Ohio Sires Stakes Veteran Champions

Charlie May
2022 Aged Male Pacer

Slymar’s Dragon
2022 Aged Mare Pacer

Smoking Jet
2022 Aged Male Trotter

Refined
2022 Aged Mare Trotter
Tuesday, October 11, 2022
Champions Center Expo, Springfield, OH

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In the first race of the night, Smoking Jet, the even money favorite, made it look easy in the $85,000 Ohio Sires Stakes Veteran Championship for aged horse and gelding trotters. Chris Page took the 5-year-old Triumphant Caviar gelding to the lead at the quarter pole and never looked back.

Smoking Jet, the even money favorite, covered the sloppy track in :27.1, :57.1, 1:25.3, tripping the wire in 1:54.

Off the gate, MVP Luke went to the lead with Smoking Jet in hot pursuit. Page wasted no time taking control, grabbing the lead before the quarter pole as MVP Luke settled in second with Pass The Vape third.

Just past the half-mile pole, Mission Accepted and Tony Hall set their sights on the leader, pulling wide to move up to second around the final turn.

As the field turned for home, Smoking Jet rebuffed the challenge and cruised to the win with Mission Accepted second and Shine All The Way finishing third.

“The track was sloppy, so I stayed off the rail a smidge,” said Page. “Ron had him ready to go, he’s been sharp all year long.”

The win is the 14th of the year for Smoking Jet in 28 starts and raised his earnings this year to $208,905 with lifetime earnings of $301,532.

Smoking Jet is trained by Ron Burke, owned by Burke Racing Stable, Weaver Bruscemi and Page, and was bred by Perry Weaver.

For Page this Sires Stakes Championship is unlike the others. “I own a small piece of this horse and winning as an owner is a different feeling.”

The race saw the return of Winning Ticket the 2021 3-Year-Old Ohio Trotter of the Year. It was the first race of the year for Winning Ticket who has been sidelined since last year with an injury.

In the Veteran Championship for pacing mares, Slymar’s Dragon won the biggest race of her career. The six-year-old daughter of Drag-on Again with Dan Noble driving took control after the half-mile and pulled away to win by two-lengths.

Off the gate, the 1-2 favorite Snobbytown and 2-1 choice Penpaper-paige battled for the early lead with Penpaperpaige and Tyler Smith clearing the field to lead at the quarter in :27. Snobbytown and Chris Page didn’t sit back for long and took the lead covering the half in :56.

As the field headed up the back stretch, Dan Noble pulled Slymar’s Dragon and challenged Snobbytown grabbing the lead by a neck at three-quarters in 1:23.3.

Around the final turn Slymar’s Dragon stretched the lead and pulled away down the stretch to win by two lengths in 1:52. Real Rockin Ravi fired down the passing lane to get up for second with Spee Dee Shark finishing third.

Noble said the race set up perfectly “The plan was to get away first or second, third was OK. I knew If I was third, I would be first in.”

Around the final turn, Noble said he felt good. “Right before we hit the final turn, I knew I had a lot of horse left and I felt pretty confident.”

Slymar’s Dragon is trained by Andre Nared and owned by Lionel Watiker and Dr. Allie Stiegler who purchased the mare at the end of 2021.

“I was a little nervous, we got away third but Danny felt he had the horse, so he pulled her first up” said Nared.

“I figured we would be no worse than second or third,” said Nared. “She is such a great mare, loves her job. She’s a pleasure to train.”

While the win was the biggest in Slymar’s Dragon’s career, it was also the biggest win in Nared’s young training career. “This is the biggest race I’ve ever won with my name as trainer. I’m on cloud nine.”

The win was the fifth of the year for Slymar’s Dragon, who has now earned $198,676 in her career.
VETERAN MARE TROT

In the Veteran Championship for trotting mares, Refined relinquished the lead half-way through the race but rallied down the stretch to win by a head.

Sent off by the fans as the 4-5 favorite, Refined and Mitchell Cushing got away third behind Shake It Mary and Twentyfour K Magic.

As they passed the quarter in :27.4, Shake It Mary’s slim lead disappeared as Cushing was first up with Refined and bolted to the lead.

The six-year-old daughter of Uncle Peter hit the half in :55.4 but quickly saw her lead disappear as A Fancy Face and Trevor Smith blew by the leader and opened a two-length lead at the three-quarter pole in 1:23.2.

As A Fancy Face and Refined turned for home, Refined dug in and reeled in the leader at the wire to win in 1:52.4.

Trainer Virgil Morgan Jr. started training the filly when she was three, but owners Joyce McClelland and Larry Wills didn’t purchase her until last year. He says she is very gritty and proved it in the win. “As a three-year-old she was a grinder. She’s matured and can win anyway, on the front end or off the pace. She’s a treat to have.”

For owner Larry Wills, winning a race like the Veteran Championship is wonderful. “You hope to win big races like this and when you do it is a thrill. That’s why I’m in the business, to win races like this.”

Morgan has now trained 24 Ohio Sires Stakes champions and says winning never gets old, “If you take it for granted or it doesn’t mean as much then it is probably time to hang it up.”

The win was the eighth of the year for Refined in 19 starts and pushed her lifetime earnings to $583,140.

VETERAN PACE

In the final championship of the night, 2021 Ohio Horse of the Year Charlie May took the lead at the half-mile mark and held on down the stretch to claim the Veteran Championship for aged horse and gelding pacers.

With Brett Miller in the bike, Charlie May the 1-9 favorite settled in third behind Gold Digger King and Tyler Smith and 2020 Ohio Horse of the Year Elver Hanover with Chris Page.

After the first quarter in :26.2 Charlie May made his move to the lead rolling to the half in :54.4.

Up the back stretch, Cyclone Union Jack offered a challenge but was quickly rebuffed by Charlie May and Gold Digger King.

Through the final turn, the battle between Charlie May and Gold Digger King continued with Charlie May holding a slight lead. As the two turned for home, Gold Digger King shot to the inside and closed on the leader but Charlie May held on to win in 1:50.1 by a head.

Trained by Steve Carter and owned by Don Tiger, the win was the fifth of the year in 12 starts for the four-year-old son of McArdle.

Tiger said he was a little concerned with the sloppy track. “Brett didn’t want to be on the front, but he said Charlie was super and he had to let him roll. He just felt that good, even though the front was soft, and horses were getting tired.”

Charlie May has now won half of his 44 lifetime starts and has earned $1,434,735.

Photos: Brad Conrad
OHIO’S BEST SET SIGHTS ON SUPER NIGHT

The four legs of the Ohio Sires Stakes have been completed and now the focus turns to Super Night at Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway. The best of the Buckeye State will square off October 1st with each of the eight finals carrying a purse of $300,000.

Some divisions have clear cut favorites, while others are up for grabs.

Two-Year-Old Filly Pacers

Coming off a world record performance in the final leg, Fear Of Sports looks to be the one to beat. The Fear The Dragon filly is the only one in the division to win more than one leg. Fear Of Sports has won five of her seven starts this year and has earned $129,125. She has finished second in the other two starts, one of which was the first leg of the OSS where she was beaten by Cruise Alert.

Cruise Alert has won two of eight this year with four second place finishes. Two of second place finishes were to Fear Of Sports.

Multiple Leg Winners – Fear Of Sports (3)
Other Winners – Boyzcalmecarlwayne, Cruise Alert, Honey Buzz, Lofty Treasure, McSeaside, More The Merrier

Two-Year-Old Filly Trotters

Rose Run Yolanda has won four of her five starts and finished second in the other. Three of the four wins and the second were in Sires Stakes action. Her other win was in the Ohio Fair Stakes.

Global Girl and Truly Relentless are tied for second in the points standings. Truly Relentless won in the first two legs, while Global Girl's two wins were in the final two legs.

Swinging Senorita has the most starts among the top four. She hit the board in seven of her eight starts, winning two and finishing second five times.

Multiple Leg Winners – Rose Run Yolanda (3), Global Girl (2), Truly Relentless (2)
Other Winners – Cali Red, Rose Run Yanae, Sliding Sister, Swinging Senorita
Top Nine In Points Standings – Rose Run Yolanda, Global Girl, Truly Relentless, Swinging Senorita, Rose Run Yanae, Sliding Sister, Cali Red, Victoria Leigh, She's Loveable

Two-Year-Old Colt Pacers

Racing Rampage has hit the board in all six starts this year, winning four, three of which were in Ohio Sires Stakes action. In the final leg, Racing Rampage finished second.

Just like Racing Rampage, The Real Way has hit the board in all six starts also with four wins.

The two did meet in the second leg with Racing Rampage winning.

Don't count out Rockmelikeymeanit who sits third in the points and has finished in the top three of all four legs.

Multiple Leg Winners – Racing Rampage (3), The Real Way (2)
Other Winners – Act Fast, Rockmelikeymeanit, Surfside Beach
Top Nine In Points Standings – Racing Rampage, The Real Way, Rockmelikeymeanit, Surfside Beach, Act Fast, Burnout, Boardwalk Jack, Downrightdelicious, Wicked Character

Two-Year-Old Colt Trotters

The two-year-old pacing colt division is also a toss-up. Three freshman trotters have won two legs each. Black Magic, A Real Legend, and Jet Hill scored multiple victories and will look to meet in the finals.

Black Magic is the top money winner of the three. He has won six of eight and also has a second and third place finish. He has earned $179,850 this year.

Jet Hill has hit the board in all five races this year with two wins and earnings of $81,300.

A Real Legend is a world record holder, setting the mark in the third leg. He has three wins in six starts.
Multiple Leg Winners – Black Magic (2), A Real Legend (2), Jet Hill (2)

Other Winners – John Dutton, Rumble Strips, The Buckeye Hill


**Three-Year-Old Filly Pacers**

The 2021 Two-Year-Old Trotting Filly of the Year in Ohio will look to repeat as champion. Gabbys C Note is on a roll having won five straight. This year she has won eight of ten and finished second twice. In her career she has won 13 of 17 races.

Gabbys C Note’s competition in the finals should come from the other leg winners. Favorite Aunt has hit the board in 10 of 13, Criquette Hall has won seven races in 15 starts, while Kirsi Dream has four wins this year.

Multiple Leg Winners – Gabbys C Note (3)

Other Winners – Criquette Hall, Favorite Aunt, Kirsi Dream

Top Nine In Points Standings – Gabbys C Note, Favorite Aunt, Criquette Hall, Kirsi Dream, Abbey D, Moments Created, Brekkenridge, Toes In The Water, Sandis Commando L

**Three-Year-Old Colt Pacers**

Bythemissal is the cream of the crop in the division. The Downbytheseaside gelding has won the three legs that he was entered in. Bythemissal did not race in the third leg. He has hit the board in all ten starts winning eight of them. Among the eight wins are the Adios and the Carl Millstein Memorial where he tied the world record. Gulf Shores, the 2-year-old Pacing Colt of the Year in Ohio has won two of the three Sires Stakes legs he has raced in this year. In the lone meeting between the two in Sires Stakes action, Bythemissal was the winner at Eldorado Scioto Downs in leg 4.

Multiple Leg Winners – Bythemissal (3), Gulf Shores (2)

Other Winners – Barry’s Berries, Rose Run Xiled, Western Ready

Top Nine In Points Standings – Bythemissal, Gulf Shores, Western Ready, Barry’s Berries, Sling Shock, Rose Run Xiled, Seaside Way, Terminator, Fearful Intent

**Three-Year-Old Colt Trotters**

The winners of the last two legs, Longshot and Rose Run Xtra have set up a showdown in the Ohio Sires Stakes finals. Longshot, the winner of six of eleven races this year has three wins in Sires Stakes action while Rose Run Xtra has won two legs. Rose Run Xtra has hit the board in all 12 races this year and is 23 for 24 in his lifetime. The two have not met during the Sires Stakes. Longshot’s only loss in the OSS came in the first leg when Caviar Gold won.

Multiple Leg Winners – Longshot (3), Rose Run Xtra (2)

Other Winners – Caviar Gold, Chulo, Doo Wop Kid

Top Nine In Points Standings – Longshot, Rose Run Xtra, Caviar Gold, Chulo, Up Blueberry Hill, Bamboo, Doo Wop Kid, Motto, The Mighty Hill

(Point standings may not reflect final rankings)
The fifth and final leg of the Buckeye Stallion Series will be contested during the Delaware County Fair. Each of the five days in Delaware will have a BSS race. The finals are scheduled for October 22 at Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway.

Two-Year-Old Filly Pacers

The two-year-old filly pacers have raced the most divisions in the Stallion Series. Twenty-one different divisions were raced producing sixteen winners. Four fillies have each won twice.

Millie’s Rockin leads the division in points. She has started eight races this year with two wins, both coming in the Buckeye Stallion Series.

Yankee Nudge sits second in points and enters the final leg with three wins in six starts.

The other multiple winners in the series, Apple Martini and Hill Of A Night have two wins, both coming in the Buckeye Stallion Series.

Top Nine In Points Standings – Millie’s Rockin, Yankee Nudge, Apple Martini, Hill Of A Night, Vintage Memories, Wax Tooth Randy

Two-Year-Old Colt Pacers

When the final leg of racing for the freshman colt pacers was completed, Flyin Fitz and Monaco Hanover joined the ranks of multiple winners. With their victories, the two found themselves tied at the top of the point standings.

Top Nine In Points Standings – Flyin Fitz, Monaco Hanover, Head Honcho Bo, The Mandalorian, Dragon Grad, Cantbeatthebeach, Rose Run Yannick, KOA, Shield The Rock

Two-Year-Old Filly Trotters

The freshman filly trotter division is one of the most competitive in the Buckeye Stallion Series. The top five fillies in the point standings are only separated by 19 points.

Bella Time jumped to the top of the standing with a win in the fourth leg. She has won three of six starts and has hit the board six times.

Twish has also won three of seven starts and hit the board six times. She did not race in the fourth leg, instead opting to race in the Ohio Sires Stakes where she finished third.

Frantastic L has double the number of starts as the other two multiple winners. She has eight wins in 14 starts this year.

Top Nine In Points Standings – Bella Time, Twish, Go Long Katie, Lose My Mind AS, Mission Valley, Smokinhotirishgirl

Two-Year-Old Colt Trotters

The two-year-old colt trotting division also appears to be wide open with four multiple winners.

Head Honcho Bo is the only three-time Stallion Series winner in the division. He has five wins in nine starts and has hit the board eight times.

Republic Return has hit the board in all 12 starts, winning ten times. In addition to two
wins in the BSS, Republic Return finished second and third.

Romeo’s Dream has also hit the board in all of his starts this year. He has finished no worse than second with four wins and three place finishes. In BSS action, he has won two legs and finished second in the other two.

Multiple Leg Winners – Free Born (2), Head Honcho Bo (3), Republic Return (2), Romeo’s Dream (2)

Other Winners – Blazen Tom, Great Career, Devoted Beauty, Gotta Be Cruisin, Long Ball, No More Sweets, Serene Bubbly, Tommy Norso,

Top Nine In Points Standings – Head Honcho Bo, Romeo’s Dream, Republic Return, Free Born, Serene Bubbly, Devoted Beauty, Gotta Be Cruisin, Jogging Full Trot, Long Ball

Three-Year-Old Filly Pacers

The sophomore filly pacers have produced the most multiple winners in the Buckeye Stallion Series. Six different fillies won at least two divisions with Allnight Micki winning three.

Allnight Micki has won eight of sixteen races this year. She leads the Buckeye Stallion Series standings for three-year-old filly pacers, but is also ninth in the Ohio Sires Stakes point standings.

Three of the other multiple winners, Prancing Queen, Spitting Image and When You Kiss Me, each have six wins this year.

Multiple Leg Winners – Allnight Micki (3), Catamaran (2), Coastal (2), Prancing Queen (2), Spitting Image (2), When You Kiss Me (2),

Other Winners – Bowery, Factory Girl, Fantasy Life, Fear The Queen, Love Me Hill, Sleepwithoneeyeopen

Top Nine In Points Standings – Allnight Micki, When You Kiss Me, Catamaran, Spitting Image, Fantasy Life, Coastal, Prancing Queen, Factory Girl, Love Me Hill

Three-Year-Old Filly Trotters

The three-year-old filly trotting division has produced the lowest number of winners in the Buckeye Stallion Series as ten fillies have scored victories.

Lady Is Great leads the way with three wins. Recently purchased by Tessa Perrin and now trained by Christi Noble, the change didn’t affect her as she was an easy winner in the last leg.

Sweet On Pete and Alana Hill, the other multiple winners are next in the point standings. Sweet On Pete has hit the board in nine of 13 with four wins, while Alana Hill has won seven of 13 and hit the board in four other starts.

Multiple Leg Winners – Alana Hill (2), Lady Is Great (3), Sweet On Pete (2)

Other Winners – Brekkenridge, Gracious Triumph, I’ll Annie Up, La Belle Riviere, Kahlua Mudslide, Lady Camryn, Sadodaka,

Top Nine In Points Standings – Lady Is Great, Sweet On Pete, Alana Hill, Gracious Triumph, Brekkenridge, La Belle Riviere, Kahlua Mudslide, Lady Camryn, I’ll Annie Up

Three-Year-Old Colt Pacers

Like the two-year-old filly pacers, the three-year-old colt pacers have had the most winners. A total of sixteen horses have won, with four winning multiple times.

Pearl Snaps has raced in three of the four legs and won each time. This year, he has 10 wins in 13 starts.

Velocity Chaps has won three of his last four starts since moving to the Brian Brown Stable. Two of those wins are in BSS action.

Multiple Leg Winners – Fluff Yeah (2), Pearl Snaps (3), Self Made (2), Velocity Chaps (2),

Other Winners – Art Of Revenge, Bettor By Seaside, Dirty Harry Too, Fearful Intent, Mink Street, Moved Bythe Spirit, Our Holy Terror, Robin’s Art, Shane Falco, Odds On Capitalism, The Fear Is Real, Willydoitagain

Top Nine In Points Standings – Pearl Snaps, Self Made, Fluff Yeahh, Robin’s Art, Odds On Capitalism, Velocity Chaps, Art Of Revenge, Dirty Harry Too, Bettor By Seaside

Three-Year-Old Colt Trotters

For three-year-olds, this division has produced the fewest multiple winners with only two, Hustlenomics and Phantom Tom.

Hustlenomics has won nine of 16 races this year and earned $84,462, while Phantom Tom has four wins this year.

Multiple Leg Winners – Hustlenomics (3), Phantom Tom (2)

Other Winners – Admire, Baker Time, Bridge To Victory, Creatine Star, Floyd Of Rosedale, Guido Di, Mo Bay, Peterbilt, Slim Jimmy, Surgeonemoretim, Uncle Leon

Top Nine In Points Standings – Hustlenomics, Phantom Tom, Peterbilt, Slim Jimmy, Mo Bay, Baker Time, Floyd Of Rosedale, Uncle Leon, Go Go Andy
Fair Records

Several fair track records were set in August.

Let’s Go Bucks with Brandon Bartley set a new trotting mark of 2:00 at the Monroe County Fair in Woodsfield. It broke the record of 2:02 set in 2019 by It’s All Me.

Sultan Of Cash added his name to the record books, tying the trotting record at the Hancock County Fair in Findlay. The 2:00.2 clocking tied the record set by Sonofapreacherman (2003) and Wardon’s Daughter (2012).

At the Mahoning County Fair in Canfield, Bittrsweetsymphony broke the track record for pacers. Crist Hershberger guided Bittrsweetsymphony to the new mark of 1:54.1. The old record was 1:54.3 set by Lancaster Park in 2020.

Medoland Terror with B.J. Roberts driving set a new pacing mark at the Kenton County Fair in Kenton covering the mile in 1:56.2. The clocking broke the mark of Caramel Dumpling which was set in 2004.

Sarah Said

hip no. 238
Well Said - Hidden Play

A big, gorgeous, athletic filly by Well Said (Sire of OSS Winner Twenty p.3, 1:52.0h - $127,175) and a half-sister to 24-time winner Flow With Joe (p.2, O 1:56.1s, 1:53.1h - '22, BT 1:53.0 - '21 - $119,903). Sarah stands at an impressive 16 hands. She is powerfully built, quick, and full of personality. Make plans to see her in person, and be sure to check out her video to see why Sarah says “Save your money till the end—you won’t be sorry!”

Well said, Sarah!
Owners Burke Racing Stable and Weaver Bruscemi had only two starters on the 15-race card at the Great Darke County Fair, but they made the most of the opportunity by sweeping the $35,000 Gene Riegle Memorial Open Pace and the $22,000 Arnie Almahurst Trot Thursday night (August 25th) in Greenville, Ohio.

This year’s 11th edition of the Riegle had a field of eight with combined career earnings of just short of $3.9 million – headlined by reigning Ohio ‘Horse of the Year’ Charlie May.

When the field was sent on their way, Tellmeaboutit (Dan Noble) protected the rail forcing Charlie May (Brett Miller) into the pocket and the eventual winner to be parked at the quarter in :28.3.

Driver Chris Page had Later Dudes on top at the half in :56. Noble had Tellmeaboutit back out challenging the leader, poking a head in front at the three-quarters in 1:23.3.

Charlie May was required to go three-wide in the final turn and Later Dudes re-rallied at the top of the stretch. The three raced as a group with Later Dudes getting the final call by a neck in 1:52.

The 5-year-old gelded son of Sweet Lou has been ultra-consistent this season – hitting the board in 20 of 27 seasonal starts, earning $159,288.

The event honors the Hall of Fame conditioner who used the Darke County Fairgrounds as his home base during his career.

In the Arnie Almahurst, Page used a similar tactic with Smoking Jet, using his inside post position to score an easy six length gate-to-wire victory over A Fancy Face (Trevor Smith) and Dondgetittldman (Dan Noble) in 1:55.1.

The winning time equaled the Greenville all age track record for trotters, set by I Know My Chips in 2019, who was eighth in this year’s event after being parked the entire mile.

The world champion five-year-old, Smoking Jet is co-owned by Burke Racing Stable, Weaver Bruscemi and Chris Page.

The Riegle undercard featured the $102,200 (div) Dr. Hugh M. Parshall Memorial Stakes for two and three-year-olds.

The driver/trainer combo of Dan and Christi Noble teamed up to win three divisions – Street Fightin Man (2CP), What The Blaze (3CT) and Rose Run Xiled (3CT).

Trevor Smith also tripled up for trainer Todd Luther and the Black Magic Racing with Seaside Tina (2FP), Burnout (2CT) and Hustlenomics (3CT).
Harvey Family Makes **HISTORY** At Stark County Fair

BY SUSAN SCHROEDER

When only three horses dropped in the box for the Stark County Signature Series Trot, Crist Hershberger had an idea that would prove to be a history making event. He called Daren Harvey and invited Daren, Danita, and Nikki Harvey to compete in what was dubbed the “Harvey Invitational”.

There have been many races with family members competing against each other. Mostly it is a dad or a grandpa as the “elder” driver and a son or daughter competing in the race. According to track announcer, Chris Patterson, the “Harvey Invitational” may have been the first race where Mom drove against her 2 children.

The race didn’t start the way Danita had hoped as she had a tire on her race bike blow behind the gate. “I yelled to the kids, “slow down, don’t you leave me,” said Danita.

During the race, Darren went to the lead. He let Nikki pass at the quarter pole, but quickly retook and never looked back. Danita made a charge on the back stretch pulling up to the wheel of her son. But going around the final turn, Danita thought she was going lose her tire and had to let her son go to the finish line.

The family business started when Danita was offered a job with horses as a young woman. She thought it would be with show horses, but when she arrived, it turned out to be at a Standardbred stable.

She learned the ropes from trainer Jimmy Martin and soon found herself traveling across the country with Dream of Glory, the Dan Patch award winner in 1974, 1975 and 1976. Dream of Glory was also somewhat of a babysitter for Naquel (Nikki) when she was young as she would sit in a swing in front of Dream of Glory’s stall.

Danita started driving in 1977 and has USTA records show she had driven every year since, except in 2019.

She has encouraged her children to be involved. Nikki always wanted to be in the racehorse business and makes her home base at The Meadows. Danita’s son Daren was not as interested in the horses as his mom and sister until he came back from serving in Iraq. It was then that the horses became his passion also.

Danita’s current horse is a 6-year-old called Dilly Dilly Dunn. Dilly does more than race as Danita often takes him to visit kids who have never touched a horse and to people in nursing homes that are often in wheelchairs. Dilly is very gentle to all who meet him. Danita is a nurse and gathers her patients together to watch the Ohio fair broadcasts.

Danita is still a very tough competitor but is thinking of backing off from driving on the racetrack. She and Dilly Dilly Dunn are planning on starting a new career on the roadster circuit. As Danita says, “You can have the best time of your life with these horses”.

Photo: Mary Randall
Fear Of Sports continued her domination of the 2-year-old Ohio Sires Stakes filly pacing division. Fear Of Sports and Tyler Smith tied the world record and the track record winning the fourth leg at MGM Northfield Park in 1:51.2. It tied the mark set by Sea Silk last year in the Ohio Sires Stakes finals.

Several drivers and trainers had big days in August. Aaron Merriman record eight wins at MGM Northfield Park on the 1st. Merriman also won seven races at Northfield on the 15th and six races on the 29th. Dan Noble and Jason Beattie had six-win days in August. Noble did it on the 9th with three winners at Scioto Downs and three at Urbana, while Beattie had his six wins at Urbana on the 10th.

On the training side, Ron Burke had eight winners on August 13th. He collected 4 wins at Northfield, 3 at The Meadows and one at Scioto Downs. Burke also had seven winners at Northfield on the 5th.

MILESTONES

Trainer Ron Burke recorded his 13,000-training win at MGM Northfield Park on September 4th. Burke reached the milestone when Rockin Motion won the 5th race, an $11,000 pace with Ronnie Wrenn Jr., driving in 1:52.3. Burke’s first career win as a trainer came on May 6, 1993 with Border Reiver at The Meadows.

Aaron Merriman crossed the $100 million dollar plateau in racing earnings. The milestone came at The Meadows on September 1 in the 8th race when Merriman drove Partymode to a second place finish.

TOP OHIO DRIVERS AND TRAINERS

NATIONAL RANKINGS THROUGH AUGUST 2022

Drivers – Wins
1  Aaron Merriman  571
6  Brett Miller  305
8  Hunter Myers  299
10  Ronnie Wrenn Jr  284

Drivers – Earnings
7  Aaron Merriman  $5,413,125

Trainers – Win
1  Ron Burke  659
5  Corey Kreiser  169
7  Virgil Morgan Jr  149
10  Sam Schillaci  137

Trainers – Earnings
1  Ron Burke  $13,139,117
8  Virgil Morgan Jr  $2,558,557
As I write this column 53 of the 65 County Fairs have completed their racing programs. When we began June 13th at the Paulding County Fairgrounds, it seemed that it would be a very long summer of racing. One thing is certain when you are busy and having fun, time flies.

The last two years prepared us for another long season of live streams. Our live streams have led the way, as other states are now doing the same. Because of this, we have new fans watching and have become quite interested in harness racing. People who had never been to a racetrack have been introduced to our sport.

Recently I was in Virginia to call the races at Shenandoah County Fair in Woodstock. At the conclusion of the racing program as I was leaving the grandstand, I was stopped by a gentleman who was about 50 years old. He thanked me for the OHHA broadcasts. He had never been to a racetrack but happened to see a live stream earlier in the year.

Lou had made a 60-mile trip to attend the races not knowing that someone he had listened to on a number of the live streams would be in Woodstock. He praised our racing coverage and said it has made him a fan. He hopes to make some weekend trips with his wife to racing locations in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Lou was also intrigued by fractional ownership. I have no doubt that he will soon be an owner in our sport. You just never know the impact we have created with these broadcasts.

It has been a great year for racing in our state. The top driver in 2021 Ronnie Gillespie continues to lead this year and has reached the 100-win plateau.

On the training side of the ledger the 2021 champion Chris Beaver has cut back considerably at the fairs. This year’s leader is Rosy Weaver. It looks like she is also on record pace for trainers at the fairs.

With the Little Brown Jug fast approaching, a rule change adopted a few years back will take effect this year. It allows for a $45,000 supplemental payment to be made to make a horse eligible. We may get to see an Ohio Bred race in the Little Brown Jug.

Trainer Ron Burke has announced that he plans to supplement Bythemissal to the Little Brown Jug. The gelding has already won The Adios, The Millstein and an Ohio Sires Stakes leg. He might be the favorite to win it all.

The OHHA will once again broadcast all five days of Grand Circuit racing beginning on Sunday, September 18. Coverage will run through Thursday. Post time on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday is set for 1 PM while it will be a 12 Noon post time on Wednesday and Thursday.

The entire staff of the OHHA will be on hand to cover all the action with our Facebook broadcast, as well as the speaker series on Wednesday and Thursday.

There will be a new feature this year at Delaware in the Pavilion. On Wednesday night at 6:30 PM following racing, there will be a special panel discussion with John Campbell, David Miller, and Brian Brown. The three will talk about their careers and will be available to answer audience questions as well.

For now, remember to “Be There” for Little Brown Jug week.
20 questions with Hank Levan

How did you get started in the business?
My grandpa, he always trained horses and Dad was always interested in it. It was something I was brought up into. Everybody is involved, and everyone has their role.

When did you know you wanted to get into the business?
When I was in college, I was an animal science major. That summer I helped my grandpa and became interested in it. When I was little, I didn't want anything to do with the horses. It's kind of in your blood.

Tell us about the LeVan family?
I am the oldest of six. Dad is Louis and Mom is Melissa. Herb and Rosemary are my grandparents. I've got three younger brothers and two younger sisters. I'm married to Megan and have a two-year-old son named Perry.

Any driving competition between you, your dad, and your brother?
Not really. Dad drives when I can't be there, and Harrison has helped this summer driving a couple of the horses.

Trotters or pacers?
Trotters, they're more challenging but I think you can help them more.

What's the biggest thrill about driving?
I think the competitiveness of it, trying to be strategic. I'm a competitive person, I don't want to be average at anything, so if I screw up I kind of beat myself up over it.

Do you remember your first driving win?
It was the first horse I bought, her name was Cursive L, it was at Oak Harbor. I remember I got called into the judges because we were pacing in :54 and we got over the half in :06.

Do you enjoy driving more at the fair tracks or pari-mutuel tracks?
I enjoy both. I have gotten a few more opportunities this year to drive horses for other people and we have had some luck at the pari-mutuel tracks. I don't care if it is at the fair, the backyard or Scioto Downs, I'll drive anywhere.

Do you see taking the LeVan stable more towards the pari-mutuel tracks in the future?
I think it depends on where the horses fit in. We will always have young horses that need to be educated and learn at the fairs. I'm hoping to continue to grow things and have more of a balance to where we have some raceway horses and some young colts.

Do you have a favorite horse you have sat behind?
Steady Warrior, he was a cool horse. We bought him out of the sale, he was a one-eyed stud horse that was coming back from an injury. If he was 100%, he would be a really nice horse.

How do you separate work and the family?
I'm not very good at it to be honest. I'm really not, especially now that we have everything at home at the farm. I'll go in for lunch and see my little boy. I'll take him out in the morning to feed, he'll help with the stalls, but you herd him around more than anything. I need to get better at it.

What is the history of the L in all the LeVan horses?
It is something that Dad always did to kind of keep them straight. When you look down through the entries it was easier for him to find the horses. It something I think he has done since the early 2000's.

You are doing more training now; do you like the training or the driving better?
I like the driving. The reason we have so many horses to train is that way I have that many more opportunities to drive. I would prefer to drive but I enjoy training too.

What is the best part of the Standardbred industry?
The people. People are quick to point a finger and say he's not doing this right, or he doesn't know what he is doing. But as a general rule, the vast majority of the people that are in this business are good people.

What is on your harness racing bucket list?
I'd like to be a staple somewhere. Hopefully bigger than the fairs, but if that's what it is I want to be one of the better ones.

Is there one race you want to win?
Let's start with the Sires Stakes final. We'll start there and if we can get to a Jug or something that would be awesome.
Richard Stillings  To LBJ Wall of Fame  By Jay Wolf

Former driver/trainer Richard “Dick” Stillings has been selected as the 37th Little Brown Jug Wall of Fame honoree by the Delaware County Fair.

Stillings won the Little Brown Jug as a trainer in 1986 with Barberry Spur and came back the next year to capture the Jug as a reinsman with Jaguar Spur.

“Nothing could be bigger in my heart than the Little Brown Jug,” said Stillings. “My family would attend every year. This is a great honor.”

Stillings, a native of Mount Vernon, Ohio, drove or trained some of the best Grand Circuit horses in the 1980s — Jaguar Spur ($1,806,473), Barberry Spur ($1,634,017), Kentucky Spur ($1,341,340), Pegasus Spur ($1,296,683), Esquire Spur ($336,250) and Gunslinger Spur ($317,562).

Stillings began his career as a groom for Hall of Fame trainer Dick Buxton. After a three-year stint in the U. S. Army, he took jobs with Jimmy Cruise, Sr. and fellow Wall of Famer, Howard Beissinger.

In 1968, Stillings moved to The Meadows in western Pennsylvania and soon established himself as a top trainer-driver. Stillings and his brother Charles “Buddy” soon joined up with owner Roy Davis and formed a tremendous partnership, sending out a string of successful horses, all with the “Spur” surname to honor the Tottenham Hotspur soccer club.

Stillings, 78, retired from driving/training in 2020 with 5,920 driving victories and $44 million in purse earnings.

The Delaware honor completes the Hall of Fame Triple Crown for Stillings, who was elected into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame in 2013 and the Ohio Hall of Fame in 2014.

Hoffman to receive Tom White Media Award  By Jay Wolf

Hall of Fame Communicator, Dean Hoffman has been named the Tom White Media Award winner for 2022 by the Little Brown Jug and the Delaware County Fair.

A native of Montgomery, Ohio, Hoffman worked at Walnut Hall Farm in Lexington, Kentucky and groomed horses for a Grand Circuit stable while attending Ohio University, from where he obtained a journalism degree in 1971.

He worked in public relations and advertising agencies in varying capacities before being named Executive Editor of the United States Trotting Association’s monthly magazine, Hoof Beats, in 1981. He held that position for almost 25 years, longer than any previous editor.

Hoffman wrote several books on harness racing, including: Yankeeland: The Farm the Kellers Built; Castleton Farm: A Tradition of Standardbred Excellence; Quest for Excellence: Hanover Shoe Farms: The First 75 Years; Harness Racing in New York State: A History of Trotter, Tracks and Horsemen and The Hambletonian: America’s Trotting Classic.

Hoffman won the Harness Horsemens International’s Media Award (1999), the Harness Tracks of America’s Dan Patch Award (2003), the Harness Tracks of America’s Stan Bergstein Messenger Award (2005), the Pinnacle Award (2006) and was named the American Horse Publication’s Champion (2017).

In 2007, Hoffman received the sport’s highest honor, induction into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame’s Communicator’s Corner.

Hoffman will be presented his award at a ceremony Tuesday evening in the Delaware Log Cabin.
Janet Terhune to be Honored with Lady Pace

Janet Terhune, Director of the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame in Goshen, New York, will be saluted as the 2022 Lady Pace honoree by the Delaware County Fair.

Born in Connecticut and raised in New Hampshire, Terhune earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees in Agriculture from the Ohio State University.

Terhune served as an administrative assistant for the Ohio Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association and as an administrative assistant at Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio.

In 1986, she joined the United States Trotting Association as an information and research associate. In 2008 she was appointed Registrar, and in 2011 the Director of Registry and Member Services.

Terhune was appointed to the top role at the Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame in the spring of 2012.

Keith Waples to be Honored with 2022 Neville Award

By Jay Wolf

Keith Waples, driver of the 1972 Little Brown Jug champ Strike Out, will be honored as the 2022 Joseph Neville Memorial Award winner by the Little Brown Jug and the Delaware County Fair.

Waples, generally regarded as one of the greatest horsemen in the history of harness racing, was inducted into Canada’s Sports Hall of Fame (1973), and the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame (1978) and the United States Harness Racing Hall of Fame (1987).

He started his driving career at the age of 12 and ‘retired’ from driving at the age of 81. His records show more than 3,200 driving wins, that number is surely a fraction of the true total given that statistics for a good part of his career weren’t recorded.

In 1972, Waples teamed up with fellow Canadian, trainer John Hayes, Sr., to capture the 27th edition of the Jug with Strike Out. The chestnut colt erased the track record of his illustrious sire, Bret Hanover, and foiled Hilarious Way’s attempt for pacing’s triple crown.

Waples also guided Albert’s Star to an elimination victory in 1975.

Waples helped develop and operate a trio of Canadian tracks - Orangeville Raceway, Cloverdale Raceway (now Fraser Downs) and Sandown Park.

Keith Waples passed away in May 2021 at the age of 97.
The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association was at the 2022 Ohio State Fair. Fairgoers got to ride the virtual reality race bike, try on driver’s colors, wrap legs, and look in the bone box. All those that took a ride in the virtual reality bike left with a souvenir.
Ohio Ushwa Send Megan Husslein to Clyde Hirt Workshop

By Megan Husslein

When I first found out about the Clyde Hirt Journalism Workshop, I must admit, I was skeptical. A week of harness racing? I mean, I watch the Kentucky Derby every year, but my knowledge about horses doesn’t extend much beyond that. Therefore, the invitation to cover the Hambletonian, the Super Bowl of harness racing, was a bit intimidating. However, I am extremely happy that I applied and my invitation to attend was accepted.

This workshop surprised me in so many ways. First off, the other two participants and I got to experience a lot more than just harness racing.

Our first event was to go to the New York Giants football camp. We got to meet head coach Brian Daboll and got a picture with him! Then, we watched the practice with New York Daily News Giants Reporter Pat Leonard. He was a great guide and extremely informative about the sports media industry.

Following practice, each of us got to interview a Giant! I talked with former Buckeye Jalyn Holmes in a mini scrum, so it was a great reporting experience. He was super nice, and I ended up writing a story about it.

After we left Giants’ camp, we went to The Meadowlands to write our advances for the Hambletonian. Ken Weingartner helped me with the harness racing terms, and my story was published in the Trentonian, my first print story!

Before the story got published, we went to The New York Post. Former Clyde Hirt Journalism Workshop participant Lia Eustachewich, now the managing editor of news at The Post, talked with our group, gave us a tour, and edited my story. We also sat in on the morning editorial meeting, which was very interesting.

Later that evening, we returned to The Meadowlands. We looked around the paddock, rode in the starting car for one of the races and presented in the Winner’s Circle! It was a night full of unique experiences that were so fun.

On the third day of the workshop, we drove to Goshen, New York to Ray Schnittker’s farm. All of us got to ride beside him, and he even let us drive the horses for a couple of laps around the track! That was probably one of my favorite experiences of the entire trip. I never thought I’d be able to say that I drove a 2-year-old filly! Schnittker was extremely personable and nice, and I’m so thankful we got to visit his farm.

That night, which was the night before Hambo day, was our classroom time. The head advisor of the workshop, Debbie Little, alongside fellow advisors Garnet and Nick Barnsdale, taught us everything we needed to know about the sport of harness racing. We watched countless race videos and took notes while they broke down different terms and aspects of the sport, so we felt prepared to cover the race the next day.

The big day finally arrived, but we had to watch 14 races before the big No. 15—the Hambo! I was paired alongside Ken once again during this day, so I knew I was in good hands. I cannot believe that I got to witness the biggest upset in Hambletonian history, with Cool Papa Bell winning against 52-1 odds!

Immediately after the race I started writing the story. I got to interview the owner of the horse, Scott Farber and the trainer, Jim Campbell. Both were very exciting and emotional interviews, which I’m so grateful I got to be a part of! About an hour after the race was over, I sent my story into the Trentonian, and it was published not long after that.

What a whirlwind of a trip! Two published stories, interviews with NFL players and harness racing legends, a trip to The New York Post and driving a horse—what a crazy few days. I cannot thank Debbie Little, her husband Dave and the rest of the advisors enough for guiding us along on this trip. It was certainly an experience I will never forget, and I hope to attend again next year!
Racing fans at Eldorado Scioto Downs are seeing the rise of the new grandstand. Crews have continued to work around the racing schedule this summer as the work on the new $20-million dollar structure.

The grandstand will have stadium seating, ground level terrace seating and two VIP suites. It is expected to be completed for the 2023 racing season.

“Progress is going really well. We still face challenges with the supply chain, but we continue to work through them with alternate solutions.” Jason Roth – Director of Racing

Roth says it is their hope to have the grandstand operational on opening day next year.
The Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association would like to congratulate this month’s Outstanding Grooms, Katie Barnhart and Tabatha Betts.

Barnhart is currently working for the Mike Sweeney Stable in Delaware. She was born into the industry as both of her parents were trainers. Barnhart started her career at the Chris Beaver Stable.

When she is not with the horses, Barnhart is busy with her 1½ year old son Myles.

Betts is currently working with the Black Magic Racing Stable at the Winner’s Circle Training Center. A family friend who was a trainer got her in the business eight years ago. Betts says it is “all horses all the time,” when asked what other activities she is involved in.
The Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association is awarding fourteen scholarships, totaling $15,000, to college and postgraduate students for the 2022-2023 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: Amy Corfman, David Justice, Lauren Lane, Dylan Materni, Taylor McKean, Victoria Moore, Clara Nemeth, Dani Nesselroad, Deric Nesselroad, Elizabeth Snyder, Lexi Twaddle, Meadow Twaddle, Jennifer Wallace, and Summer Zubkoff.

Amy Corfman of Fremont, Ohio is a graduate of Old Fort High School and is currently attending Heidelberg University. The daughter of Daniel and Fayanne Corfman, Amy is majoring in music education and would like to become a music teacher like her father. “I love music and seeing some of the struggles my father has gone through the past few years has inspired me even more to become a fantastic teacher like him.”

David Justice of Marysville, Ohio is the son of Roy and Laurie Justice and is a graduate of North Union High School. David is attending the Troy Price Horseshoeing School with a goal of becoming a farrier, “I believe by becoming a farrier I can support our industry because there are not enough farriers.”

Lauren Lane of Chillicothe, Ohio, is the daughter of TC and Shannon Lane and is a graduate of Zane Trace High School. She is attending classes at The Ohio State University and plans on earning her law degree. “My parents have stressed the importance of being a well-rounded adult through academics and within my community,” said Lane. “My goal is to return to Ross County and serve my community as a lawyer.”

Dylan Materni of Mason, Ohio is the son of Jeff and Dawn Materni and is a graduate of William Mason High School. Dylan plans to study business at Mississippi State University. An avid golfer, he plans to give back to the game he loves. “I plan on being a golf coach. Helping others with their golf game has brought me joy when I am able to see them improve.”

Taylor McKean of Mercer, Pennsylvania graduated from Lakeview High School and is attending The Ohio State University. The daughter of Guy McKean and Shari Rabold, Taylor has plans on becoming an equine veterinarian. Taylor originally considered a career in equine dentistry, before focusing on a career as an equine veterinarian. “All I ever wanted to do was work with horses.”

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 a goal of becoming a pediatric occupational therapist. “My goal is to help children with disabilities learn how to live the most normal life they can, given their circumstances.”
Clara Nemeth of Mason, Ohio is the daughter of Scott and Winnie Nemeth. A graduate of William Mason High School, Clara will attend Texas A&M University studying Business Administration in Marketing and riding for the school equestrian team. “I set the goal when I was in 8th grade to ride on a Division 1 equestrian team.” Clara would like to work for the New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program, which was founded by her grandmother Dot Morgan, in the future. 

Dani Nesселroad of Stockport Ohio is the daughter of Eric and Dawn Nesселroad. Dani graduated from Morgan High School and is attending Marietta College, majoring in sports medicine. Dani admires her father for his work ethic. “My father has shown me the definition of hard work.” This hard work paid off as she graduated as the senior class Valedictorian.

Dani’s brother Deric is also a recipient of an OHHA scholarship. Deric has been attending West Liberty University studying Zoo Sciences with Applied Conservation. He plans to attend graduate school and obtain a master’s degree in marine conservation. “My dream is to study our oceans and make as big of a difference as one can in the conservation of them.”

Doug and Jan Snyder is currently studying marketing. “One of my long-term goals is to market harness racing in a way that make it exciting for younger audiences. It saddens me to see track attendance going down more and more in recent years.”

Elizabeth Snyder of Meadow Lands, Pennsylvania graduated from Chartiers Houston High School and is attending the University of Kentucky. The daughter of Doug and Jan Snyder is currently studying marketing. “One of my long-term goals is to market harness racing in a way that make it exciting for younger audiences. It saddens me to see track attendance going down more and more in recent years.”

Lexi and Meadow Twaddle of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania both have been awarded OHHA scholarships. The daughters of Timothy and Sophia Twaddle graduated from Can-on-McMillan High School. Lexi is attending Walsh University and majoring in Biology, while her sister Meadow is attending Washington and Jefferson College studying to become a physician assistant. Both Lexi and Meadow have grown up helping their father around the barn. “The work ethic in the barn is like no other,” said Lexi. Meadow says, “The racing industry has taught me patience, dedication, and how rewarding hard work can be.”

Jennifer Wallace of Mechanicsburg, Ohio is the daughter of Michael and Vicki Wallace. A graduate of Mechanicsburg High School, Jennifer is attending nursing school at Clark State Community College with the goal of becoming an emergency room nurse. “I want to help people to the best of my abilities, not only physically, but mentally and emotionally.”

Summer Zubkoff of Toledo, Ohio is a graduate of Southview High School and is attending Owens Community College. The daughter of Anthony Zubkoff and Cheryl Pickens is studying in the dental hygiene program. Summer’s ultimate goal is to combine her love of dentistry with her love of horses. “I plan on attending an equine dental academy and expand my knowledge not only as a dental professional, but as a horseman.”
Thank You to our 2022 P.A.C.E.R. Contributors

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Steve Bateson
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OHHA SENDS OUR CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF

Jim Hess
Larry Noggle
Billy Tummey
Nomination for the Terry Holton Youth Award

The 20th Annual Terry Holton Youth Award is awarded to youth aged thirteen to nineteen who have actively participated in harness racing during 2022, 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, 2022**

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 2022.

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 Dick Brandt, Sr. Extra Effort Award

The 21st Annual Dick Brandt, Sr. Extra Effort Award is being offered for the 2022 racing year to expand the OHHA’s commitment to county fair racing. Local Ohio horsemen’s associations or individuals that have given the most to their county fair or local community are encouraged to apply. The award is based on involvement with their local fair board, participation in local matinees, community involvement, improvements to track and barn areas and assistance with the racing programs during fair week. The more information you can provide for your nominee will help the committee to make a more informed decision. **DEADLINE OCTOBER 1, 2022**

1. Please fill out the following information about the association or individual being nominated:
   - Name: ______________________________________________________
   - Location: ____________________________________________________
   - How many years has this person or association been involved in racing? ______

2. Tell us about the association or individual. Include activities they participated in during 2022. Include any community involvement, harness racing promotional activities, county fair involvement, relationship with the county fair board, track and barn improvements and involvement in the county fair’s racing program.

3. Any additional information about the horsemen’s association or individual.

Nomination by:
Name: 
Email: 
Phone: 
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, 2022**

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:
## OHIO BREEDERS AWARD REQUIREMENTS

### Ohio Breeders Award Requirements

#### Mares registered in 2017 (Foals of 2018) mare registration date 12/31/17

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<td>Yearling 2019</td>
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#### Mares registered in 2018 (Foals of 2019) mare registration date 11/30/18

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 &amp; 3-Year-Old 2021, 2022</td>
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#### Mares registered in 2019 (Foals of 2020) mare registration date 11/30/19

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<th>Foal Age</th>
<th>Membership Requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foal Born 2020</td>
<td>Membership Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yearling 2021</td>
<td>No Membership Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 &amp; 3-Year-Old 2022, 2023</td>
<td>No Membership Required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foal Age</th>
<th>Membership Requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foal Born 2021</td>
<td>Membership Required</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yearling 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 &amp; 3-Year-Old 2023, 2024</td>
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</tbody>
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#### Mares registered in 2021 (Foals of 2022) mare registration date 11/30/21

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Yearling 2023</td>
<td>No Membership Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 &amp; 3-Year-Old 2024, 2025</td>
<td>No Membership Required</td>
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**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.

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28 THE BUCKEYE HARNESS HORSEMAN • SEPTEMBER 2022
# Ohio Breeders Awards Program Form

(For Mares Bred in 2022)

## Initial Mare Registration: Due November 30th of Year Bred

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. INITIAL MARE REGISTRATION: Complete 1 for Initial Registration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broodmare Information: <strong>One Mare Per Form.</strong> List two only if Embryo Transfer- List Recipient and Donor Mare.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mare's Registered Name:</th>
<th>USTA Registration #</th>
<th>Ohio Stallion Mare Bred to:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( If ET notate Recipient or Donor Mare)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. 187 DAY RESIDENCY: Complete 1, 2, &amp; 3 for Final Verification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location of Mare for Foaling and 187 Day: Residency (Include: Start and End)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>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.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initials</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 location 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 result in a 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initials</th>
<th>Date (mm/dd/yyyy)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Authorized Signature**

**Include the Initial Registration Fee - Payable to the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association**

Include applicable OHHA Membership Fee for all Breeders (per USTA Breed Registry) $65-Full Active Membership, $25-Business Entity Only

**Total Remitted:** + $20

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: breedersawards@ohha.com, or via First Class Mail (Postage Pre-Paid) 2237 Sonora Drive, Grove City, Ohio 43123. The official Post Office Postmark or receipt time stamp at the OHHA office (whichever is earlier) will be recognized as the date of receipt.
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 30th 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 Horsemens’ 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 Horsemens’ 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 2022 that will foal in 2023. 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 Horsemens’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 1st and November 30th of the year or 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 Breeder’s 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 1st and November 30th of the year of breeding. Any mare registration received at the OHHA office from December 1st to midnight December 31st 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 31st. 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
3-year-old pacing colts

1. The Ohio stake races that will be counted in calculating breeder’s awards consist of:
   (a) Legs, finals and consolation of the Standardbred Development Fund Races the, “Ohio Sires Stake” races,
   (b) Legs and finals of the, “Buckeye Stallion Series” races
   (c) The Ohio State Fair Stake races
   (d) The Ohio Fair Championship
   (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 31st 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 31st. 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.
Wednesday, May 25, 2022

Regularly Scheduled Meeting Recaps  By Renée Mancino

Roll Call, all Commissioners in-person attendance except Commissioner Patron present by telephone.

In normal business for the Commission, Executive Director Chris Dragne’s Report and Approval items were introduced, and the April 20, 2022, minutes were offered for ratification. There were no documents related to the Executive Director’s approvals disclosed or provided to those in attendance. The discussion regarding the Executive Director’s approval request indicated normal and customary approvals. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the Executive Director’s Approval and Report items and the April 20, 2022, Meeting Minutes.

Consideration and approval of Drug Testing Costs Resolution. The 2022-23 cost adjustment for medication and testing was outlined and discussed. The Racing Commission set out the average fiscal year 2021-22 testing costs of one drug test per race deducted from the purse pools in the calendar year as well below the $212.80 per Standardbred race and $194.17 per Thoroughbred race being charged for 2022-23 due to difficulty with state testing technicians and sample collections. The State Racing Commission has resolved the issues and expect the costs and expenses to add $70,000 more to the Racing Commission’s costs if the testing costs under the statute charged to the horsemen is based on the average costs for 2021. They reached out to the Ohio HBPA and OHHA to request retention on payment for the 2021-22 testing costs versus the actual average calculated cost. By agreement July 1, 2022, testing fee deducted will continue to be, $212.80 per Standardbred race and $194.17 per Thoroughbred race. The cost per race is higher for Standardbred testing due to the sixty-five racing fairs, which increases the amount by $18.63 per-test as compared to Thoroughbred testing. In 2020-21 the cost was $209.66 per Standardbred race and $196.33 per Thoroughbred race. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the agreed-to costs versus the actual average calculation to be deducted from the statewide purse pools for one race per test for July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

The agenda item for discussion and approval of the settlement agreements of Jody Flommersfeld, Art Gillum Jr., and Michael Micallef. Terms of settlement were not discussed or disclosed. Mr. Fommersfeld had a therapeutic leverage of 90s/-picograms of dexamethasone, which exceeds the regulatory threshold of 5 pg/ml from a race with Some High Dreamer at Hollywood Dayton on September 30, 2021. Mr. Gillum Jr., had a Class 4 therapeutic, Altenogest (Regumate) present in a post-race sample at the level of detection from a race with Likethemtrash at Caesars Scioto Downs October 1, 2021. Mr. Micallef’s infraction is unknown as no infractions reported reflect appeal. No agenda item concerning the Caesars Scioto Downs Grandstand.

A recap on the horse racing fatalities was provided by Racing Commission Consulting Veterinarian, Dr. James Robertson. 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 April 2022 records are kept following a horse post injury, with post-injury tracking of up to ten days to date. To date in 2022 the report on catastrophic losses includes one thoroughbred and no standardbreds in April, with two thoroughbreds and two standardbreds in May. To bring the year-to-date total thoroughbred catastrophic losses to twelve (ten racing, two training) and seven standardbreds (all racing). It was noted the necropsy report for the recent sudden death at Caesars Scioto reported a fatal cardiac infarction with no other indications.

The monthly commission financial report was provided by Fiscal Officer Sherry White. Through April 2022 overall year-over-year revenue was up $500,000 for the fiscal year, which is about even with projected revenue. Expenses are one percent above projected for the fiscal year. Ms. White outlined the Casino Commission breakdown for the second quarter, the distribution Resolution was held. The April meeting, Chairman Borgemenke is not being in support of the legislation and that they would not register in the HISA database because the penalty was an inability to race a covered horse. OHHA input included Equine Law Conference confirmation by Lisa Lazarus (HISA Executive Director), John Roach (HISA Attorney with Randsell, Roach, and Royse PLLC), and Charles Scheeler (HISA CEO) that from introduction on the safety, methodology, and compliance, to FTC review, register notice publication, “hundreds and hundreds of pages of comments by industry stakeholders and interested parties,” and enactment, that there were no amendments to the proposed regulations. All HISA regulations that have been enacted to this point were enacted exactly as proposed. Commissioner Winters discussed the HISA litigation, specifically an applicable Fifth Circuit case and the Texas Racing Commission’s letter to HISA. Chairman Borgemenke provided comment that although they are not signing the “voluntary agreement”, “they will do their best to comply with the law.” Thoroughbred stakeholder meetings to discuss HISA compliance continue due to no opt-in by the Ohio State Racing Commission and pending payment on the calculated allocated share for Ohio Thoroughbred horse racing.

Commissioner Hansen Chairwoman of the Medication and Testing Committee outlined Resolution 2022-06, taking, and testing blood samples from thoroughbred horses that are working off the veterinarian’s list. The Resolution mandated complete post-race drug testing, which must be passed in addition to a clean work to be removed from the Steward’s list. If a thoroughbred fails, the preliminary screening then the horse will remain on the Steward’s list. The trainer must bear the costs of the test, the initial screening fail is a fail, and there is no appeal or split sample. Most thoroughbred racing states have a similar rule, after discussion the Racing Commission unanimously passed Resolution 2022-06.

Resolution 2022-07 was discussed; no copies of the Resolution were distributed. The Resolution proposed removal of Isosurpine (used as isosuxprine hydrochloride) as a regulated therapeutic from the Ohio permitted therapeutic list. The primary basis for removal was an advisory opinion issued by the Racing Medication and Testing Association February 3, 2022. The advisory opinion provided details that the Food and Drug Administration had removed the mediation from approved use in equines. The discussion centered on adequate out-time for proper notice from a permitted threshold screening limit of 1 microgram per milliliter tested in urine, moving to level of detection. Renée Mancino offered comments as-to the legality of the therapeutic medication in Canada and horsemen shipping into Ohio from Canada to race if it is legal and permitted in Canada. In addition, Isosuxprine has a long out-time
for level of detection (some research has shown 30 days) and high probability of contamination due to a horse passing the therapeutic relatively unchanged in urine (if a horse occupied a stall where a prior occupant horse was treated, it could result contact contamination). Dr. Robertson commented that in urine it has at least a 14 day out-time and blood is shorter. Dr. Robertson also discussed the therapeutic being a Class D, subject to a warning as the penalty, which wasn’t as much of a concern on notice. Commissioner Hansen moved to table Resolution 2022-07 to be considered in the June meeting pending discussion and clarification on an appropriate out-time for enactment at level of detection. It is anticipated that enactment will provide a thirty-day notice period. The Racing Commission unanimously tabled the motion to be considered at the June Racing Commission meeting.

Commissioner Winters Chairman of the Standardbred Committee said any rules revisions being worked on with industry stakeholders would be addressed by September at the earliest. There was discussion on the industrywide supported Lasix rule modifications anticipated, the representation was made that the amendments were currently being held up in the Common Sense Initiative process.
Resolution 2022-08 Pre-Race Exams was discussed. Representations were made that a pre-race inspection was necessary, but the difficulty arose on how to implement with HISA, the costs of implementation and a shortage of racetrack veterinarians. Discussion that there will be pre-race exams at some point, with the details to be worked on under the Resolution. After discussion the Racing Commission passed Resolution 2022-08 by a vote of 4-1, with Commissioner Hansen the "no" vote.

Commissioner Hansen Chairwoman of the Medication and Testing Committee discussed Dr. Robertson having reviewed the seven sections up for public comment in the 3000 and 4000 Series regulations and putting together a summary or comparisons between Ohio and HISA regulations. They also talked to Dr. Mary Scollay about the topic, and she commented there would be discussions. They also talked to Dr. Mary Scollay about comparisons between Ohio and HISA regulations. Commissioner Simpson discussed the county fairs racing programs. Commissioner Simpson discussed serious concerns about Paulding Fair after he was in attendance, but an excellent job done by the Pickaway County Fair. Chairman Borgemenke provided comments that the Racing Commission respects the sovereignty of the county fair boards and county commissioners overseeing and operating those fairs.

Chairman Borgemenke commented on a racetrack veterinarian’s dispute occurring at Thistledown, which has resulted in litigation amongst some on-track veterinarians and a former employee to a racetrack veterinarian engaged in another role.

Chairman Borgemenke discussed Racing Commission employment and made a Motion to implement a 3% raise to exempt employees for the Ohio State Racing Commission to match the Union negotiated non-exempt raise for union Racing Commission employees. The Racing Commission unanimously approved.

There was no further business to conduct in executive session, so the motion and vote were taken to adjourn the general session meeting.

For a transcript of the meeting contact the Ohio State Racing Commission. The next scheduled Racing Commission meeting date is July 13, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in person only at the Riffe Building in 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 13, 2022

Roll Call, all Commissioners in-person attendance except Commissioner Patton present by telephone.

In normal business for the Commission, Executive Director Chris Drageone’s Report and Approval items were introduced, and the June 21, 2022, minutes were offered for ratification. There were no documents related to the Executive Director’s approvals disclosed or provided to those in attendance. There was discussion that the Racing Commission be included on all communications regarding the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the Executive Director’s Approval and Report items and the June 21, 2022, Meeting Minutes.

Update Item concerning the Caesars Scioto Downs Grandstand. Jason Roth, Director of Racing Caesars Scioto Downs and Gabe Prewitt, Director of Racing for Caesars Entertainment provided an update. They continue to add manpower to the build and have had Messer Construction on site for 119 days with 75% of the foundation work complete. The elevator foundation is poured, they have installed 200 cubic yards of concrete on the project. The voltage pathways, walls, and grandstand are in process for June and July. The structural steel is scheduled to be delivered in August. The original budget was $20 million, due to supply chain and availability it is approaching $27 million. It was noted the project cost five years ago was projected at $17 million. The scheduled date of completion is on track for April 2023.

Consideration and approval of Resolution of the 3rd Quarter Casino Commission Revenue Distribution from the Casino Tax was deferred to the next Monthly meeting. The distribution percentages would remain the same and be distributed after the meeting to interested parties and approved in August’s meeting.

In the matter of Daniel L. Shetler. Attorney Levi J. Tkach with McGriff and Govern represented Mr. Shetler who was not in attendance at the meeting. On July 4, 2021, Mr. Shetler was searched at Scioto Downs by security and ORSC Personnel. He was charged with possession of hypodermic needles and other instruments that may be used for injection. Mr. Shetler appealed, and the case went to Administrative Hearing. Mr. Tkach represented the items found were a syringe and a bottled substance, which were in a bucket in the aisleway of a stall at the ship-in facility outside the stall. Mr. Shetler’s horse racing that night occupied. Upon questioning Mr. Shetler, the Investigator asked if he was aware he wasn’t supposed to have those items on the backstretch, he said “I do now”. Mr. Shetler vehemently opposed an intent to use or use on the horse. The horse was scratched but tested and came back clear. The Racing Commission asked about Mr. Shetler’s past record, which was represented by Mr. Tkach as clean other than, “a misunderstanding in Pennsylvania”. The Attorney General represented the Pennsylvania infraction being the same as the current infraction and not a “misunderstanding”, further intent is irrelevant to the charge, possession is sufficient. The Hearing Officer and Attorney General recommended a 180-day suspension and a $1,000 fine. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the Hearing Officer’s report and recommendation.

A recap on the horse racing fatalities was provided by Racing Commission Consulting Veterinarian Dr. James Robertson. 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 April 2022 records are kept following a horse post injury, with post-injury tracking of up to ten days to race date. To date in 2022 the monthly report on catastrophic losses includes seven thoroughbreds and no standardbreds in June, with no thoroughbreds and one standardbred fatality in July. To bring the year-to-date total thoroughbred catastrophic losses to twenty-one (eighteen racing, three training) and eight standardbreds (all racing). In addition to catastrophic loss information Dr. Robertson commented on the catastrophic accident at MGM Northfield. The thoroughbred database records horses that perish as a direct result of injury related to a race and the colt had no apparent injury related to the race. The colt had just completed the race, was pulled-up at the paddock to unthitch the race bike. Highly agitated the horse darted into the infield after being partially unhooked from the racebike and ultimately perished. The accident was not the direct result of an injury related to the race.

Chairman Scott Borgemenke discussed the MGM Northfield catastrophic loss. He outlined a detailed and full investigation, which will be expedited. There won’t be any statements or comments until the conclusion is reached and all the facts are collected, which will include a safety assessment.
The monthly commission financial report was provided by Fiscal Officer Sherry White. Through the end of the Fiscal Year to July overall year-over-year revenue was up $400,000 for the fiscal year. It was noted that there has been a full 12-month period without shut-downs or other restrictions on operations at all locations and if comparing over a normal year the increase would have been closer to $100,000. Expenses for payroll, travel, and attorney general’s payments are all up 9% over projections on the Fiscal Year. Ms. White outlined that fiscal year 2023 will be a more typical year and a moderate gain is projected.

Agenda item updating the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act (HISA). Chairman Borgemenke. The Racing Commission will do whatever they can to comply with and aid the HISA Committee. There were quite a few issues what is going on with the thoroughbreds and HISA here in Ohio at our two active live meets. Ohio is not an opt-in state via the voluntary agreement. They have sent a letter that they will comply with HISA regulations to the best of their ability where state law will not apply for thoroughbreds.

HISA employees and HISA contract workers are going onto racetrack properties and asserting complete and exclusive authority under Rule 8400. It appears all HISA employees and contract workers are advising individually and often their advice is not uniform.

The Ohio State Racing Commission said as of July 12, 2022, they are not permitting access to Ohio’s licensee restricted/regulated areas unless the HISA employee is Ohio State Racing Commission licensed. That simply appearing on property and claiming they have authority over everything and asking to see books or records isn’t permissible under Ohio law. It was reported that John Roach and Alex Waldrop (both contract workers) have been on property at Belterra Park often because it is only a couple of hours from Lexington. They joked about how often HISA was at the facility. Ann McGovern and Lisa Lazarus have been advising Thistledown, but not necessarily members of management. All have been advising on application of the regulations in effect and representing that they have enforcement authority. The racetrack Racing Directors at the different tracks are being told conflicting things by Roach, Waldrop, and Lazarus on interpretation and enforcement both. Lazarus told Thistledown they should be scratching non-registered horses. There was discussion that Lazarus has been communicating via text message. No one told Belterra Park to scratch horses, Alex Waldrop and John Roach told them there were too many false negatives in InCompass (mainly name mismatches) that resulted in no enforcement on scratching horses right now. Belterra Park management has had no contact with Lazarus at all.

Commissioner Hansen Chairwoman of the Medication and Testing Committee set forth Committee work as being on hold pending release on HISA Medication and Testing regulations.

Commissioner Greg Simpson discussed the Safety Committee plans for a unified safety meeting in October. Topics will include the county fairs racing programs.

Commissioner Thomas Winters discussed five-year and general acceptance rules revisions for October.

There was no further business to conduct in executive session, so the motion and vote were taken to adjourn the general session meeting.

For a transcript of the meeting contact the Ohio State Racing Commission. The next scheduled Racing Commission meeting date is August 31, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in person only at Belterra Park. 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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Wednesday, August 31, 2022

Roll Call, all Commissioners in-person at Belterra Park, Commissioner Patmon present by telephone. Belterra Park Vice President and General Manager Chris Carrado welcomed everyone to the meeting, offered tours after the meeting concluded, described the history and general information on the facility.

No update item concerning the Caesars Scioto Downs Grandstand.

In normal business for the Commission, Executive Director Chris Dragone’s Report and Approval items were introduced, and the July 13, 2022, minutes were offered for ratification. There were no documents related to the Executive Director’s approvals disclosed or provided to those in attendance. There was no discussion on the Executive Director’s approvals. The Executive Director’s Report included live 2022 meet requests for Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway, Mahoning Valley Racecourse, and the Delaware County Fair. Mahoning Valley and Dayton submitted requests to, (1) Waive their surety bond for 2022 race meet, (2) Approve listed officials, (3) Approve the number of races and wagering format, (4) Approve post times, (5) Approve their simulcasting schedule, and (6) Approve their letters to the Fire Marshall. 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. No documents were provided to those in attendance. Chairman Scott Borgemenke moved to amend approval, and omit the list of officials from Mahoning Valley’s approval. The removal was made due to conflict between Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act and Ohio rule application by the Stewards, which will be cleared-up by Executive Director Chris Dragone. The amendment provided for Executive Director approval pending policy clarification.

The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the amended approval, and unanimously ratified the Executive Director’s Approval Items and the July 13, 2022, Meeting Minutes.

Consideration and approval of Resolution 2022-09(A), the 2nd Quarter Casino Commission distributing the Casino Tax of $2,598,164.82. $493,651.32 was distributed to the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund and Ohio Standardbred Development Fund. $129,908.24 each to MGM Northfield Park, Eldorado Scioto Downs, Miami Valley Gaming, and to the Ohio State Racing Commission for support of commercial operations. $100,281.66 to Hollywood Gaming at Mahoning Valley purse pool, $90,834.84 to Belterra Park purse pool, $97,253.84 to JACK Thistledown purse pool, $144,851.29 to Miami Valley Gaming and Racing purse pool, $389,620.91 to MGM Northfield Purse Pool, $152,602.53 to Eldorado Scioto purse pool, and $115,784.14 to Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway purse pool. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified Resolution 2022-09(A).

Resolution 2022-10 Several Rules were offered for consideration. 3769-18-01 with an effective date of October 1, 2022, Ohio’s new Furosemide (Lasix) rules go into effect. The new Rule provides several changes for Lasix use, it also includes the removal of Aminocaproic acid (Amicar) use statewide. Amicar is prohibited and will be a violation at the level of detection. The remaining rules considered were amendments, updates will follow on effective dates if passed through the General Assembly.

3769-15-32 Judge’s List. Technical amendment to remove “Stewards” from the language and replace it with “Judges”.

3769-16-07 Title Vested. Change to the claiming rule requiring void claims in specific circumstances. Initial proposed Rule by the Racing Commission provided a Rule that mirrored the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act’s void claim rule. A horse would be under surveillance for 60 minutes post-race, Track Vet could void the claim if the horse was in their view lane or otherwise distressed, claim would be voided for post-race positive tests, among other reasons. Extensive issues with
application on the HISA void claim rule in thoroughbred racing have occurred since July 1st, one claim was voided at Thistledown after two months and the horse made two additional starts for the new owners. As a compromise after considering extensive OHHHA input, the Racing Commission offered an amended rule to void a claim for harness racing if the horse dies on or is euthanized on the racetrack after the word “go” is given. As with the Judge’s list rule, they have said they will revisit additional proposed changes offered by the Association later.

3769-17-09 Safety Vest and Helmet. Rule amended to agree and require approved safety vest and helmet whenever driving, riding, or behind a horse. The amendment provides concurrence with existing rule requiring an approved safety helmet and safety vest while racing.

3769-17-36 Payment of Fines. Rule amended to provide more time for payment of fines before suspension, moves the period from 48 hours to 10 days.

The Racing Commission unanimously ratified Resolution 2022-10.

In the matter of Mark Tomczak. Mr. Tomczak’s matter was removed from the agenda and would be re-scheduled to a later date.

In the matter of Dan Noble. Mr. Noble’s infraction concerned a personal urinalysis sample obtained July 2, 2019, which was positive for Tetrahydrocannabinol (marijuana). The judge’s initial penalty was a $1,000 fine, 365-day suspension, and completion of a Commission approved substance abuse program. Mr. Noble appealed because the use was not substance abuse, but medicinal, and presented proof of medicinal use as prescribed by his physician. In settlement the Attorney General’s Office recommended amending the initial judge’s ruling to include a 30-day suspension to commence November 1, 2022, and $1,000 fine to be paid by September 1, 2022. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the settlement agreement. It is important to note that the Racing Commission has modified the prescription medication form required to be submitted by participants under a physician’s care with prescription medications. The Racing Commission has set-forth the requirement for all licensees to report all prescription medications (including medical marijuana) on the reporting form before being drug tested.

A recap on the horse racing fatalities was provided by Racing Commission Consulting Veterinarian, Dr. James Robertson. 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 April 2022 records are kept following a horse post injury, with post-injury tracking of up to ten days from the race date. To July 2022 the monthly report on catastrophic losses includes five thoroughbreds and no standardbreds, with six thoroughbreds and no standardbred fatalities in August. To bring the year-to-date total thoroughbred catastrophic losses to thirty-two (twenty-six racing, six training) and eight standardbreds (all racing). Chairman Scott Borgemenke commented regarding catastrophic loss factors and track conditions.

The monthly commission financial report was provided by Fiscal Officer Sherry White. Year-over-year to August revenue was up $96,000 for the fiscal year. It was noted that there were two full years of deposits on the casino commission, and despite that a $26,000 revenue decrease due to the timing of that deposit. Expenses for payroll, stewards, and attorney general’s payments are down 7% over projections on the fiscal year. Ms. White outlined that fiscal year revenue is up 8% over projected revenue with $2.7 million in the State Racing Commission’s Operating Fund. Chairman Scott Borgemenke requested for meetings going forward that a 5-year look-back on revenue and expenses with comparison to the current fiscal year be included in the financial reports to Commissioners.

Agenda item updating the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act (HISA). Chairman Borgemenke clarified the Ohio State Racing Commission will work with the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority. However, Ohio is not an opt-in state via the voluntary agreement. There continue to be issues with authority and overlap on authority and jurisdiction. The Ohio State Racing Commission would like to make it clear that HISA has no authority to cancel racing days, that occurs under State Law. Also, an Ohio State Racing Commission employee continues to be an Ohio State Racing Commission employee. They will request clarification on dual employment positions with the OSRC paying Stewards and Track Veterinarians and HISA also paying Stewards and Track Veterinarians. There is no clear direction on who the Stewards’ answer to as an ultimate authority, which has led to some unprofessional conduct and behavior. It has also resulted in State Veterinarians contracting to conduct post-race examinations or examinations on voided claims while employed by the State Racing Commission and on duty as a State Veterinarian. Clarification was provided that under the HISA void claim rule the veterinarian examination was not to include scopes, scans, or any testing. On January 1, 2023, the Ohio State Racing Commission will no longer be involved in medication and testing. Renee Mancino requested clarification on application to harness racing. Chairman Borgemenke clarified that live racing cancellation decisions for harness racing will remain as outlined in Chapter 3769 with the Permit Holder, Ohio State Racing Commission, and the Horsemen. Additionally, harness racing medication, testing, and enforcement will continue to be handled by the Racing Commission and the Ohio Department of Agriculture after January 1, 2023. The Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association’s open letter regarding HISA was discussed, and Dave Basler of the Ohio Horsemen’s Benevolent and Protective Association (OHBPA) commented on having responded to that letter on the OHBPA’s website.

Commissioner Hansen Chairwoman of the Medication and Testing Committee set forth Committee work as on hold pending release on HISA Medication and Testing regulations. They will act under the advice of the Attorney General’s office.

Commissioner Greg Simpson had no agenda items for the Safety Committee. Jockey’s Guild Regional Manager Jeff Johnston appeared and provided detailed issues discussed with Commissioner Simpson in a paddock meeting with Jockeys and the Jockey’s Guild at Belterra Park. The Jockey’s Guild requested examination of a jockey’s whip in all cases where horses are seen with cuts post-race. The only HISA approved crops (360GT) are breaking while being used and causing injuries to horses. The Jockey’s Guild also requested review of the ambulance and personnel being used at Belterra Park. Chairman Borgemenke asked why Jockeys were threatening to boycott now over the ambulance and personnel that have been in place for the past six years and are certified under Ohio law as adequate? In addition, there was a Safety Committee meeting held in March and the issue wasn’t brought up by the Guild? Chairman Scott Borgemenke admonished the Jockeys and Jockeys Guild for organizing a boycott, blindsiding the Commission with this issue, and clarified they will respond when they are appraised of all facts.

Commissioner Thomas Winters discussed five-year and general acceptance rules revisions being worked on for harness racing.

Executive Director Chris Dragone discussed Steward’s conduct and applying Ohio’s rules of racing. Executive Director Dragone announced a yearly review and approval process for Stewards under their employment and represented the potential for disapproval if performance isn’t professional, up to standard, or they do not uniformly enforce the rules.

There was business to conduct related to legal action, employment, and Racing Commission’s confidential business, the motion and vote were taken to adjourn the general session meeting into executive session. There would be no further business to conduct upon conclusion of the executive session, the motion and vote to adjourn the public session, the motion and vote to adjourn the executive session.

For a transcript of the meeting contact the Ohio State Racing Commission. The next scheduled Racing Commission meeting date is October 19, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in person only at the Riffe Center. 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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