



OHHA News

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JULY 2020

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A different look at the County Fairs BY FRANK FRAAS



Social distancing in effect on the back side

Once the wings swing open on the starting gate, it looks like a typical Ohio county fair as the horses thunder into the first turn. But a look beyond the oval shows a different landscape for Ohio fairs in 2020.

At many fairs, there will be no rides on the midway, no smells of French fries in the air as most activities have been cancelled or curtailed.

Some fairs have elected to just host a Junior Fair, cancelling all Senior Fair events. Other counties have decided there will be no fair this summer, and there will also be fairs where nothing is changing.

Despite the number of changes, one thing that will be taking place at most of the fairgrounds is harness racing. "We are very grateful that we are racing and have the opportunity to earn money," says owner and trainer John Konesky III. "I appreciate everything the fair boards and speed committees have done to allow us to race.

Prior to Covid-19, racing was planned at 66 county and independent fairs around the

state. Many fairs are continuing with their racing program, but are modifying dates, events, and times.

Konesky says the date changes have not been that big of a deal. "As a small stable I have a lot of flexibility. So far it hasn't been too bad." Konesky says the one change that will affect him is Logan County moving dates and racing at the Champaign County fairgrounds. "It created a situation where I would have to bring a horse back too soon and I won't do that."

For Marysville, Ohio trainer Roy Burns, the schedule changes have created some challenges. "We set our schedule in March for the summer, so when a fair changes dates, it might back things up for the next fair we are scheduled to be at." Burns says despite the changes he is happy to be racing, "That's the positive thing. We are racing. Sometimes you must give a little and make an adjustment here or there, but the most important thing is that we have the opportunity to race."

Having the opportunity to race was one of the reasons that the Urbana County Fairgrounds agreed to host the races that were scheduled at the Logan County Fairgrounds. Champaign County Race Superintendent Randy Leopard says Logan County officials were thinking about hosting just a junior fair and canceling the races. "They reached out to Lisa Schwartz of the Ohio Colt Racing Association to discuss the races and she asked if they would be open to letting another venue host. They agreed and Lisa came to us."

Leopard says they wanted to make sure the horsemen had an opportunity to race. "It took a lot of work to make this happen.

Between both county's fair boards, the state racing commission, and the department of agriculture, we got it done. We had to change dates to accommodate another fair and make sure we could get officials for the races."

Leopard says they are arranging a big event so the fans can have a good time. Plans include a food tent, a beer and wine garden, a DJ for live entertainment, and wagering. "We want an event that the locals can come out and support."

While fans will be allowed at Urbana, other fairs are opting for no spectators. Having



Racing at the Paulding County Fairgrounds

no fans in the grandstand creates a different atmosphere. "It's strange. It's like a qualifying race." Konesky says he has been doing this so long that during a race he blocks out the crowd, but after the race, "you miss the crowd, when the fans are either congratulating or yelling at you."

As the number of Covid-19 cases continues to rise in the state of Ohio, more changes may happen to the county fair schedule. For the most up-to-date information, visit the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association website at OHHA.com.

UPCOMING MEETING DATE—3RD QUARTER OHHA BOARD MEETING IS JULY 23, 2020

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Smith Crosses \$30-Million Mark

By Frank Fraas

From the time he was a little boy, all Tyler Smith could think about was horses. “All I remember is being around the barn and being around the horses,” says Smith.

The 27-year-old crossed another milestone in his young career when he eclipsed the \$30-million-dollar mark with a second place finish driving Olive Another at Eldorado Scioto Downs on June 25.

Smith was born and raised in Washington Court House to a harness racing family. His father Jeff trains horses and his younger brother Trevor also drives.

Despite an early mishap, Smith says he is doing what he loves. “My first recollection is when I was five or six years old and I was on a jog cart with Dad and I fell through the apron. From that time, I got the bug. I would miss school going to the barn. I would play sick. It was in my blood.”

As a youngster, Smith thought about being an announcer, but that changed when he met one of his heroes. “I met John Campbell, what a great guy. When I was about four, he gave me a set of his colors. Anytime I call or text he gets right back to me. He is great for the sport.”

After meeting Campbell, announcing took a back seat to driving. “I wanted to be a catch driver and make a good living at it.”

Smith’s driving career began at the age of 16, picking up 178 drives and winning 41 times. “I give credit to my dad. He had horses racing at the fair and it worked out perfect. He went to Lexington and I did the fair horses. Everything fell into place.”

Smith’s best year was 2013 when he tallied 506 wins. His ten straight million-dollar years was highlighted in 2019 when he earned \$4,283,368.

A student of the game, Smith says he lives by the advice he once got from Campbell. “John always said, ‘Go by the way the horse feels.’ I read a program and study the game a lot. I watch replays of the horses and am more of a go-by-the-feel type of driver.”

At one time, Smith had visions of heading east, but ultimately decided to stay in Ohio. “Ohio is where I am from. A lot of things happened that made me realize how my family was important to me. My dad had some medical issues; I had a little girl. The greatest move I made was to stay here.”

As an Ohioan, Smith dreams of winning the Little Brown Jug. He came close in 2014 when he won an elimination heat with Let’s Drink On It and then finished second in the finals a length and half behind Limelight Beach. “Being from Ohio, I just wanted to be in the Little Brown Jug. Winning that elimination was my biggest highlight. Finishing second in the final was a little disappointing, but it was a feeling you can’t describe.”

Let’s Drink On It is one of Smith’s two favorite horses. “That horse took me places at a very young age and gave me some great opportunities.”

His other favorite is Sectionline Bigry, a horse he is currently driving. “He is just a nice horse that is there every week.”

Smith keeps a busy schedule, driving at the pari-mutual tracks as well as on the county fair circuit. “Anywhere I can go I will go. I am working seven days a week and I hate to tell people no.”

Smith had some time-off during the Covid-19 shutdown. “I spent a lot of time with my little one, which was fun. Racing six days a week, I don’t get a lot of time to spend with her.”

Looking down the road, Smith says his biggest goal is to win the Little Brown Jug and get the opportunity to race on the Grand Circuit. But for now, “It’s to stay healthy and keep winning races.”



Tyler Smith
Photo: Brad Conrad

FAIR RACING ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE

Harness racing fans across Ohio, North America and the world can enjoy the best of Ohio fair racing live. The Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association, in conjunction with the Ohio Colt Racing Association, Ohio Fair Racing Conference, the Home Talent Colt Stakes, and the Southern Valley Colt Circuit will live stream over 70 race events this summer.

It began in mid-June with coverage from the Paulding County fairgrounds. The schedule includes nineteen events in July, twenty-four in August, fourteen in September and four in October.

Trot and Pace Marketing is producing the streams. Thom Pye, Roger Huston and Keith Gisser are hosting.

The events are available on the OHHA Facebook page and OHHA YouTube channel.



L to R: Don Holden, Roger Huston, and Thom Pye at the Marion County Fairgrounds. Photo Credit: Brad Conrad

When was the last time you had a dream?

BY ROGER E. HUSTON



I do not mean during your sleep, but when you are awake and thinking about your goals and desires. Who you should breed your mare with? Possibly a yearling sale in Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Indiana, or New York? Or perhaps you dream of owning a world champion, Sires Stake champion, county fair champion or just a solid racetrack performer?

You think about confirmation. How they stand; do they toe in or out? You consider the size of chest, space between jaw bones. Everybody has a method to choosing which one to buy. Then we have those that are concerned about pedigree. Checking out the dam to see what she has produced. Is it the first season for the stallion? What about full or half brothers or sisters?

The great William Haughton generally liked those yearlings who are first foals of a mare; you could usually get them at a lower price than those with multiple offspring. He was a firm believer of having enough space between jaw bones for a sufficient air space to the lungs.

In the early 70's, Haughton would train around 140 yearlings at Pompano Park in the winter months. When it became time to ship north for the racing season, he would try to sell those that had not impressed him in their early training. Trainer Stanley Dancer would purchase some of those Haughton rejects and a few did quite well for him.

Times have changed with the start of the season for two-year-olds. Don Boroff brought a yearling to Pompano in December to qualify but he had to wait till the first week of January and qualified in 2:07. In the same time frame of the early 70's, Charley Clark usually qualified in early May at The Red Mile. Frank Ervin qualified Bret Hanover in early June. Brett Pelling gave The Panderosa his first start during Adios Week at The Meadows in the first full week of August. He was pointing his to the stakes late in the season. Now trainers are usually qualifying in early June for some fairs and early stakes the first week of July.

With the advent of Covid-19 the season was postponed until late May. This never really impacted the two-year-olds. The three-year-olds came out of blocks with tremendous performances by McMarkle Sparkle, Action Uncle, and the two-year-old filly trotter Swizzle Hanover.

Owner Don Tiger of Canonsburg, PA had a dream and liked the race mare Stipple Hanover, whom he purchased for a broodmare. The result was Charley May (by McArde) who in his first lifetime start in the Next Generation at Eldorado Scioto Downs on July 4th banked \$75,000. That was a dream come true for Tiger.

I had a dream as well. In the late 70's, Dave Campsey, controller at The Meadows, and I purchased a mare from Robert Corey Sr. by the name of Blow the Bugle. We sent her to Dr. John Mossbarger at Midland Acres. The first year she did not get in foal; the second year she aborted in the field and the third year she had a colt who was struck by lightning. Needless to say, my partner got a nice riding horse. Our dream was truly a nightmare.

I hope your dream is a winning one for you. Be There!



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CORRECTION: In the last OHHA Newsletter, Anthony Carano, President and Chief Operating Officer of Eldorado Resorts was misidentified as Anthony Corona. The OHHA apologizes for this error.

**OHHA SENDS OUR CONDOLENCES
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Buckeye Stallion Series Three-Year-Olds First Leg Complete

The first leg of the Buckeye Stallion Series has been completed. The series began with six divisions of the three-year-old colt trot at MGM Northfield Park on June 15.

Rose Run Vindicate, the gelded son of And Away We Go, held off a late charge to win the first division for driver Dan Noble and trainer Mike Polhamus in 1:56.4. It was Rose Run Vindicate's second win of the year and upped his career earnings to \$48,559 for owner Donald Roberts.

In the second \$17,500 BSS division for trotters, Dontyousayit, the son of Dontyouforgetit, went wire-to-wire from post position one for his third win of the year. Kurt Sugg drove the Edward Miller trained colt to the win for owners Ivan and Duke Sugg in 1:58.1.

Parked at the three-quarter pole, Chris Page grabbed the lead down the stretch with 14-1 Westfiftythird to win the third division in 1:56.1 for trainer Ron Steck and owners Here's To Us Stable.

Luckey Stormin edged favorite Exhibit Class at the wire for the victory. Josh Slater, the co-owner, drove the Stormin Normand colt to victory in a lifetime best of 1:57.1 for trainer and co-owner Elpidio Bernardi Jr.

The best BSS time of the night went to Team Jesse, as the son of Team Six rallied down the stretch to claim victory in 1:54.3. It was back-to-back wins for Team Jesse, as Cameron McGown drove for trainer Brian Georges. Georges is also part owner with Mary Ann Georges and Kent Walker.

Enforce the Law, the son of Triumphant Caviar wrapped up the first night in the BSS, as he grabbed the lead in the stretch to claim his first win of the year in 1:56.1. Ronnie Wrenn Jr. had the drive for owner-trainer Joseph Kramp.

The following night, the three-year-old fillies and colts took the track at Eldorado Scioto Downs for five divisions each in the filly and colt pace series.

On the filly side, Big Bad Mosa, the daughter of Big Bad John, went off as the favorite and did not disappoint. Jeremy Smith drove Big Bad Mosa to victory in 1:53.1 for trainer Ronnie Roberts and owners, the Watson Stable.

In the second division, the favorite again came out on top as Narina Hanover covered the mile in a lifetime best of 1:52.3 for Tyler Smith. The win was the first of the year for the Yankee Cruiser filly, trained by Clarence Foulk and owned by the Foulk Stables and William Hartt.

Rockin Ferrari made it three favorites in a row to see the winner's circle. The daughter of Rockin Amadeus got up at the line to win by a neck in 1:53.2 for driver Brett Miller and owner-trainer Isaiah Shrake and co-owner Terrie Shrake.

Jeremy Smith picked up his second win of the night, as Princess Rockette snapped the string of favorites winning. The Pet Rock filly went wire-to-wire in 1:53.1, a lifetime best. She is trained by Parker Smith and owned by George Hensley, Jr.

Corner Pocket, the daughter of Art Official, hung on at the wire to win by a nose in the final division. Dan Noble drove the horse to victory in 1:54.4 for trainer Christi Noble and owner Stephen Sexton.

In the first division for the colts, Miller rallied Aim For Glory, the gelded son of Rockin Amadeus, down the stretch for the win in his racing debut in 1:53.3. Aim For Glory is owned by Emerald Highland Farms and trained by Kelly O'Donnell.

Noble was also a winner in the colt pace, as he guided Bargain Shopper to an easy win. The Big Bad John gelding won for the first time this year in 1:53 for trainer Christi Noble and owner Chuck Grubbs.

Dragon Roars Again roared home in an evening best of 1:52 to win the third division. The son of Dragon Again led the entire way, as Miller picked up his second BSS win of the night. Dragon Roars Again is trained by O'Donnell. Owner Emerald Highland Farms returned to the winner's circle for the second time in the evening.

Chris Presley took Medoland Bosa to the lead and never relented, taking the gelded son of The Panderosa to victory in a personal best of 1:53.4. Medoland Bosa is trained by Mike Medors and owned by Tamara Hoovler and Hutchison Harness.



Dragon Roars Again posted a first leg best of 1:52 in the 3-Year-Old Colt Pace PHOTO: Brad Conrad

Sectionlineronnie, the We Will See gelding, wrapped up the night, shocking the field to win for the first time in 2020. Josh Sutton drove the 21-1 longshot to a lifetime best of 1:54.1 for trainer Steve Bauder and owner Harold Bauder.

The final day of action for the first leg of the Buckeye Stallion Series was the Three-Year-Old Filly trot from MGM Northfield Park on Saturday June 20.

In the first division Lightning Belle, the daughter of Dejarmbro, took the lead at the half-mile mark and held on for driver Ryan Stahl in 1:56. It was the filly's first win of the year for trainer Scott Cox and owner G. Peters.

Greg Grismore and Dream Change battled the entire way with Evita but was first to the line to capture the second division in 1:56.3. The Pamela Young trained Winning Fireworks filly won for the first time this year.

Susie D, with Hunter Myers in the sulky took the lead at the top of the stretch to give trainer Bryan Weaver and owner Donna Anderson the win. The daughter of Uncle Peter picked up career win number ten in 1:55.3

It took until the fourth division for a favorite to find the winner's circle in the BSS. Bange Bi with driver Ronnie Wrenn, Jr. guided the Manofmanymissions filly to a narrow victory for trainer Trent Stohler in 1:55.1. It was the filly's first win of the year.

In the final BSS race of the first leg, Kurt Sugg went wire-to-wire with Myco for the victory. The daughter of Broadway Hall went in 1:56.4 for trainer Dan Ater and owner Paul Stolfo.

TRACK NOTES



Medoland Bosa wins leg two of the BSS at Eldorado Scioto Downs Photo: Brad Conrad

Medoland Bosa is hitting his stride. In six starts this year, the gelded son of The Panderosa, has four wins and two seconds. The first win of the year came in the first leg of the Buckeye Stallion Series at Eldorado Scioto Downs, when he went wire-to-wire in 1:53.4 for Chris Presley.

Five days later, Presley had the reins again for the Mike Medor's trained three-year-old and guided him to victory at the Pickaway County Fairgrounds in Circleville. Medoland Bosa made it two straight at the fairs, winning at Marion to close out the month of June. He started July with another BSS win in leg two for 3-Year-Old colt pacers.

Gold Digger King made it six out of seven in 2020 with a win July 4th at Eldorado Scioto Downs. Trained by Scott Mogan, Gold

Digger King won his last race of 2019 and then reeled off six straight to start the year before a second-place finish on June 20th at Scioto. The four-year-old gelded son of Pet Rock has earned \$53,750 so far this year.

Ronnie Wrenn Jr. continues to shine at MGM Northfield Park. From June 6th to July 4th, Wrenn has won 52 times. On three occasions he has found the winner's circle six times. Two other times he notched five winners and he has had four winners six different times.

T-Red continued his winning ways. The 15-year-old gelded son of Cams Eclipse won for the 105th time in his career at the Marion County Fairgrounds on June 30th. Emily Hay drove the 3rd winningest pacer of all time to the win in the Lady Pace event in 2:02.1

Our Majordan A celebrated Independence Day by winning his first start in the United States. Brett Miller drove the Virgil Morgan Jr. trained, gelded son of Art Major, to a wire-to-wire win in the open race at Eldorado Scioto Downs in 1:49.3. Our Majordan A now has 31 lifetime wins, 30 of those coming in Australia.

Next Generation Colt Pace to Homebred Charlie May

Companion Filly Event to Winella Hanover BY JAY WOLF (For Harness Racing Update)

A late afternoon rain storm may have dampened the spirits of the Independence Day crowd at Eldorado Scioto Downs, but the steady rain didn't spoil Don Tiger's afternoon as he watched his homebred Charlie May win the inaugural \$150,000 Next Generation two-year-old colt pace in 1:54.3 over the sloppy surface.



Charlie May with Dan Noble captured the \$150,000 Next Generation 2-Year-Old colt pace. Photo: Brad Conrad

When the field of nine was sent on their way, Calvin L (Hank LeVan) received the first call and lead past the opening quarter in :28. I'm Sorry Man (Brett Miller) took

control of the pace before the half in :57.1. The eventual winner started his first over move before the half-mile station and stuck his head in front before the three-quarter pole in 1:26.2, but I'm Sorry Man regained the lead briefly in the final turn. Charlie May, who was making his first career start and was the bettor's choice, refused to back down and cruised home 1 3/4 lengths better than a fast-closing Odds On Pick Six (Peter Wrenn). I'm Sorry Man held on to third, another three-quarters of a length back. The McArde-Stipple Hanover colt was driven by Dan Noble and trained by Steve Carter. The win was one of Noble's five on the 15-race holiday card. The filly companion event, which was completed moments before



Winella Hanover with Chris Page won the \$150,000 Next Generation 2-Year-Old filly pace. Photo: Brad Conrad

out of contention. Sophie's Candy (Ronnie Wrenn, Jr.) was able to steer around the galloping breaker and grabbed the lead from Notwhatshesaid (Tyler Smith) and controlled the fractions of :27.3, :57.3 and 1:27. Chris Page sat patient with Winella Hanover in the early stages and followed the cover of Southern Women (Trevor Smith). Page sent his filly three-wide at the three-quarter pole and grinded out a one-length victory over the pacesetter Sophie's Candy. Notwhatshesaid and Bearcreekhoney (Josh Sutton) rounded out the superfecta ticket. The bay Racing Hill-Western Duel filly was a \$40,000 yearling purchase from the Hanover Shoe Farm consignment at the 2019 Ohio Select Sale by Burke Racing Stable, Weaver Brusceci, Jason Melillo and J&T Silva-Purnel & Libby. Winella Hanover is now two-for-two on the young season for trainer Ron Burke.

the rain started to fall, was won by Winella Hanover in a lifetime best 1:55.

The excitement started early as the morning line favorite Babs Jansen (Brett Miller) went on a wild break right after the start, taking her

The Next Generation events required a \$10,000 nomination fee and were restricted to Ohio breds.

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OHIO DRIVERS LEAD THE PACK



Aaron Merriman

As racing continues to ramp back up across the country, Ohio drivers continue to dominate the standings.

Aaron Merriman is continuing his quest for a fifth straight driving title and leads the standings with 313 wins through July 4th. Ronnie Wrenn Jr. holds the second spot with 199 victories. Fourth in the standings is Chris Page with 173 victories. Brett Miller (168) and Kurt Sugg (160) round out the top five.

On the leading money list, Merriman is currently second with \$2,192,853. He trails Tim Tetrick by less than \$40,000. Page currently is

3rd with earnings of \$1,864,912. Miller is 6th with \$ 1,674,715 earned and Wrenn Jr. is 9th at \$1,431,860.

CALENDAR

JULY 23RD

3rd Quarter Board Meeting
Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association
OHHA Office, 2237 Sonora Dr., Grove City, OH

OCTOBER 22ND

4th Quarter Board Meeting
Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association
OHHA Office, 2237 Sonora Dr., Grove City, OH

RACING SCHEDULE

MGM Northfield Park
Current through December 30

Eldorado Scioto Downs
Current through September 5

Hollywood Gaming Dayton Raceway
September 8 - December 30

Regularly Scheduled Meeting Recap

Wednesday, June 24, 2020 *By Renée Mancino*

Roll Call, all Commissioners present.

In normal business for the Commission, Executive Director William Crawford's Report and Approval items were introduced and the April 22, May 13, and 14, 2020 Minutes were offered for ratification. There were no documents related to the Executive Director's approvals disclosed or provided to those in attendance. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the Executive Director's approval items and April 22, May 13, and 14, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

Consideration and ratification for the Harness Horsemen's Health and Retirement Program to re-appoint Trustee, Hugh "Sandy" Beatty Jr. After discussion, the Racing Commission unanimously approved Hugh "Sandy" Beatty Jr. as a Trustee, which extends his term to February 28, 2023.

In other business, the Racing Commission considered a requested change in the Simulcast Collection and Settlement Agent for Eldorado Scioto Downs. MGM Northfield Park has historically acted as the Settlement Agent for themselves, Belterra Park, and Eldorado Scioto Downs. Eldorado Scioto Downs applied to have their collection and settlement handled on their own in conjunction with United Tote. The Racing Commission unanimously approved the change to the Settlement Agent and Simulcast Collection request by Eldorado Scioto for the remainder of 2020.

The 2020 cost adjustment for medication and testing was outlined and discussed. In considering Resolution 2020-12 Cost of Testing, the Racing Commission set out the average 2019 testing costs of one drug test per race deducted from the purse pools in calendar year as, \$196.33 with a total cost of \$89,910.00 at Ohio's county fairs. To commence July 1, 2020 the new testing fee deducted will be; \$209.66 per Standardbred race and \$196.33 per Thoroughbred race. The cost per race is higher for Standardbred testing due to the sixty-six racing fairs, which increases the amount by \$13.33 per-test as compared to Thoroughbred testing. For the first time in five years, the cost was down over the prior year. In

2019 the cost was \$211.15 per Standardbred race and \$198.31 per Thoroughbred race. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified Resolution 2020-12 approving the costs to be deducted from the statewide purse pools per test for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

The Racing Commission unanimously passed Resolution 2020-13, Five Year Rule Reviews. The text of the rules under review were not provided to those in attendance. Racing Commission Executive Director William Crawford provided detail on the amended and no change administrative rules. Mr. Crawford noted that most Chapter 15 revisions were not substantive but "clerical" changes in grammar, to harness racing terms (like stewards to judges) or other updates for current industry practice. Rule 3769-15-04, 15-11, 15-19, and 15-30 were being amended to permit the use of computerized methods. Rules 3769-15-16 and 15-33 were noted as clerical changes to harness racing-specific language from Steward to Judges. Rule 3769-15-09 modernizes the mandatory 3 hour ship-in rule with harness racetracks being primarily ship-in facilities. Rule 3769-15-30 modernizes entry to enable any computerized method approved by the Racing Commission, and permits driver changes by the owner, trainer, or authorized agent only. Rule 3769-15-32 clarifies the Judge's List, and unifies statewide, that a horse entered to race with a Coggins that will expire by race day, will not have their entry accepted by the race office. It also clarifies the breaking rule to define it as two consecutive breaks on a commercial permit holder's pari-mutuel racetrack instead of being based on whether a track is good or fast. Further clarifies that both a scratch off a qualifier for being sick or lame, and not racing within 14 days of that will result in the need to requalify. Rule 3769-6-27 clarifies and modernizes starting gate procedures to provide the judges authority over holding horses for longer than two-minutes during a post-time delay due to emergency and riding in the starting gate. Rule 3769-11-31 updates the language for an added money race. The Racing Commission unanimously approved Resolution 2020-13.

The Racing Commission ratified the "Protocols for a Safe Return to Racing Revised Starting June 10, 2020." The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the protocols.

A recap on the horse racing fatalities to June 23, 2020 was provided by Racing Commission Executive Director, William Crawford. It was 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 last month's report there were no Standardbred, one training and one racing thoroughbred fatalities. Year-to date total catastrophic losses are, eight Thoroughbred fatalities and one Standardbred racing related fatalities statewide.

There was no discussion on Belterra Park's Extension for closing on the real estate sale for Boyd Gaming and Gaming and Leisure Properties (GLPI). There was no status update on the Permit Holder and Horsemen's Agreement Negotiations between Belterra Park and the Ohio Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (OHBPA).

The Monthly Racing Commission financial report was provided by Fiscal Officer Sherry White. Revenue was a total of \$800 in tax receipts, \$8,700 in additional revenue with \$129,000 in expenses. Fiscal year revenue is down \$65,000 for the year overall, for an 8% decrease. The projected year-over-year deficit for the end of August will be more than the current 8%. The first quarter Casino Commission Fund has approximately \$1.9 million in it and there will be discussion regarding potential release and holdback in a future meeting. The concern with any release is how to do so while still holding onto monies that may be necessary to be used if there is a second surge in COVID-19 that results in additional shut-downs.

Chairman Borgemenke discussed the Governor's Order that all administrative agencies find a 20% cost savings in their operating budgets and Office of Business Management fund raids due to the budget deficit. Chairman Borgemenke provided

detail that a financial meeting would be held in a few weeks to take an in-depth look into the finances of the Racing Commission related to the cost savings and directives regarding Ohio's budget deficit.

Commissioner Hansen provided a summary of the progress with the Medication and Testing Committee. The committee would like to move to the next phase of meetings to discuss environmental contaminants and out-of-competition testing. However, the preference is for an in-person meeting versus a webex meeting.

Commissioner Simpson provided information that the Safety Committee would like to address head numbers and safety vests. Preference for the Safety Committee is to also meet in-person within the next few months.

For both committee meetings there will be discussions around scheduling within the next few months.

In the Matters of Patrick M. Sweeney and Jeffrey Nisonger.

Mr. Sweeney and Mr. Nisonger, as trainers, both appealed post-race positive tests for Gabapentin (Class 3). Mr. Sweeney for C's Fire at the Morrow County Fair and Mr. Nisonger for T Degengold at the Richwood Independent Fair. Both Trainers have agreed to settlement with a required payment of a \$500.00 fine by March 16, 2020 a return on the purse of \$2,348.00 to the Morrow County Fair and \$2,544.00 to the Richwood Independent Fair for redistribution by March 16, 2020. Motion and vote to ratify the Commission's Report and recommendation were unanimous.

In the Matter of Tricia Shepard.

Ms. Shepard had a post-race positive tests for TC02 on Mustang Tom October 25, 2019 and Mr I Am on January 19, 2020. Ms. Shepard has agreed to a settlement with the Ohio State Racing Commission for Mustang Tom's, she agrees to serve a 30 day suspension and pay a \$1,000.00 fine and return the purse of \$2,750.00 by September 29, 2020. For Mr. I Am's infraction, she agrees to a 60 day suspension,

payment of a \$1,000.00 fine and return the purse of \$2,750.00 by September 29, 2020. The remaining 120 days from Ms. Shepard's original suspension will be held in abeyance for one year. If she receives another A or B penalty (based on the ARCI guidelines) before September 29, 2021 she will be required to serve these 120 days in addition to any penalty for the new violation. Motion and vote to ratify the Commission's Report and recommendation were unanimous.

In the Matter of Jim Pollock Jr.

Mr. Pollock had a post-race positive tests with Twinsburg for Venlafaxine (Class 2) on September 29, 2019. By way of settlement, Mr. Pollock was fined five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and issued a fifteen day full suspension from November 1, 2019 through November 15, 2019. In addition, the purse money of fifty thousand (\$50,000.00) dollars must be returned to Delaware County Fair. Motion and vote to ratify the Commission's Report and recommendation were unanimous.

Chairman Borgemenke provided comments regarding the COVID-19 response by the racing community. He had high praise for all stakeholders and horsemen's associations working together towards resolution on the issues related to the emergency and rapidly changing landscape. There were several comments expressing appreciation for the sheer number of hours that all provided during submission of initial "Back-to-Racing Plans" and work through on those plans, after numerous and lengthy conference calls.

Chairman Borgemenke received comments from the permit holders and horsemen's associations. The Chairman and permit holders had a high regard for the horsemen, how they conducted themselves during the emergency, and how they accepted the restrictions that were required as a condition of racing. There was discussion regarding numerous site visits by Racing Commissioners and Health Departments with consistent high regard for the compliance level.

As a learning point during the tough economic times Renée Mancino provided the data and statistics regarding the qualifiers that were necessary with significant gratitude to Eldorado Scioto Downs, MGM Northfield Park, Delaware County Fairgrounds and Warren County Fairgrounds, their management teams and staff for the speed and efficiency with which qualifiers were handled under local health department direction. From May 16th to June 1, 2020, 273 qualifying races were held, which resulted in 2,071 horses being qualified safely statewide during that time period. The learning point was for a potential future waiver on the qualifying requirement due to the cost incurred by all involved. The fairgrounds and permit holders, in partnership with the horsemen's association, incurred approximately \$2,500 in costs per-day to host the qualifiers. Eldorado hosted qualifiers for seven consecutive days at one point, MGM five prior to the commencement of live racing at each location. On the participant side, horse owners incurred substantial expense to qualify, at an approximate cost of \$125 per horse raced. During a tough economic time when small businesses were struggling to make payroll and maintain employees, and all horses were on a level playing field having been off for at least sixty-days, the costs of having to qualify should be considered if the industry find itself in a similar forced shutdown in the future. There is optimism that compliance with the protocols will continue and there was a hope expressed that the COVID-19 numbers do not continue to climb, which could result in a potential for reversal on re-opening. Compliance will go a long way to aid in the continuation of racing.

For a transcript of the meeting contact the Ohio State Racing Commission. The next scheduled Racing Commission meeting date is July 8, 2020. The Agenda and Meeting Information can be found at the Ohio State Racing Commission's website at, <http://www.racingohio.net>.

THREE FILLIES AND A COLT PERFECT THROUGH TWO OSS LEGS

The first two legs of the Ohio Sires Stakes for three-year-olds have been completed and four horses have claimed victory in both legs. Fillies Guinevere Hall, Kikimora and PJ's Legacy have won both legs in their respective classes while Action Uncle has been the only colt to see the winner's circle twice in the first two legs.



Guinevere Hall

In the first leg of the 3-year-old trotting fillies, Guinevere Hall won her division as she took the lead at the half mile and hung on for the victory. Peter Wrenn drove the daughter of Cash Hall to the win in 1:55 for his wife, trainer Melanie Wrenn.

Guinevere Hall made it two for two this year as she won the second leg in the three-year-old trotting fillies' class. Guinevere Hall grabbed the lead down the stretch, trotting to a lifetime best in 1:54.1. She increased her career earnings to \$174,181 with the victory.

Kikimora also picked up a couple of wins in the first two legs for 3-year-old trotting fillies. In the first leg, Kikimora took control and won by three quarters of a length for driver Aaron Merriman. Co-owned by trainer Chris Beaver and Sandra Burnett, it was Kikimora's first win of 2020.

She made it two wins in the second leg of the series as she went wire-to-wire to win in 1:54.2. The daughter of Triumphant Caviar was a 1-5 favorite and has now earned \$251,516 in her career.



Kikimora

PJ's Legacy made it a hat trick for the fillies, winning both legs for 3-year-old pacing fillies. Driver Ryan Stahl took the daughter of Big Bad John to the lead and never looked back, as she tripped the wire in 1:52 for trainer Brian Brown.



PJ's Legacy

In the second leg, PJ's Legacy went wire-to-wire again, winning by a length in a new lifetime mark of 1:53.3 for the Stahl-Brown combination. PJ's Legacy has now earned \$168,170 in her career.

The only colt to notch a pair of victories through the first two legs of the Ohio Sire Stakes was Action Uncle.

In the first leg, Action Uncle set a new track record and world record on a half-mile track at MGM Northfield Park for 3-year-old trotters, with a time of 1:53.2. Brett Miller took the Virgil Morgan, Jr. trained colt to the lead and cruised to a four-length victory.

In the second leg at Eldorado Scioto Downs, it was just as easy for the son of Uncle Peter. Action Uncle clocked the mile in a new lifetime best of 1:53. It was the third win of the year for the colt who has now earned \$281,075 in his lifetime.



Action Uncle

Other winners include McMarkle Sparkle. McMarkle Sparkle was a winner in the first leg for three-year-old pacing fillies. Brett Miller guided the Jim Arledge, Jr. trained daughter of McArdle to a new Eldorado Scioto Downs record in 1:50.1.

In the second leg, McMarkle Sparkle was second best to Penpaperpaige. Penpaperpaige with Tyler Smith driving caught McMarkle Sparkle at the top of the stretch and pulled away for the victory in 1:52.3. With the win, the daughter of Pet Rock raised her earnings to \$98,476.

In the three-year-old trotting fillies first leg action, the Manofmanymissions daughter Globetrotting won in her first race of 2020, as Trace Tetrick drove her to victory in

1:55.1. Trained by Jason McGinnis, Globetrotting led the entire way to claim her fifth career victory.

The other three-year-old filly winner was Uncle Peter's Love in leg two. The daughter of Uncle Peter avenged a leg one second place finish to Guinevere Hall with a wire-to-wire victory for driver Brett Miller and trainer Virgil Morgan, Jr. The race favorite was clocked in a career best of 1:54.2.

On the colt side of the ledger, in addition to Action Uncle, six different colts picked up wins in the first two legs of the Ohio Sires Stakes.

Yanks Dugout, with Kurt Sugg driving, made it seven out of seven for trainer Edward Miller. The son of Triumphant Caviar stopped the clock in 1:54.1, a new lifetime mark to win a first leg division at Northfield Park.

Wading Boots was a leg two winner for Chris Page and trainer Ronnie Burke. Trail-ing by as many as 12-lengths, Page rallied the son of Wishing Stone down the stretch to a thrilling victory by a head in a new lifetime mark of 1:55.

For three-year-old colt pacers there have been four different winners through the first two legs.

In the first leg Haggard, the gelded son of Big Bad John, hung tough all race for driver Ryan Stahl and trainer Scott Cox, and edged out Mr. Wiggle It for the victory in 1:53.

In the other first leg at Northfield Park, Ocean Rock took the lead after the first quarter mile and never looked back, rolling to victory in 1:50.2 for driver Dan Noble and trainer Christi Noble. The clocking was a lifetime best for the son of Rockin Amadeus.

In the second leg of the three-year-old pacers, a different pair of colts picked up victories.

Stanford Court, the son of Nob Hill High, held off Ocean Rock to win in 1:50.3 for driver Ronnie Wrenn Jr. and trainer Brian Brown. With the win, Stanford Court has three lifetime wins and career earnings of \$136,710.

Also notching a victory in leg two was Elver Hanover, tripping the wire in 1:51. Elver Hanover made it ten wins in ten career starts, as driver Chris Page made it look easy for trainer Ron Burke. With the win in his first start of the year, the gelded son of Yankee Cruiser has now earned \$338,450 in his career.



Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association
 2237 Sonora Dr.
 Grove City, OH 43213

MGM NORTHFIELD PARK

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1		3	4
	6		8		10	11
	13		15		17	18
	20		22		24	25
	27		29		31	

AUGUST						
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	3		5		7	8
	10		12		14	15
	17		19		21	22
	24		26		28	29
	31					

SEPTEMBER						
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	14		16		18	19
	21		23		25	26
	28		30			

OCTOBER						
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NOVEMBER						
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29	30					

DECEMBER						
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27	28	29	30			

Post Times and Special Events

Post Time 6:00 PM

- August 15 - Carl Milstein Memorial
- October 10 - Ohio Fair Championships
- October 17 - Courageous Lady & OSS Consolations

ELDORADO SCIOTO DOWNS

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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		14	15	16	17	
		21	22	23	24	
		28	29	30	31	

AUGUST						
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		25	26	27	28	29

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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Post Times and Special Events

Post Time - 6:30 PM

- September 5 - Ohio Sire Stakes Championships

