

THE BUCKEYE

Harness Horseman

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The Official Publication of the
Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association

OCEAN ROCK Wins Breeders Crown





Congratulations to these 2021 Ohio Sires Stakes Champions!



WINNING TICKET
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BORNTOBESHAMELESS
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2-Year-Old Colt Trotting Champion



GULF SHORES
2-Year-Old Colt Pacing Champion

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OCEAN ROCK WINS BREEDERS CROWN



The Ocean Rock winners circle celebration **Photo:** Raymond Lance

When Chip Noble was 19 years old, he and the Burnett family started to do business. That relationship continued to grow through generations. Almost 50 years later, the two families celebrated the relationship as the Burnett home-bred Ocean Rock, driven by Chip's son Dan and trained by Dan's wife Christi won the 2021 Breeders Crown Open Pace.

Noble described the feeling as "unbelievable" as he crossed the finish line with

champion in 2012, became just the fourth Ohio-bred to capture a Breeders Crown championship. He joins two-time Breeders Crown champion Buck I St Pat (Open Mares Trot 2009 and 2010), Stienam (1985 3-Year-old Filly Pace) and Crysta's Best (1990 2-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Trot) to win the title.

Jim Burnett, the son of Ocean Rock's owner Sandra Burnett, says the horse is a true Ohio-bred. "Ocean Rock is a third generation Ohio bred."

Burnett's father started the process, purchasing the Meadow Skipper mare Ruthett Hanover in 1985. Ruthett Hanover produced the mare Moonlight Romola which the Burnett's then bred to Nobleland Sam, a homebred owned by the Noble family.

That breeding produced Romola Grey, another mare. Romola Grey was

then bred to On The Attack, which produced Ocean Pearl.

"We bred Ocean Pearl to Rockin Amadeus, and we got Ocean Rock," said Burnett. "Thirty years of breeding in Ohio and we were able to produce a Breeders Crown champion."

Burnett says that speaks volumes of where Ohio has come from. "That's 30 years to get to this point and Ocean Rock is able to race, compete and win on the biggest stage. He has Ohio blood three generations back."

Ocean Rock's 2021 season did not start like the connections were hoping to. The reigning 3-Year-Old Ohio Pacer of the year was sent east to trainer Nancy Tatker.

"When we staked him, we staked him a lot out east," said Burnett. "Danny thought it was best for him to go to Nancy's stable. We thought that was best."

Ocean Rock won a qualifier in late February at the Meadows, but something was not right. "Nancy thought he wasn't quite 100%," said Burnett. "They couldn't pinpoint what the issue was, but finally able to nurture him back to health after a long break."

After three starts under the Tatker banner and a best finish of second place, Ocean Rock returned to the Noble barn in mid-June.

Burnett said by the time that Ocean Rock was healthy, it was time to return to Ohio. "We were always going to bring him back to Ohio for the Ohio races."

"I give a lot of credit to Nancy Tatker. She said to race out East you have to be 100%." Burnett says he has a lot of gratitude for Tatker and her vets for figuring out what was wrong and fixing it.



Ocean Rock surges to the win **Photo:** Lisa Photo

Ocean Rock. "It was very, very emotional. The family connection with the horse and the Burnett family and the family of the horse. Being out of a broodmare your father trained, one of the last ones before he died."

Ocean Rock, the four-year old gelded son of Rockin Amadeus, a Breeders Crown



Christi Noble and Ocean Rock **Photo:** Raymond Lance

Once back in Ohio, Ocean Rock started to round into form. He won his first start back at Eldorado Scioto Downs. Another win and two seconds in his next four races and the plan was to head to MGM Northfield Park for the \$100,000 Myron Charna Presidential Pace.

Ocean Rock dominated the field, winning by five-lengths in a world record time of 1:48.1. "I knew he was sharp going into the Charna and he came out very sharp," said Noble. "That's when I told myself I wasn't disappointed on how the year started out east." Noble said at that point he knew Ocean Rock was going to progress as the season went on.

After a fifth-place finish in the #SendItIn Invitation, Ocean Rock reeled off four straight wins, winning the Jim Ewart Memorial Pace at Scioto Downs, the Ohio Sires Stakes Aged Championship, the Hoosier Park Pacing Derby and the Dayton Derby at Hollywood Dayton Raceway.

Noble felt Ocean Rock was at the top of his game following the Dayton Derby but could have used a week off before heading to Lexington for the Allerage Farm Open Pace.

Ocean Rock sat third after an opening quarter of 25.4. Noble grabbed the lead at the half in 51.3 and held the lead down the stretch before fading to fifth. "I still believe if he had a week off he would have been

able to go just as fast as what the race went and it would have been closer," said Noble.

With Breeders Crown elimination looming the next week, the decision was made to take the bye into the finals. Noble says they were not worried about a week off and taking the bye. "Knowing this horse inside and out, he's always better with a week or two layoff." Noble said he knew when they got home from Lexington that things were OK when the horse went to the field and played like he never raced.

Noble says they weren't worried when they took the bye into the Breeders Crown finals. "He's a very easy horse, he takes good care of himself and tightens himself up the way he wants. I had no worries."

Ocean Rock proved his handlers right as the layoff had no affects. As the wings of the starting gate closed, Ocean Rock shot to the lead and cleared just before the quarter pole in 25.4. He yielded the lead to Allywag Hanover at the half, taking the pocket trip making his move down the stretch. Ocean Rock, a 16-1 longshot, chased down the 2/5 favorite in the stretch to get up to win by a nose holding off a late charge from Cattlewash.

"I felt halfway down the lane that I thought I had it won," said Noble. "I was just hoping to maintain that position when I got by Allywag."



Jim Burnett (Right), is joined by Dennis Owens, Roger Huston and Tim Homan (L to R) for the trophy presentation **Photo:** Lisa Photo



Dan Noble celebrates with Roger Huston **Photo:** Raymond Lance



Dan and Christi Noble with the Breeders Crown Trophy **Photo:** Mark Hall USTA

The win was Ocean Rock's 19th in 36 starts and made him a million-dollar earner with \$1,209,522 in career earnings.

Ocean Rock's trainer Christi Noble was thankful that her trainee was able to prove what he could do on the big stage. "I'm glad we finally got the opportunity this year since we didn't get much as a two- and three-year-old. He proved he can really go to these big dances and be competitive. It's great that we had a lot of support from back home. The owners were here, it was just fantastic."

While owner Sandra Burnett was unable to make the trip, her son Jim was there. "It was such a surreal moment," Burnett said of watching Ocean Rock charge down the stretch. "Everybody at my table was jumping up and down and yelling. I couldn't stand up, I just sat there and really couldn't believe it was happening."

Burnett said his mother was thrilled with the win but wishes his mother could have been there. "Mom couldn't attend. Unfortunately, at her age with Covid and traveling to New Jersey it wasn't going to work."

"We have been in this for 50 years, so I am going to soak this one up forever," said Burnett. "You never think you are going to win that race because it hardly ever happens. I am going to think about this one for a while."

Monte Miki WINS BREEDERS CROWN



Monte Miki holds off Gulf Shores **Photo:** Lisa Photo

In 2003, Mark Evers took Art's Chip to the Breeders Crown at the Meadowlands, finishing third in the 2-Year-Old Colt Pace. Eighteen years later, Evers returned to the Meadowlands, this time he left a champion thanks to Monte Miki.

Battling the wind and rain, Monte Miki held off a late charge by Gulf Shores to win the \$600,000 Breeders Crown by less than a nose.

When the field left the gate, Gulf Shores and Yannick Gingras went for the lead, followed closely by Monte Miki and Scott Zeron. Zeron pulled to take the lead following a 27.4 first quarter.

Monte Miki continued to lead down the back stretch with Gulf Shores sitting just off the pace. Beach Glass sat third with Pebble Beach fourth as they headed to the three-quarter pole.

Beach Glass pulled alongside Monte Miki as the field rounded the final turn. As they hit the top of the stretch, Monte Miki led by a head with Gulf Shores dipping to the inside and Beach Glass and Pebble Beach bearing down the middle of the track.

With an eighth of a mile left, Monte Miki and Gulf Shores battled stride for stride to the wire. Gulf Shores appeared to put his nose in front, but at the wire, Monte Miki got up for the win.

The win marked the fourth Breeders Crown championship for Zeron who said Monte Miki never relinquished the lead. "It might have looked like that on TV, but he never really got his nose past us. This horse fights like crazy. I never work when he's up there."

Zeron says Monte Miki is eager for competition and once he sees another horse, he's really game.

In 2003, Evers drove Art's Chip in the race, this time he watched with his wife Sylvia Norris.

Entering the race, Evers was confident he had the horse to win but even then, you need racing luck. "You have to have some things go your way. It doesn't take much to get you beat. It worked out; Scott gave him a great trip."

Evers says he gives a lot of credit to Monte Miki. "He just doesn't want to let a horse get by him when he is on the front."

"His races are an emotional rollercoaster, you know," Evers told Harness Racing Update. "It feels great. It feels good for my wife."

"When we were in the winner's circle, she had that big bundle of roses that was as big as she was and holding the trophy. That was a pretty good feeling. She was grinning ear to ear."

Evers says his wife really loves the horses. "She's been with us for the whole deal. She helps take care of them and does all the business."

The business, Velocity Standbreds, is based in Lebanon, Ohio, and the breeder of Monte Miki. The homebred is the first foal out of the Camluck mare Montenegro. Velocity Standardbred purchased the mare out of the Harrisburg sale. "We raced against her all the time at Hoosier Park," said Evers. "Eventually they retired her and sent her through Harrisburg, and we made the trip up there and picked her up."

Evers said coming off the track Montenegro didn't cycle properly so they waited a year before breeding her to Always B Miki.

As a yearling, Evers says they thought they had something special. "He had the look as a yearling. He looked better than the other horses we were raising. With his mom's pedigree and his father's pedigree, that together and the way he looked, we always thought he was going to be nice."

Monte Miki's debut at Eldorado Scioto Downs was successful, winning by three lengths in 1:55. "We wanted to make sure he was good and tight and ready to go," said Evers. "We had trained him in :58 a few times on the farm before taking him to qualify."



The Monte Miki winners circle celebration **Photo:** Lisa Photo



(L to R) Mark Evers, Scott Zeron, Sylvia Norris and Matt Bax, Central Ontario Standardbred Association Secretary/Treasurer with the Breeders Crown trophy **Photo:** Mark Hall USTA

The next start was also a win for Monte Miki, but then the colt got sick forcing a six-week layoff.

Once back on the track, Monte Miki picked up where he left off. He won again at Scioto Downs in 1:52.

“We were pointing to the Metro in Canada, but prior to that they had short fields in Pennsylvania for the sire stakes. I thought even if I caught the last leg I could get to the final if I won it.” Evers says just prior to the :52 mile, Monte Mike got sick. “We didn’t get to go to the sires, so the next race was the Metro and that’s where we aimed him.”

Monte Miki was an unlikely winner of the \$650,000 Metro. He drew post 11 and started from the second tier. Sitting 10th heading down the back stretch, Evers was not feeling too confident. “Going down the backside I didn’t think he was going to get anything and then Scott went to the inside and a horse made a break and the waves parted and he got through.”

Zeron weaved through the field and went four-wide around the final turn and with a burst of speed got up to win.

Evers said they were planning to go to Lexington for the Bluegrass, but when the horse got back from Canada, he was a little tired, so they took a week off before heading to Kentucky for the International.

Monte Miki worked his way to the lead, before fading down the stretch and finishing third, the only blemish on his record this year.

The horse rebounded the next week in the Breeders Crown elimination winning by a head in 1:50.4.

Monte Miki ends the 2021 campaign with six wins in seven starts and \$665,276. “His season is over,” says Evers. “He gets to go out every morning and spend the day outside.”

Evers says the plan is to give him six to eight weeks off and bring him back and go from there. “He’s eligible to everything, well have to pick our spots since we can’t go to every dance,” says Evers.

One dance that Monte Miki is eligible for is the Little Brown Jug.

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BREEDERS CROWN OHIO RECAP

Ohio was well represented at the 2021 Breeders Crown at the Meadowlands. Twenty-four horses either bred in Ohio, owned, or trained in Ohio started.

Joe Sbrocco of Brecksville, Ohio partially owned six of the entries, all two-year-olds, while Country Club Acres of Findlay, Ohio partially had part ownership of four two-year-olds, three of them with Sbrocco.

Two-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Trot

The first chance for Sbrocco to capture a Breeders Crown championship was in the Two-Year-Old Colt Trot. Sbrocco co-owns part of Fast As The Wind and Testing Testing. Starting from tenth post position, Fast As The Wind was parked most of the race, making a late move down the stretch. Fast As The Wind grabbed the lead but was nipped at the wire by Rebuff. Testing Testing finished fifth.

Two-year-Old Filly Pace

Sbrocco's next chance came in the Two-year-Old-Filly Pace. Sbrocco, a co-owner of Galleria Hanover watched the longest shot on the board finish sixth.

Ohio-bred Sea Silk made it back-to-back second place finishes for Ohio. Owned in part by Knox Services of Mt. Vernon, Ohio and Hatfield Stable of Columbus, Ohio, the daughter of Downbytheseaside started from the tenth post position. Chris Page worked Sea Silk through the field to finish second.

Two-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Pace

Over half the field of the Two-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Pace was represented by horses with Ohio connections. Four of the horses are partly owned by Country Club Acres while three are partially owned by Sbrocco. Three of the freshman colts are trained by Brian Brown.

The winner, Monte Miki is owned by Velocity Standardbreds of Lebanon, Ohio and trained by Mark Evers. Monte Miki outdueled Ohio-bred Gulf Shores down the stretch to claim the championship. Finishing third, a length and a quarter back, was Ohio-bred Pebble Beach.

Gulf Shores by Downbytheseaside is trained by Brown and is owned in part by Country Club Acres, Wingfield Brothers LLC of Kenton, Ohio and was bred at Sugar Valley Farm in Delaware, Ohio.

Pebble Beach, also sired by Downbytheseaside, is also owned in part by Country Club Acres and Sbrocco.

Also in the race was Six Feet Apart which is trained by Brown. Six Feet Apart is owned by Michael Robinson of Lewis Center, Ohio, Robert Mondillo of Delaware, David Meola of Powell and Rich Lombardo Racing of Solon, Ohio.

The third Brown trainee in the race was Gentle Giant which is also partially owned by Country Club Acres and Sbrocco. Acadia Farms of Canfield, Ohio and In The Gym & Lombardo Racing of Solon also own

a part of Gentle Giant. Chris Page drove Gentle Giant.

The final horse in the race with Ohio connections was I Did It Myway, which is owned in part by Country Club Acres, Sbrocco and Don Latore of Moreland Hills, Ohio.

Three-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Pace

The Three-Year-Old Colt Pace saw five horses with Ohio connections make the final field of ten.

Ohio-bred Charlie May was hoping to put the final stamp on the 2021 season but came up short losing by a length to rival Perfect Sting. The son of McArdle with Brett Miller grabbed the lead just past the quarter pole and led until being passed late in the stretch. Charlie May is trained by Steve Carter.

Chase H Hanover finished third for trainer and co-owner Scott Cox of Streetsboro, Ohio and co-owner Jason Ash of Delaware, Ohio.

Also in the race were Heart of Chewbacca, Ill Drink To That, and Southwind Gendry.

Heart of Chewbacca, an Ohio-bred by Bring On The Beach, is co-owned by Dennis Owens of Hamilton, Ohio and Norman Rae Racing LLC of Xenia, Ohio. Trained by Christi Noble and driven by Dan Noble, Heart of Chewbacca was bred at Spring Haven Farm in Utica, Ohio.

Ill Drink To That and Southwind Gendry were both co-owned by Ohio entities.

Robert Mondillo of Delaware, Ohio is a co-owner of Ill Drink To That while Knox Services has an ownership stake in Southwind Gendry.

Three-year-Old Filly Trot

Ohio had one representative in the Three-Year-Old Filly Trot, Ohio-bred Herculisa. The daughter of My MVP, trained by Virgil Morgan Jr. and driven by Brett Miller, finished fourth. She was bred by Sugar Valley Farm.

Mare Trot

A pair of Ohio-breds, Refined and Weslynn Quest, represented the Buckeye state in the Mare Trot.

Refined, the daughter of Uncle Peter, is owned by Joyce McClelland of Zanesville, Ohio and Larry Wills of Columbus, Ohio. Morgan trains the five-year-old mare, while Miller does the driving.

Weslynn Quest is also five years old. She was sired by Manofmanymissions.

Open Trot

Three with Ohio connections were entered in the Open Trot.

Ready For Moni, owned in part by the Hatfield Stable, grabbed the lead at the three-quarter pole and led down the stretch but was passed and finished third.

Ohio-bred It's Academic, the Uncle Peter colt, challenged early, but finished fifth. It's Academic was bred at GBW Breeding Farms in Findlay, Ohio.

Majestic Player A with Brett Miller driving is co-owned by Jeff Fought Racing of Columbus, Ohio.

Open Pace

The final race of the 2021 Breeders Crown saw three more Ohio connected horse go to the gate.

Ohio-bred, owned, and trained Ocean Rock closed the curtain winning the Open Pace by a neck for owner and breeder Sandra Burnett of Wilmington, Ohio. Ocean Rock

is trained by Christi Noble and driven by Dan Noble.

Also representing the Buckeye State was Catch The Fire. Owned by Black Magic Racing LLC of Blacklick, Ohio and CT Stables of Washington Court House, Ohio, Catch The Fire started from the ninth post position and finished fifth. Catch The Fire is trained by Todd Luther.

Workin Ona Mystery, the other Ohio representative, is owned in part by Milton Leeman of Columbus, Ohio and the Wingfield Brothers LLC.

Page and Miller each picked up an additional drive in the Breeders Crown. Page drove Drama Act in the Mare Pace, while Miller drove Mackie Hanover in the three-year-old filly pace.

Seven of the 12 Breeders Crown Races had Ohio connections. When the dust settled, Two champions, four runner ups, and three third place finishers had ties to the Buckeye state.

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OCRA HOSTS 88th ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

The Ohio Colt Racing Association (OCRA) hosted nearly 100 people for its 88th Annual Awards Dinner at the Champaign County Fairgrounds in Urbana on October 31.

The evening included the OCRA business meeting, a social hour, and dinner provided by The Farmer's Pantry of Washington Court House, and awards ceremony with Emcee Mike Woebkenberg.

The OCRA is comprised of 19 county fair racing programs in Southwest Ohio. Organizational officers are President Dr. Robert Schwartz, Vice President Dennis Fricke, and Secretary/Treasurer Lisa Schwartz.

The top 2-year-old colt pacer in the OCRA went to Willydoitagain for trainer Dan

The 2-year-old filly pacer of the year was awarded to Ol Little Shift. The Western Vintage filly hit the board in 12 of 15 races, winning seven and earning \$26,851 for trainer - owner Greg Smith.

Crown Creation secured the 2-year-old filly trotting title for trainer Mark Winters and



Trainer Scott Ferguson and owner Brendan Toops accept the 2-year-old Parshall for Western Ready

The Jason Brewer trainee Leaping Legend captured the 3-year-old trotting colt title for owner James W. Fleming. The Uncle Peter colt won seven races, earning \$29,266.

Apple Soozy secured her spot as the 3-year-old filly pace champion for the O'Mara-Polhamus partnership. Sired by Mr Apples, Apple Soozy was a four-time winner, earning \$23,231.

Broknheartsville rounded out the OCRA division championships as the three-year-old filly trotting champion. Trained by Keith Kash, Jr., the Triumphant Caviar filly won nine times for owners Matthew Morrison and Neil Balcerak, earning \$39,656.

The OCRA sponsors the Dr. H.M. Parshall Memorial Stakes held annually at the Darke County Fair. Named in the memory of "Doc", the Stakes honor the two-time Hambletonian winning trainer. The fastest division winner is crowned with the overall title.

Western Ready was the 2-year-old pace winner. Scott Ferguson trains the son of Western Vintage for owner Brendan Toops.



Willydoitagain captured the OCRA's 2-year-old colt pacing top award for owner Margie Polhamus and driver Scott Cisco

O'Mara and owner Marjorie Polhamus. The homebred gelded son of Domethatagain won 10 of 16 races and earned \$48,673

Mr Steele took the 2-year-old colt trot division award, winning five races this year and earning \$26,171. The Long Tom colt is trained and owned by Roger Hughes, Jr.

owner Benjamin Black. The daughter of Creatine won 10 times this year and earned \$54,784.

In the 3-year-old division, King's Cruiser was the top pacing colt winning 12 times and finishing in the top three in 19 of 23 races for owner Mark S. Ater and trainer Jeff Nisonger. The son of Yankee Cruiser earned \$81,109 in 2021.



Signature Series Vice President Wade Flory presents the LeVan family with trotting honors for Team L



Brad Conrad accepts the Dr. H.D. Schoonover Award in memory of his father Barry from OCRA Secretary/Treasurer Lisa Schwartz and President Dr. Robert Schwartz.

Trevor Smith drove Western Ready to the victory in 1:56.

The 2-year-old trot went to Shamrock of the Miller Racing Stable. Trained by Ryan Miller and driven by Kayne Kauffman, the Uncle Peter colt set a new stakes record in 2:01.1.

Miller also trained the 3-year-old trot winner, Fire Cross. Kauffman also had the lines, winning in 2:00. The son of Triumphant Caviar is owned by Miller Racing Stable, Horseplay Racing Stable, Melinda Hayes, and Darmofal Racing.

Sectionlinetwister took the three-year-old pace in 1:56.2. Ron Gillespie drove the Well Said gelding for trainer Steve Bauder who co-owns with Harold L. Bauder.

Honorable mention went to Madame Madelyn (2FT), My Guy Wrapsitup (2CT), Morning Sunrise (2FP), Willydoitagain (2CP), Four Under Par (3FT), and Jk's Champ (3CP) for winning their divisions.

The top awards in the Signature Series were presented by Randy Haines, President of the Signature Series and Vice President

Wade Flory. The Signature Series is a late closer race for 4-year-olds and up, held at 30 fairs across the four Ohio fair racing circuits. The top eight advance to the finals at the Delaware County Fair.

The top point recipient for pacers was Toureg Seelster. Owned by Myron Koester and trainer Phil Groves, the 8-year-old son of Shadow Play was awarded with \$3,000. The Kent Wilcox owned, and trained Western's Last Gun was second winning \$2,000 and Signature Series Pace Final winner at Delaware Rose Run Ulysses was third and won \$1,000 for owner-trainer Kim Dailey.

There was a two-way tie for the top trotter. Workintonbroadway and Team L each received \$2,500 as the top point earners. Workintonbroadway, winner of the Signature Series Trot Final, is trained by Brewer for owner James W. Fleming, while Team L is trained by Hank LeVan while owned by LeVan Stables and Rosemary LeVan. The 3rd place bonus recipient was Bold Strategy which is trained by Edward Miller for owners Rebecca Sugg, Watson Racing Stable, and Mary Stucky.

The Dr. H.D. Schoonover Award is awarded in the memory of Hobart "Doc" Schoonover, a veterinarian by trade, but trainer and driver by passion. Presented by Sandy Schoonover and Sharon Wyant, the award goes to a lover of Ohio harness racing with a passion for teaching and participating on the county fair level. The recipient of the 2021 award is longtime track photographer, the late Barry Conrad. Barry's son Brad accepted the award on behalf of his father. "Dad loved racing and taught me to love it as well. His mission was to provide the best, most professional service to the owners, trainers, grooms, racetracks, fairs, and anyone else involved with racing."

The final awards of the evening were presented to the top driver and trainer on the Ohio Colt Racing Association Circuit. Jeff Nisonger was in the bike for 52 wins to take the title, while Dan O'Mara harness 23 winners to take the training title.

Photo Credit: Brad Conrad



EXCITING NEWS FOR THE NEW YEAR

We are proud to announce that Eldorado Gaming Scioto Downs will be developing a new \$20 Million trackside grandstand designed to showcase the races on its iconic track.

At 30,000 square-feet, the new grandstands will feature 768 stadium seats on the main level, an additional 280 seats on the terrace and apron, and two VIP suites on the top level to comfortably accommodate up to 130 guests that will offer a variety of exclusive menu options.

Scioto Downs originally debuted in October, 1959 with more than 7,000 fans in attendance. The following years would bring a new Clubhouse and welcome several community events. Their continued growth evolved to include the gaming facility added in 2012, and now the much-anticipated grandstand reconstruction to keep spectators entertained for many more years to come!



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HUSTON TO REDUCE ROLE WITH OHHA

By Frank Fraas

Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association Brand Ambassador Roger Huston will be reducing his role with the organization to spend more time with his family. The 79-year-old Huston has been the OHHA's Brand Ambassador since November of 2019.

"These past two years have been a big part of my life as I was able to return to Ohio where it all began in 1960, said Huston. "The only reason I am leaving is to be closer to my family in Pennsylvania. I look forward to continuing with the OHHA in some form in 2022. Be There!"

Huston says he has enjoyed being a part of the association's coverage of county fair racing across Ohio. "At the time I didn't realize how much of my time would be spent at the County Fairs. This unexpected happening added to that enjoyment of returning to Ohio as Brand Ambassador."

Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association Executive Director Renee Mancino says there are plans for Huston to continue promoting Ohio racing. "As an industry legend, we appreciate the impact Roger brought with him and his contribution as a full-time team member to our Outreach and PR efforts. We will miss Roger on a full-time basis, but understand the difficulty he had being away from his beloved family in Pennsylvania, and know even part-time with us, his impact will be great. We wish him the very best in his return to devote his full-time efforts to his family."

OHHA President Steve Bateson said it has been a pleasure to work with Huston the past two years. "I feel honored to have had the opportunity to work with Roger, and to continue to work with him in the future," said OHHA President Steve Bateson. "Roger Huston has certainly "been there" for the Ohio Harness Horsemen Association as our brand ambassador. His brand will long live with the OHHA."

Huston is expected to continue assisting the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association with its coverage of Ohio county fair racing and special projects moving forward. "I will still be doing things, but it won't be eight hours a day," said Huston.

Huston says he will enjoy spending more time with his granddaughters Regan and Kinsley and says he, "might start jogging horses again." He also plans to continue announcing. "I will be filling in for Barry Vicroy at Dayton and Miami Valley occasionally and I'll be doing some announcing at The Meadows as well."



Be There!

BY ROGER E. HUSTON

With the announcement of my reduced role with the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association I want to make one thing perfectly clear. I doubt that you will even notice the reduction. The only difference to me is that I will be living in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, where I resided for 44 years before moving to Grove City to be your Brand Ambassador. I will still be doing almost everything that I have been doing for the past two glorious years.

Coming back to Ohio was a dream come true. It was a chance to return to my roots of Ohio racing where it all began as a county fair announcer in 1960.

That life blossomed in the next sixty years with stops in Florida, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania. Given the opportunity by Steve Bateson to return to Ohio in November of 2019 and work for people I had known most of my life in an industry that we love so much, was like the whip cream on strawberry shortcake.

It was a totally different role for me but one I looked forward to. As an announcer I was always away from the action so to speak. I

knew people by name but had never really met them. So many owners and even drivers that I would see in the winner's circle or driving a race, I had never actually met in person. I have no idea how many times in the past two years I would introduce myself to people that I had known for years but never really met.

The only hard thing about this job was that I was away from my immediate family. I am one of the few people that put harness racing number one and family number two. My daughter Nevele understood and accepted this. When she moved to New York to work at Tioga Downs, things started to change so much that I would go there to call races on the weekend just to see her and her husband Dustin. When my granddaughter Regan was born, they moved back to Canonsburg to be with Family.

I thought I could handle the move to Ohio but as the time passed, being away from them became so hard. I was missing birthdays and other special events in the lives of my two granddaughters, Regan and Kinsley. As I grew older this got harder and harder.

In my new reduced role, I will be returning to the land of my birth on numerous occasions to work with the OHHA team on special projects, county fair broadcast and other special events. I will continue to announce at several fairs that I have worked at in years past and maybe even a few new ones that I add to my schedule as well.

One other thing I want to touch on was this year's trip to the Meadowlands for the Breeders Crown. I want to thank Jason Settlemoir and John Campbell for giving me the opportunity to call four of the twelve races. Since I was not in the announcer's booth all the time, I had a chance to schmooze with so many other Buckeyes in attendance.

It was so fitting that the very first person I saw was Amy Hollar. We got our normal picture together and then I continued to see many others such as the Wingfield brothers, Joe Sbrocco, Joe McLead, Chris Page, Jason Settlemoir, Wendy Ross, Mike Tanner, Mark Hall, Scott Cox, Dennis Owens, Dick McClelland and many others as the list could go on and on.



This was the year of the Ohio invasion for the Breeders Crown, which speaks volumes for Ohio harness racing. Twenty-four horses competing of which ten were Ohio sired and others owned or partially owned, trained or driven by Buckeyes.

Rain on Friday night stopped me from going to the winner's circle for Monte Miki and trainer Mark Evers and the owner, Velocity Standardbreds. But I was so happy to have an Ohio owned and trained horse get the win in the 2-year-old Breeders crown. What made it even more special was the added excitement of the stretch battle with Gulf Shores who was also partially owned by Country Club Acres and Wingfield Brothers and trained by Brian Brown, all from Ohio.

I must admit though, the win by Ocean Rock in the Open Pace Breeders Crown was the highlight of the weekend for me. It meant so much for owner Sandra Burnett, trainer Christi Noble, driver Dan Noble, and the connections of the Ohio sire Rockin Amadeus.

My entire harness racing life has been connected to the Noble Family. Sam Sr., Bruz, Chip, Dan, and Kolten, five generations of Nobles. I have announced many races over the years that these drivers have competed with others in Ohio. I want to thank Jim Burnett for inviting me to share their big day in the acceptance of the trophy. Also, to owner Sandra Burnett who has had horses with the Noble's dating back to when Chip was 19 years old.

I would be amiss if I didn't single out Frank Fraas, Outreach and Public Relations Coordinator for the OHHA. Frank has been the most outstanding person I have worked with for these 62 years in the business. Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks? Frank has been so helpful these past two years in getting me to take on projects that I wasn't accustomed to do, many things with a computer and features such as Freshmen Focus. Many thanks to Frank, my educator and now one of my best friends.



Until next time. Be There!

OHHA Awards 11 Scholarships

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association is awarding eleven scholarships, totaling \$15,000, to college and postgraduate students for the 2021-2022 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: Jarrett Bateson, Amy Corfman, Lauren Lane, Jordan Materni, Morgan Materni, Brady Mueller, Nicholas Nappi, Aubrey Schwartz, Brett Sugg, Brooke Sugg, and Meadow Twaddle.

Jarrett Bateson of Toledo, Ohio, is a graduate of Whitmer High School and is currently attending Owens Community College. He is the son of Greg and Robyn Bateson.

Bateson says his parents met when his mother was an EMT and his father was injured in a racing accident. "Not only was I born from an event within harness racing, but I was raised within the industry."



Amy Corfman of Fremont, Ohio is a graduate of Old Fort High School and is currently attending Heidelberg University and majoring in music education. She is the daughter of Daniel and Fyanne Corfman.

Corfman says she is inspired to be a fantastic music teacher like her father. She says by staying close to home she will be able to help with the family horses especially while they are racing. "My sister and I are my father's grooms. We help take care of the horses and do the dirty work while he is on the track."

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 has been accepted to the Dental Hygiene Pre-Program.

"My parents have stressed the importance of being a well-rounded adult through academics, athletics and throughout the community," says Lane. She says participating in 4-H community service projects like clothing and food drives have been very rewarding.



Jordan Materni of Mason, Ohio is the daughter of Jeff and Dawn Materni and is a graduate of William Mason High School. Jordan is currently attending Miami University majoring in middle childhood education with concentrations in math and social studies. She plans to pursue her masters degree and then push herself to receive her PHD.

Materni says her goal as an educator is to create lifelong learners. "I want my students to continue their education and keep asking questions. I want to learn as much from my students as they will learn from me."

Jordan's sister Morgan is also a recipient of an OHHA scholarship. Morgan is currently attending the University of South Carolina majoring in Public Health with a goal of being a Physician's Assistant.

Materni says her family became involved in the industry after learning about it from a soccer teammate's family. "My dad began asking questions that helped us all gain an understanding about horses and the harness racing industry," said Materni. She says horse racing has become a passion for her father and by watching him she learned that investing time into a passion is an important part of having a balanced life.

Brady Mueller of Huron, Ohio is the son of Gregory and Dana Mueller. Brady is a grad-



uate of St. Edward High School and is attending the University of Tennessee seeking a degree in accounting. He plans to get his masters degree and become a certified public accountant.

"My long-term life goals is to one day be able to give back to the people and community that made me who I am today," said Mueller.



Nicholas Nappi of Geneva, Ohio, is daughter of Robert Nappi and Bridgett MacMichael. Nicholas is a graduate of Geneva High School and is currently attending Kent State University.

Nappi is planning a career in teaching and says helping his father with Standardbred racehorses has taught him about hard work and determination. "Harness racing has meant many hours of family time spent working together. This was time well spent," said Nappi.



Aubrey Schwartz of Washington Court House, Ohio is the daughter of Bret and Robin Schwartz and is a graduate of Miami Trace High School. She is currently enrolled at Wilmington College with a

double major in Agriculture and Education, and a minor in Political Science.

Schwartz says she hopes to teach agriculture at a high school as well as being a Future Farmers of America advisor. "My family's history in harness racing has been one of the most influential things in my life."

Brett Sugg of Deshler, Ohio is a graduate of Patrick Henry High School and is attending



the University of Toledo in the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science. He is the son of Duke and Lisa Sugg.

Sugg says the harness racing industry has been a positive influence because it

has made him a stronger and smarter person. "It has taught me many lessons about life and how it will knock you down time and time again, but you must never stop getting back up to achieve success."

Sugg's sister Brooke is also a recipient of an OHHA scholarship. Brooke is current-



ly enrolled at Bowling Green State University studying Dietetics pursuing a career as a Registered Dietician.

Sugg says her passion for academics and volunteer work is what

motivates her. "I hope to help those in need and change their lives for the better through my career."

Meadow Twaddle of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania is a graduate of Canon-McMillan High School and is attending Washington and Jefferson College studying to become



a Physician Assistant. She is the daughter of Timothy and Sophia Twaddle.

Twaddle's family has been in harness racing industry for over 30 years. She says the industry

has taught her that even the smallest jobs are meaningful, "It has taught me patience, dedication and how rewarding hard work can be."

Photos unavailable for Jarrett Bateson and Morgan Materni

VERSA STAR STABLE WINS FANTASY RACING LEAGUE

BY ASHLEY DAILEY

Breeders Crown champion Ocean Rock and runner-up Gulf Shores lifted Versa Star Stable to the top of the standings of the 5th Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association Fantasy Racing League. Versa Star Stable earned over \$2.4 million dollars to edge out VIP Ohio Stable which also bankrolled over two-million dollars.

Competitors created fantasy stables consisting of six horses from a pre-determined list supplied by the OHHA. The free contest ran from June 1 through the Breeders Crown finals. The winning stable was determined by total season earnings.

In addition to Ocean Rock and Gulf Shores, Versa Star Stable line-up also included This Is The Plan, Manchego, and Cattlewash.

Rounding out the top five behind Versa Star Stable and VIP Ohio Stable, were Gabe's Racers, Lone Maple Stable, and Big Shot Stables.

Versa Star Stable will receive the grand prize of \$2,500 and one share in a 2022 fractional ownership. VIP Ohio will take home \$1,000 while Gabe's Racers receives \$750. Lone Maple Stable wins \$500 with Big Shot Stables winning \$250.

Gabe's Racers will receive a \$1,000 bonus for having the highest bankroll among Ohio sired horses. The \$1.8 million dollar earning

stable included Be My Baby Now, Celebrate With Me, Charlie May, Cruzinbytheseaside, Heart of Chewbacca, and Ocean Rock.

The Return-On-Investment prize for the Ohio sired yearling sold at public action that produced the biggest return on initial cost will be split between six stables. Binkdog Stables, Puffy Hollow, Purple "G" Racing Stable, Tim's Top Picks, Vera Star Stable, and VIP Ohio Stable all had Gulf Shores on their rosters. The Downbytheseaside colt was purchased for \$100,000 and earned \$493,967 in his freshman year, producing a 393.97% ROI.

The final monthly prize for October will be split between 163 stables that had an Ohio bred horse race in the Breeders Crown Finals. Charlie May, Gulf Shores, Heart Of Chewbacca,

Herculisa, It's Academic, Ocean Rock, and Pebble Beach competed at the Meadowlands on Halloween weekend. The stables will split \$1,600.

A record of 172 fantasy stables participated with 265 horses selected. Competitors were spread across 16 states and Canada.



ATTENTION STALLION OWNERS & BREEDERS

Nominate Your Stallion by January 15 to Make Foals Eligible
To The Sport's Most Prestigious Program



BREEDERS CROWN No. 39 FOR FOALS OF 2023

TOTAL ESTIMATED VALUE – \$6,000,000

STALLION NOMINATION FEE: Due and payable Jan. 15, 2022, in the amount of the advertised stud fee for the 2022 breeding season (\$500 U.S. funds minimum,) plus an additional surcharge as indicated below, provided, however, that for first-year stallions placed in commercial service (which would not include test breedings) after Jan.15, the nomination must be paid within 60 days after the stallion first breeds a mare. In no event will any stallion nomination fee be accepted after Dec. 31, 2022. The Hambletonian Society reserves the right to determine the stallion nomination fee of those stallions whose 2022 service is advertised as private treaty, or if the amount of the fee is not advertised. This payment covers 2022 matings (foals of 2023).

In addition to the 2022 service fee, the amount of the stallion nomination fee must include a surcharge as follows:

a) For stallions that stand for a fee from US\$3,000 to \$5,999 (or \$3,711 CAD (Canadian Dollars) to \$7,421 CAD), an additional amount equal to 40% of 2022 service fee must be paid;

b) For stallions that stand for a fee from US\$6,000 to \$9,999 (or \$7,422 CAD to \$12,369 CAD), an additional amount equal to 75% of 2022 service fee must be paid;

c) For stallions that stand for a fee of US\$10,000 (\$12,370 CAD), or more, an additional amount equal to **200%** of 2022 service fee must be paid.

For stallions that stand for a service fee of less than US\$3,000 (or \$3,711 CAD), no additional surcharge is necessary for nomination.

Note: To determine the surcharge in other than U.S. funds, the November 1, 2021 exchange rate is used; a rate of \$1.237 CAD per US\$.

Stallion nominations for other than first-year stallions that are postmarked after January 15, 2022, but on or before Dec. 31, 2022, will be accepted upon payment of an additional penalty amount equal to 50% of the above stallion nomination fee (including the above surcharge). Likewise, stallion nominations for first-year stallions that are postmarked after the above 60-day deadline, but on or before Dec. 31, 2022, will be accepted upon payment of an additional amount equal to 50% of the above stallion nomination fee (including the above surcharge).

Any payment on a stallion that does not commercially conceive a foal or breed a mare by any means during the entire 2022 breeding season may be refunded, provided, however, that it shall be the obligation of the stallion nominator to notify the Society in writing of any request for refund by Dec. 31, 2022.

Moreover, if a nominated stallion does not breed more than twenty (20) mares in 2022 or produce more than fifteen (15) registered foals in 2023, up to 50% of the stallion nomination fee may be refunded, provided, however, that it shall be the obligation of the stallion nominator to notify the Society in writing of any request for adjustment by Dec. 31, 2022 (mares bred) or by Dec. 31, 2023 (registered foals). No stallion nomination fee will be reduced to less than \$500.00 U.S. funds.

Any payment on a North American stallion that has been nominated by Jan. 15, 2022, and is subsequently exported prior to Feb.15, 2022 and that does not commercially breed a mare in North America by any means during the entire 2022 breeding season, may be refunded, provided, however, that it shall be the obligation of the stallion nominator to notify the Society in writing of any request for refund by Dec. 31, 2022. With the exception of supplemental nominations or declarations as provided in the conditions, foals of 2023 by a stallion for which the above nomination fee has been refunded will be ineligible to the Breeders Crown unless an additional amount equal to the amount of the refund is paid.

Except as provided above, stallion nomination fees shall not be refunded.

Stallion payments may be made in the local currency of the nation in which the stallion stands, or in equivalent U.S. funds (\$500 U.S. funds minimum).

Conditions for nominating yearlings will be published in the *USTA Stakes & Futurities Nomination Book*. Specific conditions for the races for which these foals are eligible will be published in the *USTA Stakes Guide* in the year of the races. The Hambletonian Society reserves the right to add to, amend or delete the conditions of all or any part of the Breeders Crown program, without liability. *For more information contact: The Hambletonian Society at (609)371-2211 or www.hambletonian.com*

BREEDERS CROWN STALLION No. 39 NOMINATION BLANK

Name of Stallion _____ Age/Foal of _____ 2022 Service Fee _____

Sire _____ Dam _____ Sire of Dam _____

Farm _____ State/Province _____

Owner(s) _____

Please check [✓]: [] In-production stallion (by Jan. 15, 2022) [] With penalty (additional 50% after Jan. 15, 2022)

[] First-season stallion (within 60 days of 1st cover) [] First-season with penalty (additional 50% after 60 days)

The Stallion Nomination Fee is the amount of the 2022 Service Fee plus the above surcharge for fees \$3,000 US (\$3,711 CAD) or over

2022 Service Fee _____ + Surcharge (%) _____ = Nomination Fee enclosed: _____

20 questions with **Trevor Smith**

BY ROGER HUSTON

What is your first recollection of horses in your life?

I was so young, pictures on the wall, in the barn and knowing that horses were what kept my parents going, that's what they did for a living.

Did you have a horse when you were young?

I got a quarter horse when I was nine and he would follow me around like a big dog. When I was 10, I entered the Open Class Show for 19 and younger and won.

What was your first remembrance of harness racing?

It was Tyler (Trevor's older brother) when he won a race in 1:59 and he was the youngest to do that. I was so young, Tyler got there in his parachute colors. It was a great day.

As a youngster what did you want to do in life?

I saw how tough the business was, but I had a knack for sports which I loved. It was easier for me to do kid's stuff rather than working in the barn. My parents wanted me to stay with sports. In Junior High I played basketball, football, and baseball but in high school I loved basketball.

What about College?

My mom wanted me to get a college education and play basketball. I went to nearby Wright State, but basketball was no longer an option as I broke my leg in high school. It was an eight-inch spiral fracture from my mid-shin to my ankle. I didn't go to rehab so the result was I couldn't run as fast or jump as high anymore.

Did you graduate from college?

There were a lot of things going on with the family. It was about the time my Uncle Brad Hanners died, and my dad had his brain tumor. Tyler was begging me to come back and help with the horses. I was lost with no direction, so I quit school.

What was it like to start driving?

My first qualifier was at Miami Valley. It felt different and I realized this is what I should be doing.

Do you remember your first win?

It was a horse my Dad trained. It was kind

of a lucky trip. I watch it now and I laugh because it is different to watch now. I kind of got lucky and was able to beat Pete Wrenn at the wire. When I look back on it now, it feels good to beat Pete Wrenn, how many wins does he have, a whole lot more than me, I know that.

Is there a correlation between basketball and racing?

There are plenty of correlations. In basketball, it is a team and in racing it is the same. The competitiveness, no one wants to lose. The fire and fight are there. I was a point guard and peripheral vision is so important. You must know what's coming from behind you and how fast they are coming. It gets you a big advantage.

Was it hard to accept defeat when driving?

Incredibly tough. Losing has always been tough. I have always worked on turning the page. It is easier in racing because of the number of races compared to one game a night.

Is there a rivalry between you and Tyler on the racetrack?

He is just like anybody else out there. I like to beat him more than any other driver and he likes to beat me as well.

Your recent win with Katie's Lucky Day in the Kentucky Futurity Filly race was your biggest thrill in racing but is there another win that sticks out?

Catch The Fire winning in 1:48. I know it was just an Open Pace, but it was different to sit behind a horse of that caliber. The amount of pressure for him to go that night was minimal for him to go that fast. It was so special.

Which is your favorite county fair?

Most definitely Delaware but a close second would be Greenville. Those two fairs are just like a major raceway. It's amazing.

What is your favorite fair food?

I have to be gluten free so it is a Lemonade Shake-Up.

What is your favorite food?

Chicken Stir Fry or Pizza with cauliflower crust and pepperoni.



Trevor Smith

What is your favorite sport to watch on television?

NFL Football.

Bengals or the Browns?

Browns all day.

What do you do outside of harness racing?

Hiking, riding bikes or riding horses. My girlfriend Morgan has a barn so any free time I ride, hit the trails, chill out and enjoy nature. I also walk my Saint Bernard. Just the normal things in life is what I enjoy.

What is on your bucket list?

I Honestly, I want to win a Sires Stake or Grand Circuit race for my dad. Being in The Little Brown Jug is also on the list. Also, drive at a track in every state.

What has your association with Greg and Todd Luther meant to you?

It rocket-launched my career in driving. They gave me opportunities with horses that they had. They put me in spots that I didn't think I was supposed to be in. They took a big risk to do it. They bought Captain Kirk and Chief Mate, they paid good money for those horses. People see that they put me up and that's a level of confidence that they had in me. I don't think I would have gotten half as many drives this year if it hadn't been for them.

OUTSTANDING GROOMS BY ASHLEY DAILEY

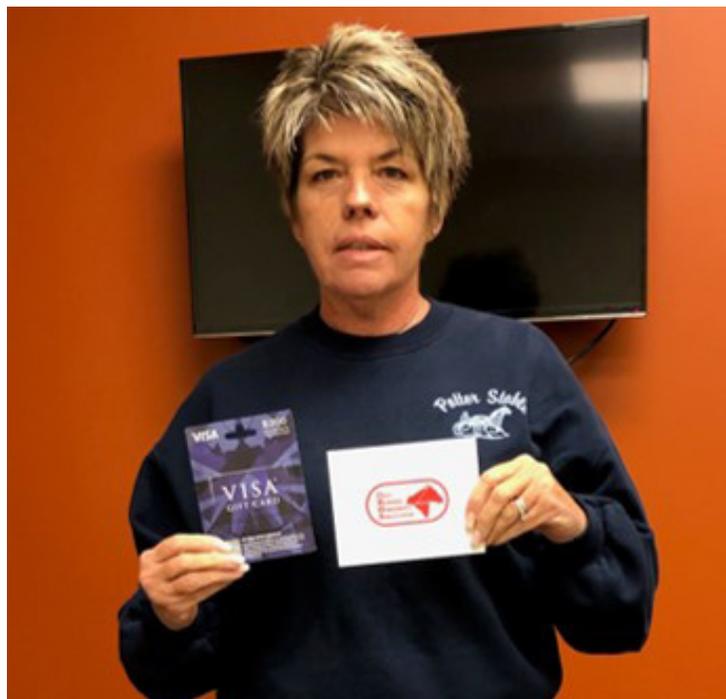
The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association would like to congratulate the Outstanding Grooms for October, **Emily Huebner and Dawn Potter**.



Emily Huebner

Huebner has spent her life around horses. She began grooming five years ago and currently works for trainer Scott Mogan where she cares for 6-8 horses daily.

Carol Cramer, who nominated Huebner for the award, describes her as a “the complete groom package” and a tremendous individual. “Not only does her great work ethic and attentiveness to horses make her deserving, but she is also a well-rounded young adult” said Cramer. Huebner is a junior at the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine.



Dawn Potter

Potter has played a major role in the Ron Potter Stable since 2004. Located at the Delaware County fairgrounds, she is credited with keeping the barn spotless and admired for her willingness to help anywhere needed. Potter says her favorite memory with the stable has been winning the Little Brown Jug with Big Bad John in 2011, but she says a gelding by the name of Carol's Comet also holds a special place in her life. Outside of the industry, Potter enjoys baking, gardening, spending time with her grandchildren, and winter training in Florida.

TEST OF FAITH Wins Courageous Lady BY AYERS RATLIFF



Test Of Faith and David Miller win the Courageous Lady **Photo:** Angela Casalinova

Test Of Faith strengthened her case for divisional Horse of the Year honors by continuing her streak of Grand Circuit victories in the \$100,000 Courageous Lady for three-year old filly pacers at MGM Northfield Park on October 16.

Test Of Faith with David Miller sat in the pocket through fractions of :26.3, :55 and 1:22.2 before tipping in the final quarter and winning by 2- 3/4 lengths in 1:50.2. The clocking ties the track record for sophomore filly pacers.

Oakwoodanabella IR with Ronnie Wren Jr. went to the lead and held the lead until passed by Test Of Faith down the stretch and finished second, Think Of Galaxies with Matt Kakaley followed the top-two the entire mile and finished third.

Brett Pelling conditions Test Of Faith for owners Melvin Segal, Kentuckiana Racing Stable and Eddie Gran.

Completing the field were Smothastenesewisky, Continualou and Summer Touch. State Of Mind was scratched sick.

The win was the 20th in 23 starts for the daughter of Art Major. Test Of Faith has now earned \$1,205,239.



2022 OHHA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Member ID # _____

(* Fields Required. Please print.)

*Name _____

*Address _____

*City _____ *State _____ *Zip _____ *County _____

*Phone _____ *Cell _____

*E-mail _____

Note: By supplying your mobile or cell phone number you will be added to the OHHA Informational Text Blast. Std. msg & data rates apply. Approx. 5 msg /month.

Active \$65 ____ Associate \$25 ____ Check here if you were a member the previous year ____

*Please check one: Owner Driver/Trainer Breeder Groom Farm Hand

*USTA# _____ *Date of Birth _____

*Check if you would like to be included in the OHHA Resource Guide and advertise your business on the OHHA Website as a public trainer or public farm.

Please note your listing as Public Trainer or Farm and any added detail you want included in the resource guide. By completing this section, you are consenting to us providing any supplied information online in Our Resource Guide. Your online listing will provide the address and contact information provided in this form for Membership. If you would like to have different information provided, or have other instructions, please include that here: _____

Full Active Membership includes free sulky coverage up to \$2,500 (wheels & discs excluded). NOTE: The sulky owner(s), driver, trainer & all owners of the horse involved must be OHHA members, sulkies must be registered, and listed on the OHHA sulky registry. Stables/Business Entities require an Associate Membership. All affiliates of any Stable/Business Entity must be full active members.

Meet The New OSRC Executive Director

CHRIS DRAGONE



Chris Dragone (Back Row fourth from right) attended Officials Continuing Education at Dayton Raceway
Photo: Susan Schroeder

The new Executive Director of the Ohio State Racing Commission has been around horse racing most of his life, albeit mainly on the thoroughbred side.

Chris Dragone grew up in Kentucky where his family was involved in the horse business. He attended Centre College in Kentucky before heading to the northeast to attend law school in Vermont.

He served as a prosecutor in Boston before taking over as the Director of Simulcasting at the Meadowlands in New Jersey. It was the first of many jobs in the horse racing industry leading him to the commission.

While at the Meadowlands he became the Director of the Day-time Operation. From there he did a stint as the General Manager at Monmouth Park, managed a thoroughbred track in Michigan and horse and dog track in Oregon for the Magna Corporation. He served as General Manager at the Maryland Jockey Club, took a position with the New York Breeders Association, went back to the Maryland Jockey Club as President and CEO and finally the Executive Director of the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in Saratoga before being named Executive Director of the Ohio State Racing Commission.

“I know it seems heavy on the thoroughbred side,” said Dragone, “but Standardbred racing is close to my heart. I started out at the Meadowlands and was there for ten years. I love the sport.”

Dragone assumed the full duties as Executive Director at the beginning of October.

As the Executive Director, he feels the health, safety, and welfare of racing participants is his number one priority. “The main concern I have first and foremost is to see that the horses and the individuals, whether they are drivers or jockeys are protected.”

As a newcomer to Ohio, Dragone gives Ohio racing a high initial grade, especially the people. “I have been very impressed with the people I’ve come across so far, whether at the USTA or the OHHA. Ohio has exceptional people. I have been so impressed with my discussions with Renee (Mancino, OHHA Executive Director). I can’t imagine a better person than Renee protecting the interest of everybody.”

Dragone says he got a firsthand look at some of those people when he attended a safety course for fair and Pari-mutual officials earlier this month. “I was at Mike Woebkenberg’s course, and I got so much out of that meeting. Mike does it because he loves the sport and I think that speaks volumes of how healthy harness racing is in Ohio.”

Part of the meeting covered head numbers, an issue that Dragone says has been discussed lately. “I expected a great deal of push back from the fair judges because of charting and the viewing from the judges stands which might be in the infield. I didn’t get a lot of that.”

Dragone says he was amazed at how professional and qualified the judges are. “They did a segment on videos and were pointing out stuff to me that I didn’t see. I watched the videos three times and still couldn’t see.”

“It was great to have a back and forth with people that are dealing with the sport on a daily basis and see some of the problems on the front line.”

Dragone has been to all the Ohio tracks except Miami Valley, which is on the schedule later this month. “My goal is to be at each track twice a month, walking the barn area, in the test barn and over on the front side.”

He feels the tracks are doing a good job but thinks in some areas they can do a little better. “The game has changed, you have a new layer added with the aspects of the casino,” said Dragone.

“When I started out at the Meadowlands there were no VLTs or slots, it was a racing venue. The people you spoke to know the sport inside and out. It’s different now, a different environment.”

Dragone says tracks must continue to market and try to recruit new people and not just people that are wagering but people that love the game and the horses.

“I know there has been a lot of talk of the undue drag on races. I look at it from two perspectives, I look at it from my perspective from the commission and the perspective from a person that used to run tracks. Things do not always go as planned.”

Dragone says he doesn't know how big of a problem it is but has heard it from some people that undue delays taking place. He says he was surprised to hear it more regarding the fairs.

"I think we have to start thinking about getting tougher with fines at the fairs to get the horses out on the track and get things going more on schedule. It seems a little looser at the fairs."

Dragone has fallen in love with the fairs, an experience he didn't have until coming to Ohio. "I love the fairs. You watch the races at the fairs and see the family involvement at the fairs that you don't always see at the commercial tracks. The elder generation along with the current generation that are racing and then you see the kids at the fair. They are all in the winners circle. They are all watching the races, It's a special time."

As with many industries, horse racing in Ohio faces challenges and Dragone is optimistic about the future and importance of racing to Ohio's economy.

"I think racing is relatively strong in Ohio, as strong as it can be with all the new competitors it is facing in the country with tech-

nology and new forms of gaming," said Dragone. "Wagering is definitely stretched when it comes to horse racing in general. Between slots, VLTs and now sports wagering, there is added competition that hasn't been in the past."

As for the importance of racing to Ohio economy, he says some people lose sight on how important it is. "You just can't look at the horses on the track, but you have to think about the training centers, the farms they come from, the green spaces that the industry provides for the entire state. Ohio benefits from the fact you have strong breeding programs in both breeds."

Dragone says he thinks Ohio racing helps protect those green spaces that he loves so much. "I know going for a drive in the Ohio countryside I don't know if you would have those wonderful farms to look at if you didn't have racing in Ohio. Not to mention the jobs it provides for people."

"I can't imagine what the state would be like without racing."

TRACK NOTES

Mandy Jones won the \$10,000 Lady Drivers Showdown at MGM Northfield Park for the second straight year. Female drivers from all over the Midwest invaded the Flying Turns to compete. Jones took Blue Spanx three-wide around the final turn and pulled away to a 8 ½ length victory in 1:54.3 for trainer Keith Kash Jr.

Ohio Harness Racing Hall of Famer Don McKirgan picked up career win 3,679 at MGM Northfield Park on October 31. The 81-year-old McKirgan was hung every step of the mile with Sweet Honey and moved three-wide at the ¾ pole winning in 1:56.2. McKirgan began his driving career in 1962. He has had 66 drives this year, winning two, and finishing second and third 10 times each.

Ronnie Wrenn Jr. closed out October with a bang. Wrenn won five races on back-to-back nights at MGM Northfield Park October 25 and 26. The following day, he won one at The Meadows and then won five at Northfield for the third straight day. Wrenn won 65 races in October.



Don McKirgan **Photo:** Raymond Lance

Whata Swan equaled the Hollywood Dayton Raceway record for older male trotters on November 4. The son of Swan For All was a winner in 1:52.3 tying the mark set by Penn and Mission Accepted.



Case Bateson **Photo:** Brad Conrad

Case Bateson picked up his first Pari-mutual win November 1 at Hollywood Dayton Raceway. The 19-year-old won five times on the fair circuit. Bateson piloted Rock N Randy V to victory in 1:54.

Hollywood Dayton has switched to a 2 PM post time on Monday afternoons through the end of the meet. Tuesday through Saturday post first race post time remains 4 PM. Special 2PM post times will be held December 21 and December 26 through closing day, December 30.

Congratulations Horsemen for a great year in Ohio

65 County and Independent Fairs • Live streams from all fairs
4 Pari-mutuel tracks • Ohio Fair Stakes • Ohio Sire Stakes
Ohio Fair Finals • Buckeye Stallion Series • Next Generation Stakes



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Breeding News

Creatine will be returning to Sugar Valley Farm in Delaware, Ohio to stand stud in 2022 after spending the 2021 season in New Zealand. "After both the success of horses like Meadowlands track record holder Jujubee and Take All Comers and the strong response to his yearlings at the Ohio Jug Sale, it only makes sense that we would bring Creatine back to Ohio for 2022," said Diamond Creeks Adam Bowden.

World Champion Guardian Angel AS will stand the 2022 breeding season at Autumn Lane Farm in Thornville, Ohio. Guardian Angel AS earned over \$1.5 million dollars during his racing career, taking a mark of 1:50.1 as a 6-year-old. The son of Archangel will be the fastest and highest money winning trotting sire standing in Ohio.



Summa Cum Laude to stand at Midland Acres

Midland Acres has added Breeders Crown champion Summa Cum Laude to its roster of stallions for 2022. The son of Somebeachsomewhere earned \$482,275 as a two-year-old and finished in a dead heat with Perfect Sting in the 2020 Breeders

Crown 2-year-Old Pace Championship. Summa Cum Laude was a \$260,000 yearling purchase at the 2019 Harrisburg Sale.

Stud fees for several Ohio sires have been announced. Down-by-theseaside's stud fee will be \$12,000, while Catch The Fire will stand for \$5,000.

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OHIO BREEDERS AWARD REQUIREMENTS

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

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Bred 2017	Grace Period, No Membership Required
Foal Born 2018	No Membership Required
Yearling 2019	No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2020, 2021	Membership Required

Mares registered in 2018 (Foals of 2019) mare registration date 11/30/18

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Foal Born 2019	Membership Required
Yearling 2020	No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2021, 2022	Membership Required

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

DAYTON CHARITY NIGHT A SUCCESS



For Love of Children-Dayton, Gala of Hope Foundation, and With God's Grace Mobile Food Pantry were the big winners at the inaugural Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association Charity Night at Hollywood Dayton Raceway.

Twenty charities participated in the event; each being paired with a horse. Each charity received a donation from the horsemen for participating, with the top three finishers receiving larger donations. First place received \$10,000, second place received \$5,000 and third place \$2,500. All other finishers received \$2,000 donations.

The first charity race had two \$10,000 winners as King Klueber, the horse paired with For Love of Children-Dayton was scratched. The charity chose East Beach with Chris Page driving as its replacement.

Page and East Beach did not disappoint his two backers as he took the lead around the final turn and pulled away winning for For Love of Children-Dayton and With God's Grace Mobile Food Pantry. Rose Run Ulysses finished second for The Foodbank, Inc. with Butter Bay Hanover taking third for the Marine Corp Toys For Tots. The other charities represented in the race were Artemis Center, Dayton Warriors Softball Fund, Fisher/Nightingale Houses, Inc., 4 Paws for Ability, Ronald McDonald House of Dayton, and Shriners Children's Ohio.

In the second charity races of the night, Ginger Tree Marty and Jason Beattie rallied down the stretch to win by three-quarters of length for the Gala of Hope Foundation. My Hero Ron finished second for Honor Flight and Beyond Delight was third for the Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center. The other charities represented in the race were Dayton Unit NAACP, Hannah's Treasure Chest, Miami Valley Down Syndrome Association, Ohio's Hospice of Dayton, Pink Ribbon Girls, Shoes 4 The Shoeless, and United Rehabilitation Services.

A total of \$71,000 was donated to the charities by the horsemen.

Photos: Brad Conrad



Thank You to our 2021 P.A.C.E.R. Contributors

OHHA Pacesetters as of 11/15/21

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Mark Ater
Autumn Lane Farm
Ernie Ayers
Case Bateson
Steve Bateson
Donald Bean
Hugh Beatty
Chris & Amanda Beaver
Charles & Johanna Beaver
Lucy Belcher
George Berlin
Andrew Betts
Dan Biddle
Brad & Lisa Bixler
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Jim Buchy
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Regularly Scheduled Meeting Recap

Wednesday, October 20, 2021 *By Renée Mancino*

Roll Call, all Commissioners in attendance except Commissioner Patmon.

In normal business for the Commission, Executive Director Chris Dragone's Report and Approval items were introduced, and the September 8, 2021 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 items and the September 8, 2021, Meeting Minutes.

The Executive Director's report items included the 2022 live racing approvals for MGM Northfield Park, Miami Valley, and Mahoning Valley's 2022 live meets. They 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. No documents were provided to those in attendance. The Racing Commission ratified all requests except approval on listed officials. The Racing Commission held approval on the collective list of officials due to on-site training for that is pending. When the training is complete, the items would be added to a future agenda.

The Racing Commission unanimously passed Resolution 2021-09, distributing casino tax revenue. Based on total revenue of \$2,584,803.97 for the third quarter of 2021 the breakdown was, \$491,112.75 each to the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund and Standardbred Development Fund for the quarter. For Standardbred racetrack purse pool support that included: Miami Valley Raceway \$105,487.33 Northfield Park \$373,531.19 Dayton Raceway \$124,742.95, and Scioto Downs \$164,928.60. Also, included in the revenue disbursement was a \$129,240.20 distribution to Miami Valley Gaming and Racing, and MGM Northfield Park as permit holders with no interest in an Ohio casino to be used for commercial operations. Also disbursed was a \$129,240.20 (5%) distribution to the Ohio State Racing Commission to pay administrative staff that support the OSDF and TRF, and costs or fees associated with, Miami Valley Gaming and Racing, Northfield Park, Belterra Park and Scioto Downs. Chairman Scott Borgemenke pointed out that the Casino Commission monies for Caesars Scioto operations will be held in escrow at the Racing Commission. They will determine in their sole discretion if the escrowed funds will be distributed to Scioto Downs.

Agenda item seven about the Caesars Scioto

Downs Grandstand. Anthony Carano - President and Chief Operating Officer Caesars Entertainment, Joe Morris - Senior Vice President of Racing Caesars Entertainment, Amy Ankerson - Senior Vice President and General Manager Caesars Scioto Downs, Jason Roth - Director of Racing Caesars Scioto Downs, and Richard Hillis - Lobbyist for Caesars Enterprise Services were present for the discussion.

SVP Joe Morris re-stated the timeline updating September's disclosure. (1) Asbestos and Lead Paint abatement. (2) Relocate site electrical located under the Grandstand area. (3) Demolition of the Grandstand and Penthouse structures. (4) Rebuild. Mr. Morris provided detail that the hazardous material abatement should be complete by November 12, 2021. Electrical relocation will follow with completion by December 2021. Demolition should be complete by the end of December 2021. The target end-date for clean-up and removal of site debris would be February 2022, with construction to follow. Mr. Morris did not provide definitive dates for construction due to the difficulty in sourcing construction materials during COVID, particularly steel. Caesars has transferred \$6 million into the capital improvements account for the project. Mr. Morris said, "best case scenario will have the new construction completed by December 2022." Chairman Scott Borgemenke asked for continual updates on supply chain issues stating the Commission, "would be diligent in overseeing the project." COO Anthony Carano followed-up that the steel for the project had been ordered, and they would provide transparency to the Commission on delivery dates. Mr. Carano further added that, "Caesars is fully committed to racing", with the intent to bring Scioto Downs back to what it was before as Ohio's showplace of racing.

If the rebuild is not completed until December 2022, Caesars said they would request commencement of the live 2022 live racing meet with an earlier 3:30 p.m. post time, because lighting would be an issue without the grandstand structure. Final track lighting to illuminate the stretch will be installed on the rooftop of the new structure. Besides an earlier post time, they sought dispensation to retain the existing temporary structure for use during racing for officials in 2022.

The new complex will have a 2,500-person capacity when Complete. The 500-seat capacity Clubhouse will remain. New will be, 750 stadium seats in the main level, an additional 200 seats on the side, and open trackside apron area that can handle 500. There will be VIP rooms on the top level on each side of the announcer's and racing officials' section. The VIP rooms capacity are 80 and 50 each. An open-air patio at the north end of the new structure can seat 286 patrons. The

Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association provided input and opined that the open seating areas at a minimum be covered adequately so they can be used in all inclement weather and for special events without the need to pay for tents.

Resolution 2021-11 the thoroughbred riding crop rule, 3769-6-60. The new rule was sent out to industry stakeholders and discussed. The proposed Rule was again discussed in last week's Racing Commission meeting. After further input, the Riding Crop Restrictions rule as amended was adopted by unanimous consent of the Racing Commission.

Consideration to approve the 2022 live racing dates for Thistledown, Belterra Park, Mahoning Valley, MGM Northfield Park, Caesars Scioto Downs, Miami Valley Gaming, and Hollywood Gaming at Dayton were discussed and considered. Discussion included the Caesars Grandstand update and lingering issues with all permit holders on items that have been persistent. Those items included public address system issues, warning sirens and strobes, emergency medical technician training and requirements among other lingering operational issues. The Racing Commission unanimously tabled consideration of the live racing dates until after discussion.

Consideration to approve Resolution 2021-10 and allow Executive Director Dragone to approve certain requests. Resolution 2021-10 delegates to and permits the Racing Commission's Executive Director to approve ministerial tasks without advance Racing Commission approval. Historically the tasks include, (A) Authorizing changes of racing officials, (B) Authorizing the uncoupling of entries, (C) Authorizing special event status, (D) Authorizing post time change, (E) Authorizing changes in wagering formats, (F) Authorizing simulcasting for specific programs before noon, (G) Authorizing approval of Host/Guest product lists and changes, (H) Authorizing extension of jockey apprentice weight, (I) Authorizing approval of fine money expenditures, (J) Authorizing change of a live race day, (K) Authorizing approval of payments to owners from purse pool for a cancelled live race day, (L) Authorizing approval for requests from an agricultural fair to waive rule 3769-15-31(B)(2), and (M) Authorizing approval of import and export product. All delegated tasks have historically been summarized and submitted to the Commission at least monthly, when the Commission would ratify. The authority to delegate expires December 31, 2022. The Racing Commission unanimously approved the Resolution.

Consideration to approve collection and settlement agents for 2022. The request was for Penn Gaming to settle and collect for Hollywood Gaming at Mahoning Valley and Dayton. MGM

Northfield would provide settlement and collection for themselves and Belterra Park. Miami Valley Gaming, Thistledown, and Caesars Scioto Downs would provide their own settlement and collection. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the requests for settlement and collection.

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. To date the report on catastrophic losses included four thoroughbreds and one standardbred. Year-to-date 2021 catastrophic losses are thirty-six thoroughbred fatalities (thirty-three racing and three training) and five racing Standardbred fatalities (all racing). Precipitated by the catastrophic loss of an aged thoroughbred maiden, aged thoroughbred maidens racing after a long layoff was discussed. The thoroughbred permit holders represented various rules prohibiting an aged maiden from racing through the condition book. The most typical rule was a prohibition on horses that haven't raced in the last two years and required a vet-check besides gate schooling requirements before being cleared to race. One suggestion was to add a blood draw to the pre-race examination before release from the vet-check.

Attorneys John Oberle (representing VICI Properties Inc.) and Patrick Madamba (Sr. VP and Legal Counsel MGM Resorts) appeared to discuss VICI Properties Inc.'s (VICI) \$17.2B strategic acquisition of MGM Growth Properties, LLC (MGP) announced August 4, 2021. Both VICI and MGP are Real Estate Investment Trusts (REIT). The acquisition would cause VICI owning the real property under the Jack Thistledown, Jack Cleveland, Hard Rock Cincinnati, and MGM Northfield properties in Ohio after acquisition. Due to the change in ownership on the land, the Ohio Lottery Commission and Ohio State Racing Commission both had to approve the acquisition. The operators of those gaming facilities (Jack, Hard Rock, and MGM) have triple net leases on the facility with the REIT for operations only. The lease payments flow to the REIT that owns the land under the facility. By law the proceeds (90%) from a REIT must pass through to the shareholders on the REIT. A REIT is a passive investor. Mr. Madamba outlined MGM Resorts as a 40% shareholder in MGM Growth Properties with the remaining investors institutional investors. After discussion Attorney Oberle (as one author on the law) gave insight on the intent of the Constitutional Amendment. The intent was to make sure there wasn't one owner on all the racetracks. At the time of drafting Mr. Oberle said there was no concept of a REIT in gaming. The goal was for a racetrack owner-operator that did not benefit from casinos to share in a portion of the 3% Racing Commission Fund from Casino

gaming for operations. Mr. Madamba represented repeatedly that the operational money being taken away from MGM Northfield due to the REIT's interest in Ohio casinos would not result in a lawsuit with MGM Resorts, "MGM Resorts would not sue their Regulator". The Racing Commission took no action tabling the discussion for further fact gathering.

There was an update to last month's discussion on a concern for health safety and welfare over Puerto Rican shipment of thoroughbred racehorses from Ohio's thoroughbred racetracks. Trainer Nancy Adams appeared again during public comment to provide commentary on the repercussions after her appearance last month in bringing the issue to the Racing Commission. Ms. Adams was distraught that her letter requesting action to the Racing Commission had been obtained and posted on social media by a third party, which has resulted in threats and targeted harassment of her and her family. Ms. Adams was concerned about other horsemen providing comment considering her difficulties after coming forward. As the Racing Commission requested last month, the thoroughbred permit holders Penn Gaming and Belterra have crafted a policy regarding the practice. Thistledown is on-track to have something in place by year-end. The permit holders further stated they would release a policy statement regarding the practice. Deputy Director Michael Rzymek would discuss the specific concerns brought forth by Ms. Adams regarding harassment and advise as-to civil or criminal sanctions that may apply.

There was no discussion on Belterra Park's extension for closing on the real estate sale for Boyd Gaming and Gaming and Leisure Properties (GLPI). Note that the Casino Commission distribution for the third quarter omits Belterra Park from a share of the operational Racing Commission Casino monies as discussed for MGM Northfield.

The monthly commission financial report was provided by Fiscal Officer Sherry White. Fiscal year 2022 overall had a revenue increase of \$325,000. September revenue was down \$71,000 overall and expenses were up, mainly due to an Attorney General's office payment. Without the large payout revenue would have been break-even. Expenses are also up due to full-scale racing as-compared year-over-year. Costs for payroll, travel, testing, and audit up \$150,000. The Racing Commission Operating Fund has just over \$2.4 million through September. Chairman Scott Borgemenke discussed obsolete fingerprinting and licensing systems in a replacement cycle. The new systems when installed and operational will cause higher fees for licensing and fingerprinting. The increase is anticipated in July 2022. When the changeover is complete, the system should permit eLicensing, and the ability to use credit cards for payment.

Commissioner Hansen provided a Medication and Testing Committee meeting held September 29, 2021 to discuss Lasix provisions and the Association of Racing Commissioners International's models for Lasix. Commissioner Hansen forecast the recommendations coming out of that meeting by the Racing Commission will prohibit Amicar administration on race day. Until legalities are cleared-up regarding the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act they will not alter the Lasix rules. The recommendation is to continue to permit Lasix use and not add to the chaos. In addition, all Lasix administration must occur at racetrack locations. Also anticipated is continuing work on a rule for potential waiver if returning to Ohio after being forced off Lasix for a start in another State or in a Stakes program. In a request to clarify, the OHHA asked about waiver for County Fair Lasix administration on-site as discussed in the September 29, 2021 meeting? Dr. Robertson and Commissioner Hansen represented the policy as applying mainly to alter thoroughbred Lasix administration and they would consider the County Fair Lasix administrations issues discussed in meeting.

Commissioner Simpson Chairman of the Safety Committee said a meeting would be scheduled in November 2021.

The Standardbred Racing Sub-Committee Chairman Thomas Winters outlined a standardbred racing meeting to be held concurrent with the Standardbred Development Fund Committee Meeting November 18, 2021, immediately following that meeting.

In the Matter of David Ward. Mr. Ward appealed a license denial after application. After hearing the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendation upheld the Racing Commission's denial of licensure due to ample evidence to deny. No one appeared for Mr. Ward at the Racing Commission hearing. After discussion and consideration, the Racing Commission unanimously upheld the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendations denying licensure.

There was further business to conduct in executive session related to Racing Commission employment and personnel. After the executive session no further business would be conducted, so the motion and vote were taken to adjourn the meeting, enter into executive session, and end the general session meeting.

For a transcript of the meeting contact the Ohio State Racing Commission. The next scheduled Racing Commission meeting date is November 17, 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>.

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a. Paid Electronic Copies		
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