time** a submission is made the Certifications must be initialed. The Breeder (as designated by the USTA’s official Breed Registry) listed First on the Mare’s United States Trotting Association’s Registration shall sign the Forms each time they are submitted. Assumption of risk for signature by anyone other than the Breeder listed First on the Mare’s United States Trotting Association’s Registration is borne entirely by the Breeder listed First on the Mare’s United States Trotting Association’s Registration. Upon remittance, the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association shall be completely held harmless and indemnified in any dispute, claim, or loss incurred by any party and specifically by the Breeder listed First on the Mare’s United States Trotting Association’s Registration.

**Remittance Amount:** The total amount for Registration per Mare due with each form is \$20. Beginning with mares registered and bred in 2018 (foals of 2019, forward), **All Breeders** (as designated by the USTA’s official Breed Registry) are required to be Members of the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association in the year of foaling only. The membership requirement applies to all Breeders and extends to any business entity or stable-Breeders and all affiliates/members of the business entity or stable as reported by the entity’s United States Trotting Association’s record. By way of example, Super Breeder, LLC is the Mare’s United States Trotting Association’s Breeder of Record for the Mare bred in 2020 that will foal in 2021. Super Breeder LLC has six affiliates/members. Super Breeder LLC must include its \$25 Membership fee and the six affiliates/members of Super Breeder, LLC must each pay the \$65 full-active Membership fee, the total remitted shall be \$435 (\$20 Mare Registration Fee + \$25 Super Breeder LLC Associate Membership + \$65 x 6 for affiliates of Super Breeder LLC).

## Ohio Breeder's Award Program Complete Rules

(A.) A portion of the discretionary funds that are paid to the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association (the "OHHA") by the Standardbred permit holders from the video lottery terminal wagering will be used to pay breeder's awards to the owners of the dams of Standardbred horses that were born in 2013 and thereafter and are sired by a stallion that was registered as a Standardbred stallion with the Ohio State Racing Commission for the applicable breeding season. Breeder's awards will be paid beginning with the 2016 racing season. No Later than December 31 of each year beginning in 2016, the OHHA will establish the total sum that will be paid as breeder's awards with respect to races conducted during the next succeeding calendar year. "Breeder" is defined as any person(s), entity or entities listed as the Breeder on the registration certificate.

(B.) All horses born in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 that meet the requirements of subsection (A) will be eligible to earn breeder's awards for the Breeder(s) of the foals without their dams being registered pursuant to subsection (C).

(C.) For mares bred in 2018 with foals of 2019 and thereafter, in addition to the requirements of subsection (A), the following eligibility requirements will apply:

1. The horse must be born in the State of Ohio and the dam must reside in the State of Ohio during the year of foaling for a continuous period that is not less than one hundred eighty-seven (187) days. Continuous residency is subject to exceptions for acts of God, medical emergency, or participation in an out-of-state public sale for a period of up to fourteen days. Valid exceptions must be reported on an Exception Waiver Form to the OHHA no later than 48 hours after moving the mare out-of-state and must provide full details for the exception to apply.
2. The dam of the horse must be registered with the breeder's award program with the OHHA between September 1<sup>st</sup> and November 30<sup>th</sup> of the year of breeding. All forms necessary will be provided by the OHHA by request and will be available for download from the OHHA website. Beginning with mares bred in 2018 and thereafter, the breeder(s) of each horse must be members of the OHHA in the year of foaling. Validly executed Assignments of Interest for Breeders Awards are accepted if signed by the Breeder(s) and only if the Breeders Award and the Breeder(s) are in good standing, with active Memberships at the time of Assignment on the Interest.
3. The information that is provided at the time of registration of the mare shall include the name and tattoo number of the mare, the name of the Ohio-registered stallion that the mare was bred to, the location in the State of Ohio where the mare resides or will reside during the year of foaling, the date when the mare began residency or is expected to begin residency in the State of Ohio, and the names and addresses of the Breeder(s) of the mare at the time of registration with the program. The form shall include a sworn verification-certifying residency pursuant to Paragraph 1, for the mare. At the time of registration of the mare the Breeder(s) shall also provide a completed I.R.S. W9 Form and Full Waiver and Consent to enter onto the resident mare's property for residency verification purposes.

(D.) For mares bred in 2019 with foals of 2020 and thereafter, the dam of the horse must be registered with the breeder's award program with the OHHA between September 1<sup>st</sup> and November 30<sup>th</sup> of the year of breeding. Any mare registration received at the OHHA office from December 1<sup>st</sup> to midnight December 31<sup>st</sup> shall include an additional \$100 late-registration fee per mare. If not automatically accompanied by the late-registration fee you will be invoiced, non-payment of the late registration fee will result in a failure to register the mare for that year's Breeder's Awards program. All mare registrations and fees must be received by the OHHA office by midnight December 31<sup>st</sup>. All forms necessary will be provided by the OHHA by request and will be available for download from the OHHA website.

1. A registration fee of \$20.00 per mare will be charged, payable to the OHHA at the time of registration, together with the OHHA membership fee if not previously paid, and any late-registration fee.

(E.) Ohio breeder's awards shall be paid only for two and three-year-olds racing in 2016 forward. Breeder's awards will be payable for the following eight categories:

- (1) 2-year-old trotting fillies
- (2) 2-year-old trotting colts.
- (3) 2-year-old pacing fillies
- (4) 2-year-old pacing colts
- (5) 3-year-old trotting fillies
- (6) 3-year-old trotting colts
- (7) 3-year-old pacing fillies
- (8) 3-year-old pacing colts

1. The Ohio stake races that will be counted in calculating breeder's awards consist of:
  - (a) Standardbred Development Fund Races the, "Ohio Sires Stake" races.



- (b) The “Buckeye Stallion Series” races
  - (c) The Ohio State Fair Stake races
  - (d) The “Ohio Fair Championship” races
  - (e) The “Ohio Breeders Championship” Stake races
  - (f) Any other Ohio Breeder’s stake races
  - (g) All stake races conducted by county agricultural societies and independent agricultural societies with purse money provided in whole or in part by the Ohio Fair Funds
  - (h) Any other Ohio stake races that are approved by the OHHA no later than December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year beginning in 2016 for foals born the following year.
2. The award earned by each horse will be based on the purse dollars earned by that horse in Ohio stakes races each year compared to the total purse dollars earned by all of the horses in its category in Ohio stake races that year that are eligible to earn breeder’s awards, expressed as a percentage. The OHHA Board will establish the total amount of breeder’s awards for each category each year by December 31<sup>st</sup>. That percentage will be multiplied by the total dollars that are allocated to breeder’s awards for the horses in that category, with the result rounded to the nearest whole dollar. Any breeder’s award that calculates to less than \$50.00 will be treated as \$0 earned and not be paid. If there are multiple Breeders, the Breeder’s Award check will be issued to the Breeder listed first on the Registration. If any or a portion of the Breeder’s Award remains unpaid due to the failure of the Breeder to supply all information requested by the OHHA upon request or the OHHA is unable to ascertain the whereabouts of the Breeder or his Beneficiary after sending a registered letter, return receipt requested to the last known address, and further diligent effort to ascertain the Breeder or his Beneficiary’s whereabouts, 1 year from the date the Breeder’s Award was payable, the Award shall be forfeited in its entirety and revert-back to the Administrative Account used for the administrative expense of the program.
- (F.) For mares that are registered with the breeder’s award program as described in subsection (C), the OHHA shall be entitled to visit the farm where a mare was reported to reside on one or more occasions to confirm the mare’s residency at that location during the year of foaling. If access to the farm or mare is denied, or if the mare is not residing at that farm and is not otherwise confirmed as residing in or has not resided in the State of Ohio during that time, the foal that is delivered by that mare with respect to that year of registration will not be eligible to the breeder’s award program.

# Regularly Scheduled Meeting Recaps *By Renée Mancino*

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

*The meeting was held at Caesars Scioto Downs in the Triple Diamond Room. Roll Call, all Commissioners in person, Commissioner Patmon present by telephone.*

Congratulations were offered to Commissioner Beth Hansen and Chairman Scott Borgemenke as re-appointees on new three-year terms.

In normal business for the Commission, Executive Director Chris Dragone's Report and Approval items were introduced, and the April 19, 2023 minutes were offered for ratification. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the April 19, 2023 meeting minutes and the Executive Director's Approval Items.

The Executive Director's Report included discussion of uncoupled entries. Executive Director Chris Dragone discussed being liberal with uncoupling common-interest ownership horses in races. The leniency is due to the need at the thoroughbred racetracks for uncoupled entries to have enough betting interests and not have to eliminate show wagering and a negative pool. The Racing Commission intends to issue a Directive as an advance to a rule change that will not require approval on uncoupling in specific circumstances. The uncoupling will come with a requirement on publication or broadcast on common ownership in a race by the racetracks. A first draft directive is in-process and will be circulated for consideration as soon as the process is complete. Additional comment on approving export approvals required sign-off on by the Horsemen and the Racing Commission. Added was discussion on "gray area" wagering with a directive that if there were any side-deals or other items outside the export approvals they were to stop immediately. The only business being conducted was to be disclosed and approved by the racing commissions and horsemen.

Resolution 2023-01 Veterinary Technicians permitting them to draw blood and act under the supervision of a veterinarian. HISA has taken all regulatory veterinarians under the federal program. The lack of regulatory veterinarians was seen with Scioto Downs' inability to secure one before commencement of the 2023 live meet. The practice for veterinary technicians has been vetted through the Ohio State Veterinary Board and Ohio State University Veterinary Dean Moore. In both cases they have said there is nothing in the regulations that requires a veterinarian to draw blood. Veterinary technicians can act under a veterinarian's supervision. This Rule will be submitted for Emergency Rule application to the Governor's office to circumvent the waiting period through CSI. In addition to HISA being an issue with obtaining veterinarians horsemen's conduct was discussed as another basis. This is a direct result of horsemen's unprofessional conduct and direct threats against regulatory veterinarians and test barn employees. This has led to a refusal of veterinarians to apply for jobs that will subject them to that in their workplace. The racing commission admonished horsemen and said if it continues there will be added security, regulation, and fines if the professionalism does not improve. The conclusion was if we do not have regulatory veterinarians or test barn technicians, we will not have racing.

Consideration and approval of Resolution 2023-05, the 1st Quarter Casino Commission distributing the Casino Tax of \$2,674,667.36, distributed as follows. \$508,186.80 was distributed to the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund and Ohio Standardbred Development Fund. \$200,600.05 was distributed to each of Eldorado Scioto Downs and Miami Valley Gaming for support of commercial operations at non-Ohio casino interest

owned properties. \$133,733.37 went to the Ohio State Racing Commission for support of commercial operations. \$98,029.30 forwarded to Hollywood Gaming at Mahoning Valley purse pool, \$91,009.92 to Belterra Park purse pool, \$97,061.11 to JACK Thistledown purse pool, \$144,986.54 to Miami Valley Gaming and Racing purse pool, \$363,192.49 to MGM Northfield Purse Pool, \$164,108.30 to Eldorado Scioto purse pool, and \$114,972.63 to Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway purse pool. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified Resolution 2023-05.

Agenda item for Alejandro Murrillo-Rodriguez was removed from the April agenda was heard. Mr. Rodriguez was initially fined for July 18, 2022, infraction at Thistledown on Two Eagles for Class 1, penalty category A Nikethamide. Original stewards levied a \$1,000 fine, 1-year suspension, disqualification and return of the purse. Mr. Rodriguez appealed and March 29, 2023, hearing upheld the suspension. Mr. Rodriguez appeared with his attorney, Sergey Katz, and requested the penalty of 365 days be reduced to 60 days as it was in Bill Rhodes November 2022 case to have the rules apply uniformly. Commissioner Winters set forth the racing commission's job to only approve or disapprove of the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendation. After discussion the Racing Commission unanimously upheld the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendation.

In the matter of Jessica Millner. December 20, 2022, when she was called to the judges during an inquiry and threatened to act against the judges if the horses that were placed 2nd and 3rd were not placed behind her horse. She was charged with conduct against the best interests of racing under 3769-12-26(A)(10) and fined \$1,000 if she appealed or \$500 if no appeal. Ms. Millner appealed with a hearing on April 11, 2023, the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendation was to uphold the \$1,000 fine. In discussing Commissioner Winters reiterated the earlier discussion regarding horsemen's conduct; with the problem escalating the Hearing Officer's recommendation must be upheld. After discussion the Racing Commission unanimously upheld the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendation.

In the matter of David Wilson. November 2, 2022, KY Hot Brown's post-race sample was positive for Polaramine, an antihistamine. The stewards levied a 15-day suspension, \$500 fine, disqualification, and return of the purse. As a non-listed therapeutic there is zero tolerance. A hearing was held April 6, 2023, with the report issued May 23, 2022, upholding the steward's ruling. Mr. Wilson appeared before the racing commission and requested mitigation due to it being veterinarian administered at 96 hours out under a prescription from his veterinarian. He said his veterinarian has turned the matter over to his malpractice insurance carrier to pay the fine. Mr. Wilson represented two prior infractions in 45 years training horses. One was for the scratch of an ineligible horse a jockey's agent caused; another was for 82 pg./ml on clenbuterol which he was on suspension for, otherwise no others. After questions related to proof of the veterinarian having turned the claim over to his insurance company the Racing Commission unanimously upheld the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendation.

A recap on the horse racing fatalities was provided by Racing Commission Consulting Veterinarian, Dr. James Robertson. Dr. Robertson noted that the numbers reported since 2009 are for training and racing related catastrophic breakdowns, analogous to the Jockey

Club's reporting requirements for sudden deaths that occur during training, racing, or 72 hours after a race. From April 2022 forward records are kept following a horse post injury, with post-injury tracking of up to ten days from the race date. To date, the monthly report on catastrophic losses includes three thoroughbreds in April, three thoroughbreds in May, and no standardbred fatalities in April or May. It was noted there was a mare with a serious limb injury from April 27, 2023, which the owners were trying to save; she was euthanized more than 72 hours out, but within 10 days of injury so it wasn't included in the official totals under Jockey Club reporting requirements. The 2023 year-to-date thoroughbred catastrophic losses were ten (three training, seven racing) and no standardbreds.

Monthly financial Report by Fiscal Officer Sheri White reported monthly revenue was up \$160,000 and \$41,000 over the prior year's revenue. Expenses were down 4%, personnel costs down \$120,000 and legal down \$90,000. The Racing Commission is 12% ahead of fiscal year projections. The racing commission budget testimony has concluded for the next biennial budget and equals the last biennium.

Commissioner Hansen Chairwoman of the Medication and Testing Committee reported the medication and testing committee meeting from May 2, 2023, on non-steroidal anti-inflammatory violation penalties, determined that as they stand, they are too lenient as Class C infractions and the expectation is they will be updated to the most recent Association of Racing Commissioners International standards. The most recent penalty is as a Class C with a fine, disqualification, and loss of purse. Dr. Robertson noted that Renée Mancino pointed out that the most recent version of the ARCI model rules did not prevent a warning by the stewards or judges and require a fine; dependent upon mitigation circumstances a warning could still be given. Dr.

Robertson pointed out that a proposed rule would follow, which would give judges and stewards discretion.

Commissioner Simpson Chairman of the Safety Committee reported that he wants for the ponds at all racetracks to be enclosed. He commended Belterra Park on a recent accident in efficiency and professional response.

Chairman Scott Borgemenke set out no approval for 2024 dates until fences are around the racetracks' ponds that do not have one. Chairman Borgemenke also discussed the recent injury after his mount, Spectacular Road stumbled while on the lead at Thistledown to jockey Mauro Cedillo May 3, 2023. It was encouraging to report that Mr. Cedillo appeared to have no major injuries despite resuscitation twice after the accident.

Commissioner Winters Chairman of the Standardbred Committee had no report.

In Public Comments the Ohio Quarter Horse Association President and Legal Counsel requesting the Ohio Casino Commission allocations be amended from the current grant level providing the Quarter Horse purse pools of \$50,000 per-year, to less than 3.5% of the total allocation for \$350,000 yearly. The calculation on the prior year's wagering was 12%, which represented a \$700 tax in lieu of the \$50,000 being offered yearly for the quarter horse purses. There was discussion regarding quarter horse racing written for the last Belterra Park meet, which did not fill with 5 horsemen entering 3 horses and Belterra Park continues to write the races in their condition book yearly. Although they are in the condition book the number of entries attracted was three



to race. Comments were made on Harrah's Anderson's extensive quarter horse racing program (one race per-day after the thoroughbreds) and the new Kentucky Century Downs meet held at the Red Mile as competition to draw fields to Ohio. Commissioner Greg Simpson noted that when he was on the Ohio Exposition Committee from 2013-19 that not once did the Quarter Horse Association promote racing quarter horses in the Congresses held during that time. There was added discussion

on hair testing for quarter horse racing, which the Ohio Quarter Horse Association represented was needed in Ohio. A recommendation was made to provide a plan forward to the Racing Commission and to contact the Ohio Exposition Commission and Quarter horse Congress for money and assistance.

No Executive Session was needed, so the motion and vote were taken to adjourn and conclude the meeting.

For a transcript of the meeting contact the Ohio State Racing Commission. The next scheduled Racing Commission meeting date is June 21, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in person only at the Riffe Center 77 South High Street, 19th Floor, Room 1948. The Agenda and Meeting Information can be found at the Ohio State Racing Commission's website at, <http://www.racingohio.net>.

## Wednesday, June 21, 2022

*The meeting was held at the Riffe Center, Columbus, Ohio. Roll Call, all Commissioners in-person, Commissioner Winters present by telephone.*

Congratulations were offered to new Commissioner Dan McCarthy appointed to a three-year term replacing William Patmon.

In normal business for the Commission, Executive Director Chris Dragone's Report and Approval items were introduced, and the Wednesday, May 17, 2023 minutes were offered for ratification. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the Wednesday, May 17, 2023 meeting minutes and the Executive Director's Approval Items.

The Executive Director's Report included Chairman Borgemenke's discussion of fine money expenditures and future changes on expenditures to better fit with the racing industry.

Consideration and approval of Delaware County Fair. The Delaware County Fair approval requested (1) Simulcast export, (2) Approval of the wagering format, (3) Waiver of administrative rule 3769-15-31(B)(2), and

(4) to require Little Brown Jug and Jugette horses to arrive by 11:00 a.m. two days prior to the race. Chairman Scott Borgemenke moved to amend approval and omit simulcast export pending final approval by the OHHA and the Racing Commission per the Interstate Horseracing Act. The Racing Commission unanimously approved the modified approval to omit the simulcasting approval.

Agenda item regarding Thistledown and the Ohio Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association on simulcasting approval. Senior Vice President of Gaming and General Manager Angela Matthews and Assistant Director of Racing Patrick Ellsworth appeared to discuss a rate change for Churchill Downs, Twinspires secondary sites that were not disclosed or approved by the OHBPA or the Racing Commission before accepting wagers. When disclosed to the OHBPA they did not approve of the rates with an intent to go back and negotiate a higher rate. The OHBPA negotiated all simulcast contracts in place which caused a second issue, a unilateral change made in the Churchill Downs contracts without disclosure or approval of the OHBPA or Thistledown. When discussed with Churchill Downs they said they do not negotiate with horsemen. During the discussion it was disclosed that most racetracks are using third-party entities as signal brokers to negotiate the rates for export and import like the New York Racing Association (NYRA). Joe Morris disclosed that Caesars uses Monarch at Horseshoe Indianapolis, NYRA at Hoosier, but handle their own simulcasting agreements at Scioto Downs. In discussing the approvals, the Racing Commission said they would like for all export and import approvals to be submitted thirty days before the commencement of a live meet. That will be made mandatory by a new rule.

Ohio Department of Agriculture's 2022 Annual Report was discussed by Deputy Director of Laboratory Programs Jared Parko and Director of Analytical Toxicology Laboratory, Soobeng Tan. Director Jared Parko stated that there have been no increases since 2017 on their fees so this year a 6-9% increase in testing costs for standardbreds was in the contract being offered to the Racing Commission. Director Parko said they were working on "equalizing" the costs for thoroughbred (which is now HISA testing) and standardbred testing. Director Parko set forth increases due to amortization fixed costs being applied uniformly across all testing, increased labor costs, and increases in equipment repair supplies and costs. Director Parko said the costs for HISA testing cannot be disclosed because the HISA contract is not a matter of public record.

Director Tan explained the 2022 racing testing. In 2022 the lab tested 18,719 equine samples with total infractions reported on 87 thoroughbred (38) and standardbred (49) samples, which was down by 9% over 2021. There were four county fair infractions all on permitted therapeutics, 2 each for Betamethasone and Dexamethasone. 32% of the infractions included permitted therapeutic medication overages on non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory drugs flunixin, ketoprofen, and phenylbutazone, with four of the violations being "stacking" violations where more than one NSAID was present in the sample. The permitted therapeutic class medication overages comprised over two-thirds of all reported infractions.

There were four Class 1 violations (banned substances) reported including one Fentanyl (1/A), two D- Methamphetamine (1/A), and one N-Ethylnicotinamide (1/A) infraction. Note threshold levels were not reported, the Fentanyl and D-Methamphetamine are pending appeal. There were six Class 2 violations include four 3- Methoxytryptamine (2/A), one Levamisole, 4-phenyl-2-imidazolidinone (2/B) and one Caffeine (2/B) infraction. The remaining violations were for Class 3 and lower permitted therapeutic medication overages. Class 3, i.e., Xylazine, Pyrilamine, Clenbuterol, and Cobalt (17). Class 4, i.e., TCo2, Dexamethasone, Flunixin, Phenylbutazone, Naproxen, Ketoprofen, Methocarbamol (55). Class 5, i.e., Omeprazole Sulfide (4).

Resolution 2023-06 consideration on amendment of administrative rule 3769-18-01 to modify the penalty provisions regarding non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication (NSAID) violations following up on the May 1, 2023, Medication and Testing Committee meeting. The resolution modifies the penalties for NSAIDS to match the Class C ARCI penalty charts, elevating the penalty for NSAID violations and including a purse relinquishment for a violation.

Resolution 2023-07 consideration on amendment to administrative rule 3769-18-01 eliminating the provision on "average costs of testing" to reflect a change to actual cost of testing. After discussion, the Resolution was tabled until the July Commission meeting.

A recap on the horse racing fatalities was provided by Racing Commission Consulting Veterinarian, Dr. James Robertson. Dr. Robertson noted that the numbers reported since 2009 are for training and racing related catastrophic breakdowns, analogous to the Jockey Club's reporting requirements for sudden deaths that occur during training, racing, or 72 hours after a race. From April 2022 forward records are kept following a horse post injury, with post-injury tracking of up to ten days from the race date. To date, the monthly report on catastrophic losses includes three thoroughbreds in May, four thoroughbreds in June, and no standardbred fatalities in May or June. The 2023 year-to-date thoroughbred catastrophic losses were fourteen (five training, nine racing) and no standardbreds.

Monthly financial Report by Fiscal Officer Sheri White reported monthly revenue was up \$100,000 over the prior year's revenue. This was despite a 13-14% reduction in pari-mutuel tax revenue. Expenses were down 3%; personnel costs down 15% due to the use of additional contract employees to fill the gaps. The overall budget was discussed with licensing and fingerprinting being done at cost and a plateau on casino revenue the gap in the annual budget is getting larger. The fine money income was discussed and Chairman Borgemenke represented using those funds for different purposes. The Racing Commission discussed a mandatory state cost-of-living increase for exempt employees. After discussion, the Racing Commission unanimously passed the cost-of-living increase for exempt employees.

In the matter of Rebecca Zubkoff. December 21, 2022, Ms. Zubkoff failed to submit a first time Lasix slip within 48 hours before post time on Jess Believe at Dayton Raceway. The Judges fined Ms. Zubkoff \$250 or \$100 if it was not appealed. Ms. Zubkoff appealed the judge's ruling. After a hearing, the Hearing Officer upheld the Judge's ruling of \$250 in a report issued May 16, 2023. Ms. Zubkoff did not appear or have anyone appear on her behalf at the Racing Commission meeting. The Racing Commission unanimously upheld the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendation.

Commissioner Hansen Chairwoman of the Medication and Testing Committee reported no scheduled meetings or agenda items.

Commissioner Simpson Chairman of the Safety Committee reported had no report.

Commissioner Winters Chairman of the Standardbred Committee had no report.

In Public Comments the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association asked for clarification on the statement made by Deputy Director Jared Parko on "equalizing" the costs of thoroughbred (which is now HISA testing) and standardbred testing. Requested was clarification on the statement being made and whether that was the underlying basis for the 6-9% increase in testing costs for standardbreds made in the contract being offered to the Racing Commission. Director Parko declined to respond

without an attorney present. The Racing Commission represented that they would follow-up on that point during their contract negotiations with the testing lab.

Executive Director Chris Dragone brought up concerns that the voided claim rule was not being applied uniformly statewide at the thoroughbred racetracks. Director Dragone set out the nationwide and in-state average omitting Thistledown as 9% on voided claims. At Thistledown claims are voided 28% of the time, significantly above the average. The concern was discussed

and brought to Thistledown and HISA's attention.

Executive Director Chris Dragone discussed the new safety light and warning system in place at the standardbred racetracks. The system has worked three times as envisioned with the Drivers recognizing that the red light and siren being triggered signals a "no contest" by the Presiding Judge for the race. Director Dragone praised the horsemen and driver's colony for their quick acclimation to the system.

No Executive Session was needed, so the motion and vote were taken to adjourn and conclude the meeting.

For a transcript of the meeting contact the Ohio State Racing Commission. The next scheduled Racing Commission meeting date is July 12, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in person only at the Riffe Center 77 South High Street, 19th Floor, Room 1948. The Agenda and Meeting Information can be found at the Ohio State Racing Commission's website at, <http://www.racingohio.net>.

## Wednesday, July 12, 2023

*The meeting was held at the Riffe Center, Columbus, Ohio. Roll Call, all Commissioners in-person.*

In normal business for the Commission, Executive Director Chris Dragone's Report and Approval items were introduced, and the Wednesday, June 21, 2023 minutes were offered for ratification. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the Wednesday, June 21, 2023 meeting minutes and the Executive Director's Approval Items.

Resolution 2023-06 consideration of the Ohio Department of Agriculture's 2023 contract for standardbred testing. The Resolution was discussed with Deputy Director of Laboratory Programs Jared Parko and Director of Analytical Toxicology Laboratory, Soobeng Tan present. The concerns regarding standardbred testing were discussed. A proposed 24% increase was discussed from the current per-test cost of \$212.80. One concern was the representation by the Department of Agriculture on the costs of testing having remained stable since 2017. Renée Mancino explained standardbred medication and testing costs increased year-over-year since 2015 by 20% and since 2017 by 16%. It was noted the last three years with the current Commissioners saw a 1% decrease in 2020 (accompanied by a drop in number of races to 5,509 in 2020 due to COVID), no increase in 2021, and 1.5% increase in 2022. There was discussion related to a lag in the average testing costs and added costs from one year to the next due to added testing. Renée Mancino provided data that the largest increase occurred in 2019 at 11% when the number of pari-mutuel races wasn't significantly different at 6,653 in 2018 and 6,726 in 2019. After discussion, the Resolution was tabled until the September Commission meeting.

The Racing Commission discussed the recent Canadian forest fire air-pollution and air quality index. Dr. Robertson provided opinion that there is no published information that equines are less sensitive than humans. Renée Mancino and Joe Morris, Vice President of Racing with Caesars, explained three studies done on California wildfires and air pollution in addition to thoroughbreds and urban air pollution, which supported the continuation of live racing. They also discussed state racing commissions and state regulatory veterinarians' positions in neighboring states. New York increased vigilance above 175 and cancelled at 200. Neighboring state racing commission thresholds in Indiana and Pennsylvania set were above where Caesars and the OHHA had jointly agreed to race under and the New York standard both having raced above 225. In lieu of the science provided and reasons to reject the non-scientific thresholds set from what appeared to be human threshold EPA charts, the OSRC said they would issue a directive that mandates a racing cessation above an AQI of 175 on the nearest AirNow.gov measuring device to any racetrack. The effective date is July 17, 2023 through September 13, 2023. Instead of summary adoption of an EPA chart, the OHHA requested the OSRC push for the Ohio State University's involvement to provide us with science-based data using

the funds contributed by the Thoroughbred and Standardbred Development Funds for all potential hazards, air pollution, temperature, lighting, and other external factors effecting racing to set science-based protocols. After discussion, the Racing Commission unanimously approved the Directive.

A recap on the horse racing fatalities was provided by Racing Commission Consulting Veterinarian, Dr. James Robertson. Dr. Robertson noted that the numbers reported since 2009 are for training and racing related catastrophic breakdowns, analogous to the Jockey Club's reporting requirements for sudden deaths that occur during training, racing, or 72 hours after a race. From April 2022 forward records are kept following a horse post injury, with post-injury tracking of up to ten days from the race date. To date, the monthly report on catastrophic losses includes six thoroughbreds in June, one thoroughbred in July, and no standardbred fatalities in June or July. The 2023 year-to-date thoroughbred catastrophic losses were seventeen (five training, twelve racing) and no standardbreds. One thoroughbred was euthanized after throwing its exercise rider after running through the backstretch and injuring himself that wasn't counted in the totals due to the injuries being self-inflicted.

Monthly financial Report by Fiscal Officer Sheri White reported monthly revenue was up slightly overall over the prior year's revenue, but the expectation was revenue has plateaued and will remain static going forward. Expenses were down 1% with payroll, legal and IT services all combining for the reduction. The Racing Commission Operating Fund contains \$2,755,000. Chairman Borgemenke represented the need to hire additional staff to add to their regulatory effectiveness.

In the matter of David Bryan, thoroughbred trainer at Mahoning Valley. Mr. Bryan did not appear or have anyone appear on his behalf at the Racing Commission meeting. The Racing Commission represented a pending financial issue with assurances that a check was sent to cover the pending costs. After the check has cleared, Mr. Bryan's suspension would be cleared.

HISA Update. States are trying to move to a system of implementing a "per start" fee for horsemen to pay HISA dues. The per start fees are also being discussed as applied retroactive to the HISA Effective date. Retroactive would provide the racetracks with money back paid. The thoroughbred horsemen have pushed back on both concepts, and the per-start cost is estimated as the total cost levied by HISA for the entire program.

Ohio's thoroughbred total per-start fees (the latest, they have released 4 addenda): Mahoning Valley--\$221.21, Thistledown--\$281.70, and Belterra Park--\$189.26. Total costs for each are: Mahoning Valley--\$1,313,480, Thistledown--\$1,512,155, and Belterra Park--\$914,489.

Commissioner Hansen Chairwoman of the Medication and Testing Committee reported no scheduled meetings or agenda items.

Commissioner Simpson Chairman of the Safety Committee reported had no report. Commissioner Winters Chairman of the Standardbred Committee had no report.

In Chairman's comments Chairman Scott Borgemenke discussed a strangles outbreak at Thistledown. One horse was confirmed positive, one horse was symptomatic. Both horses were relocated offtrack to quarantine and all horses in the two barns the horses were in were quarantined for two weeks and PCR test swabbed. Due to HISA's regulatory veterinarian running point on the quarantine, that regulatory veterinarian would not answer questions and inform the Racing Commission. However, that regulatory veterinarian is state licensed and must answer and provide details to the Ohio State Racing Commission upon request. The Chairman suggested HISA to cooperate with the Ohio Department of Agriculture. After discussion Chairman Borgemenke requested Executive Director Dragone contact the Ohio Veterinary Medical Board to reach out to ask HISA the questions. They will not answer to the Ohio State Racing Commission.

In the Public Comment portion of the Racing Commission meeting Greg Luther and Todd Luther appeared to bring forward objections regarding several voided claims due to signatures being illegible. Greg Luther represented a \$16mm investment and the voided claims were hindering the ability to effectively run his business and claim horses. With his claims omitted the same trainers can claim horses repeatedly. After discussion and to correct the difficulty with determining who the proper property was with an illegible signature versus rejecting it summarily, the Racing Commission voted to amend the claim form to include a printed signature statewide. It was suggested that the USTA form (used by Miami Valley and Dayton) be used at Northfield and Scioto Downs, which provides for a printed signature. The Rule still requires all remaining aspects of the form to be correct and the person signing must In-fact be an agent for the ultimate owner.

The Racing Commission adjourned into Executive Session, so the motion and vote were taken to adjourn and conclude the meeting.

For a transcript of the meeting contact the Ohio State Racing Commission. The next scheduled Racing Commission meeting date is September 13, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in person only at the Riffe Center 77 South High Street, 19th Floor, Room 1948. The Agenda and Meeting Information can be found at the Ohio State Racing Commission's website at, <http://www.racingohio.net>.





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