

Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association



Newsletter June 2008

Dale Ford, Editor

~ June ~ Dates of Interest

June 14

Northfield Park
- Ohio Sires Stakes
3-Year-Old Colt Pace
3-Year-Old Colt Trot

June 21

Northfield Park
- Ohio Sires Stakes
3-Year-Old Filly Pace
3-Year-Old Filly Trot

June 17

OHHA
Board of Directors
Meeting
1:00 PM
OHHA Office
Columbus

June 21

Northfield Park
- Cleveland Classic

General Manager's Report

by Jerry Knappenberger

Legislative Update - The opposition in the Legislature to Governor Ted Strickland's proposal to implement electronic Keno machines at establishments, which have a D-4 liquor permit, quickly disappeared when Republicans pulled bills, which had been introduced in both the Senate and House, that would have banned Keno if passed. The Ohio Lottery Commission, which is to regulate the Keno machines, then received approval from the State Controlling Board for an expenditure of

\$17 million for items necessary for the operation to begin. The projected beginning for Keno is July 1st and all four Standardbred racetracks are expected to offer the game to their patrons. The racetracks hope that Keno will bring more traffic and thus create new pari-mutuel fans for the industry. The tracks will be compensated by the State of Ohio like any other Ohio Lottery agent.

Ohio Breeders Stakes - The opportunity to replace the lost leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes program was not welcomed by many owners, breeders and trainers of Ohio sired two and three-year-olds. The nominations received for the eight Ohio Breeders Stakes races fell well under what was expected when the program was conceived. Unfortunately, three races will have to be cancelled now due to lack of nominations. The cancelled events are the three-year-old trot, two-year-old trot and two-year-old filly trot. The other five events will go as scheduled, if enough entries to have six separate betting interests in the race are received. All money associated with the three cancelled events was refunded the last week of May.

It was expected that nominations in all eight divisions would number sixty or more, thus all eight races would carry purses of \$18,000 to \$20,000 or more. Therefore the races were



advertised at an estimated purse of \$20,000. With the most in any division being twenty-seven in the two-year-old colt pace, obviously the purses will not be as high as expected. But those races will still provide Ohio sired two and three-year-olds the opportunity to race, in Ohio, for purses of about \$10,000 in five events with

some being less than a full field of nine.

The sentiment of the OHHA Breeders Section and Scioto Downs General Manager, Stacy Cahill was to go with as many of the events as possible to get the program started. It is hoped by all involved that this year's beginning will lead to more participation next year. If you have any questions, please contact me at the office (614)221-3650 or (800) 353-6442.

Guide to "Best Practices" - The Ohio Fair Manager's Association / Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association Fair Racing Advisory Committee has completed and published a guide to "Best Practices for County Fair Racing." The hard copy and a CD version were distributed at the May 23rd committee meeting at the Delaware County Fairgrounds. All seven colt circuit secretaries received copies of both versions for each of their member fairs and several representatives of local horsemen's groups also received copies. The complete guide is accessible to download on both the OHHA and USTA web sites. Any local horsemen's group, who wishes to receive a CD version of the guide, please contact me at the OHHA office. This guide was produced for fair board members, fair officials and horsemen to provide complete knowledge of all aspects of fair racing to everyone involved.

The OFMA / OHHA Fair Racing Advisory Committee met many times and each individual spent many hours working on their assignments to produce the final product. The members of the working committee are to be congratulated on what they have accomplished in a short time. The committee will stay in place and continue to work for the betterment of Ohio Fair Racing. The committee consists of: Committee Co-Chairs, Joe Ewing, OHHA Director and Bill Peters, NWOCRA Secretary; Fred Arnold, OFMA Past President; Rod Arter, OFMA Director; Hugh Beatty, Jr., OHHA Director; Bev Fisher, OFMA Director; Judith Foureman, OCRA Secretary; Bob Geist, Mercer Co. Fair / Signature Series;

Kent Hastings, USTA Liaison Officer; Jerry Knappenberger, OHHA General Manager; T.C. Lane, USTA Director of Officials; Joe Lanning, OFMA Director; Dr. John Mossbarger, OHHA Past President; Rod Newhart, OHHA Director / SVCC Secretary; Bill Serna, OFMA Director; Phil Terry, Marketing Director Delaware County Fair and Jim Walter, Ottawa Co. HHA / Signature Series.

Scioto Downs – General Manager, Stacy Cahill, is to be congratulated for the excellent beginning of this year’s meet. Live racing handle has been up each of the first six nights and the early 5:30 PM post time on May 17th resulted in the first two races, which went to post before the Preakness, being the best bet races of the evening. The total handle of over \$660,000 on-track at Scioto Downs is their largest handle in several years. Mrs. Cahill is also responsible for renovations to the facilities and the promotions and giveaways planned through-

out the 2008 season, which is Scioto Downs 50th anniversary year.

OHHA Resignation – Dale Ford, currently OHHA’s Assistant to the General Manager and Scioto Downs Track Representative has resigned his position effective June 2nd. Dale was first employed by OHHA in 1976 as a track representative and has at some time served in that capacity at all four racetracks. Dale became the Assistant to the General Manager and moved to the main office in 1999. For thirty-two years he has been a loyal, trusted and hard working employee. Dale and his wife Pat became the grandparents of twins in November and stated he is looking forward to spending more time with his family. The Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association and I personally thank him for his long service to the organization. We will all miss working with him in the future. ❖

Crazy Good: Book Report

from Harness Racing Communications

Its been a crazy period of time for the Charles Leershen-written biography of the turn of the last century harness racing star, Dan Patch. The book, called Crazy Good: The True Story of Dan Patch, The Most Famous Horse in America, has now been released. A 6,000-word excerpt was run in *Sports Illustrated* magazine and a nearly full-page review by Eric Banks ran in the *Wall Street Journal* of May 17th and 18th.

The circulation of Sports Illustrated is about 3.2 million, with a readership of about 20 million. The Wall Street Journals circulation is just over 2 million. Crazy Good was also reviewed by racing writer D’Arcy Egan in the *Cleveland Plain*

Dealer, the largest circulation paper in Ohio.

Sales of the book have been robust, with the sales rank (out of several hundred thousand books) on Amazon of No. 543 at press time and No. 246 on Barnes and Noble. On Amazon, Crazy Good: The True Story of Dan Patch, The Most Famous Horse in America is No. 1 in both the horses and horse racing categories; it is second overall in the category of sports history. Only Mark Frosts book about golf called The Match is ahead of Crazy Good and that book has been out since November.

The May *Hoof Beats* magazine also featured Leershen and the Crazy Good book. Leershen will attend the North America Cup on June 14th to sign copies of the book at Mohawk Raceway. The cover of the book is a photo taken in Dan Patch’s only appearance in Toronto, on October 21, 1905. ❖

Roosevelt Raceway Legacy Project Fundraising Campaign Launched!

Goshen, NY – Historic Roosevelt Raceway, Long Island’s landmark entertainment venue, is the focus of a three phase project being conducted by the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame. With the aid of two Museum Collection & Research Grants from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), a state agency, the museum has begun to record and digitize the more than 8,000 photographs, videos, programs and posters that were rescued from the raceway prior to its demolition in 2000.

Funding agencies can only provide half of the money that will be required to correctly and systematically record and digitize this significant collection, create a permanent exhibit at the museum worthy of the remarkable “Dream Track,” and provide for the publication of a comprehensive pictorial catalog of the collection and the people whose commitment made it all possible. Therefore, to support these plans a special fundraising effort is now being launched! Providing exciting

donation incentives that include souvenir lapel pins, Roosevelt Raceway replica tote bags, and Founders’ Plates, it will be directed to those members of the harness racing community whose lives were touched by the Roosevelt years: the excitement, the crowds, and the great times. We urge all who remember this tremendously successful harness racing facility to support our efforts to keep these great memories alive.

Brochures inviting individual, corporate and organizational contributions are available. To receive a brochure or for additional information on supporting this major initiative, please contact the museum’s director at (845) 294-6330 or email hrrmdir@frontiernet.net.

The museum, located at 240 Main Street in Goshen, NY is open daily 10 am-5 pm. (Last tour 4:00 p.m.) Admission, thanks to The United States Trotting Association, is without charge. Please call (845) 294-6330 for more information or visit the institution’s website at www.harnessmuseum.com. ❖

Northfield Park Report

by Amy Hollar

Northfield Park's Wall of Fame – On Wednesday, April 30th, over 200 people celebrated the induction of four new members to Northfield Park's Wall of Fame. Kelly O'Donnell, Bob Sidley, Cambest Prince and Crisp Sahbra became the new inductees.

The former Northfield Mayor, Arch Milani received the inaugural Wall of Fame Trustees Public Service Award.

Dan Kennedy was named the Northfield Park Distinguished Owner and Debbie Eidens was awarded the John Lee Good Fellowship Award. Tim Olschewsky and Lorena Rodriguez were named Outstanding Caretakers. The John Caton Award for leading driver went to Aaron Merriman. Jodi Schillaci received the Fritz Newhart Award, for being the leading trainer. Look To Book and Polo Jenn shared Horse

of the Year honors. Following the inductions, The Drifters provided good music and dancing for those in attendance.

Trackside Lounge Opens - On Friday, June 6th, the track will hold a grand opening celebration for the Trackside Lounge at Northfield Park, the track's new \$400,000 sports bar that features luxurious private seating areas, leather sofas and theater seating, 100" flat screen televisions with a mix of racing action and sporting events, and direct access to trackside through the newly renovated Trackside Patio. A series of drawings and giveaways are on tap at Trackside, with prizes including flat screen TVs and etc.

Cleveland Classic - Northfield's richest race of the year, the \$175,000 Cleveland Classic, is set for Saturday, June 21st. In addition to having a chance to watch and wager on some of the top three-year-old pacing colts in the sport, Northfield Park, in conjunction with Jay Auto Group, will be giving away a brand new Pontiac Solstice. ❖

Raceway Park Report

by Kim Marts

Raceway Park's Track Committee - The Track Committee for the 2008 racing season is as follows: OHHA Past President and Track Director, John Konesky, III, OHHA Director, Greg Bateson, Mark Headworth and Karen Tkaczyk. **New Draw Schedule** - Raceway Park has gone to a two day box. The draw will be Wednesday for Friday; Thursday for Saturday and Friday for Sunday. ❖

Mildred Williams Race - Horses are needed for the Mildred Williams Race on June 8th. Also, please remember this race is for a very good cause, breast cancer awareness. Anyone that wishes to help by offering their horse to be used in this race, please call Pam Miller at 419-476-7751.

Party in the Park - Party in the Park will begin on May 31st. This is a big event for Raceway Park patrons. A band is featured every Saturday night throughout the remainder of the meet. Bands such as Hoosier Daddy and Altar Ego are scheduled for an appearance.

Scioto Downs Report

by Dale Ford

Scioto Downs Opens - Scioto Downs opened on Friday, May 9th. The mutuel handle and attendance has been up every night since the beginning of the meet.

On Saturday, May 17th, Scioto Downs management chose to have a 5:30 PM post time due to the Preakness Stakes, which had a post time of 6:10 PM, in order to allow Thoroughbred patrons to see and wager on a couple of live Standardbred races prior to the running of the Preakness Stakes. By showing an increase in attendance and handle, the idea was well received.

On Saturday, June 7th, Scioto Downs will again have a 5:30 PM post time for the Belmont Stakes, the third jewel of the Triple Crown. Hopefully the early post time will provide the same results.

2008 Track Committee - The Scioto Downs Track Committee for the 2008 racing season will be OHHA Track Di-

rector, Hugh Beatty, Jr., Danny Collins, Mike Medors, Scott Mogan, Virgil Morgan, Jr. and David Myers.

Driver/Trainer Standings – As of Saturday, May 17th, Jack Dailey and Bob Harper are leading the driver's standings with eight wins each. Dailey has 41 starts, 8 wins, 5 seconds, 4 thirds with a UDRS of .295 and Harper has 49 starts, 8 wins, 8 seconds, 2 thirds with a UDRS of .268. Kyle Ater and Sam Noble, III are currently tied for second. Ater has 48 starts, 7 wins, 7 seconds, 8 thirds with a UDRS of .282 and Noble has 39 starts, 7 wins, 6 seconds, 4 thirds with a UDRS of .299.

Virgil Morgan, Jr. is currently leading the trainer's standings. Morgan has 18 starts, 10 wins, 0 seconds, 1 third with a UTRS of .574. Tommy Smith is second 24 starts, 7 wins, 2 seconds, 1 third with a UTRS of .352. Dan Ater, Hugh Beatty, Jr. and Kayne Kauffman are tied for third with three wins each.

At this point in time it appears that both the driver and trainer standing will very close and may prove to be interesting throughout the meet. ❖

2008 Ohio Matinee Dates and Information

Date (Rain)	Location	Sponsor (Other Information)	Post Time	Entry Fee	Photo Finish	Chart Lines	Trophies	Call in Dates Call in Numbers
6/1	Wash.C.H	Fayette Co. HHA (Food will be available & 50-50 raffle)	12:00 pm	\$15	Yes	Yes	Yes	May 28 & 29, 9 am to 12 pm (740) 572-6107 or (740) 636-9619 6 pm to 9 pm (740)335-7435
6/7 (6/8)	Celina	Mercer Co. HHA (Food will be available & drawing)	1:00 pm	\$15	No	No	Yes	June 5, 8 am to 3 pm (419) 586-5820
6/7 (6/8)	Napoleon	Henry Co.HHA (Food will be available & drawing)	12:00 pm	\$15	No	No	Yes	June 4, 6 pm to 9 pm (419) 758-3190 or(419) 592-1235
6/8	Delaware	Dela. Co. H.H.A. (50 /50 Drawing & Raffles)	11:00 am	\$20	Yes	Yes	Yes	June 2 & 3 - 9 am to 11 pm & 4 pm to 6 pm (740) 272-8541, (740) 272-7465 or (740) 398-4629
6/15	Richwood	Richwood Mat. Club (Food will be available & raffle)	1:00 pm	\$25	No	No	Yes	June 12 - 9 am to 5 pm (740) 360-5892

**The following Matinees have signed up for
On-Track Drivers Insurance as of press time: Celina, Delaware (5/18),
Wash.C.H., Napoleon, Mt. Gilead and Van Wert**

2008 Fair Dates and Information

Location	Circuit	Date - Post Time	Date - Post Time	Date-Post Time	Phone for entries	Day Box
Paulding/Paulding	NWOCRA	June 18 - 6:30 PM	June 19 - 6:30 PM	June 20 - 6:30 PM	419-399-3775	3
Circleville/Pickaway	OCRA	June 21 - 1:00PM	June 22 - 1:00PM		740-420-6807 740-474-9022	2
Ottawa/Putnam	WOCRA	June 25 - 5:00PM	June 26 - 1:00PM		419-236-6500 419-236-6700	3

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