



THE TEXAS HORSEMEN'S NEWS

Attendance and Live Handle Decrease at Lone Star Park Spring Thoroughbred Meet

Despite facing short fields, running less races, and dodging the unpredictable Texas weather, Lone Star Park rode a slight increase in simulcast-in wagering handle to maintain on-track wagering levels while average daily live handle declined seven percent and average daily attendance dipped slightly, four percent, for its 53-day 16th Spring Thoroughbred season, which ended on Sunday, July 8.

"We are disappointed with the results. However, we are encouraged by our simulcast-in wagering numbers, which increased over 2011 levels, making our on-track total virtually even with last years numbers. We also are very optimistic about our upcoming off-season simulcasting in our Bar & Book with popular signals Del Mar and Saratoga starting in a few days," said Drew Shubeck, president and general manager.

Average daily live handle declined seven percent on Lone Star Park races. Overall, \$14.9 million was wagered during the 53-day meet. The 2011 season ran 52-days and totaled \$15.7 million in wagering handle. Average daily simulcast-out handle took the steepest dip, declining from \$763,461 in 2011 to \$669,811 in 2012, a 12 percent decline. The total live product average declined 11 percent from 2011.

Off the track, the bright spot of the season was the popular Lone Star Music Series, which saw a 19 percent increase from 2011 totals. The 127,994 fans that attended the nine-date concert series represented 33 percent of Lone Star Park's total attendance for the meet. A total of 388,248

customers attended the 53-day season for a daily average of 7,325, a four percent decline from the 2011 average of 7,620.

"We are very pleased with our Lone Star Music Series and



Jockey Jesse Campbell looking back as he rides Nate's Mineshaft to a dominant win in the Lone Star Park Handicap.

look forward to continuing this popular entertainment offering next year," said Shubeck. "Our total attendance was impacted by inclement weather on several big event days, which hurt our numbers. However, we closed very strong with three concerts and our popular fireworks show, which attracted over 66,000 people closing week."

On the track, a total of 4,086 starters in 488 races compared to 4,243 runners in 564 races during the 52-day meet in 2011. Average field size was 8.4

compared to 8.9 from last year, a decrease of 0.5 percent. Average daily purses were \$140,642 compared to \$161,719, a 13 percent decrease.

Jockey Cliff Berry won 62 races to clinch his fifth riding title and second in a row at Lone Star Park.

Newcomers take over the trainer and owner categories as Danny Pish won his first Lone Star Park training title, capturing 42 wins, and End Zone Athletics, Inc. won its first owners title by capturing 17 wins from 60 starters.

Nate's Mineshaft won Horse of the Meet honors by capturing the Grade III \$300,000 Lone Star Park Handicap on Memorial Day.

Lone Star Park's 26-day Fall Meeting of Champions for American Quarter Horses begins on September 14.

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2012

QUARTER HORSE STAKES SCHEDULE



Saturday, July 21 – Closes Friday, July 13
La Villita Stakes – \$12,500 Guaranteed
– Three Year Old Fillies, Texas-bred 330 Yards

Friday, July 27 – Closes Friday, July 20
TQHA Stakes – \$30,000 Added
– Three Year Olds and Upward, Texas-bred 250 Yards

Friday, July 27 – Closes Friday, July 20
**Garland Shelton GMC Truck Stakes
(Rest. Grade III) – \$35,000 Added**
– Three Year Olds and Upward, Texas-bred 400 Yards

Friday, July 27 – Closes Friday, July 20
TQHA 550 Stakes – \$30,000 Added
– Three Year Olds and Upwards, Texas-bred 550 Yards

Friday, July 27 – Closes Friday, July 20
**Jones Bloodstock Insurance Starter Stakes –
\$15,000 Added**
– Three Year Olds and Upwards, Texas-bred 350 Yards

Friday, July 27 – Contact AQHA
Adequan Derby Challenge Trials
– Three Year Olds 400 Yards

Saturday, July 28 – Closes Friday, April 20
**The Retama Park Derby (Grade III) –
\$75,000 Added**
– Three Year Olds 400 Yards

Saturday, July 28 – Contact AQHA
John Deere Juvenile Challenge Trials
– Two Year Olds 350 Yards

Saturday, July 28 Contact TQHA
**TQHA Sales Futurity (Restricted Grade II) –
\$100,000 Added**
– Two Year Olds, Texas-bred 350 Yards

Saturday, August 4 – Open
**Colors of the Alamo Paint & Appaloosa Futurity –
\$15,000 Added**
– Two Year Olds 350 Yards

Saturday, August 4 – Open
**Colors of the Wind Paint & Appaloosa Stakes –
\$10,000 Added**
– Three Year Olds and Upward 350 Yards

Saturday, August 4 – Closes Friday, July 27
The San Marcos Handicap – \$12,500 Guaranteed
– Three Year Olds and Upward 870 Yards

Friday, August 10 – Closes Friday, August 3
The Live Oak Handicap – \$15,000 Guaranteed
– Three Year Olds and Upward, Texas-bred 350 Yards

Saturday, August 11 – Contact AQHA
John Deere Juvenile Challenge – \$25,000 Added
– Two Year Olds 350 Yards

Saturday, August 11 – Contact AQHA
Adequan Derby Challenge – \$25,000 Added
– Three Year Olds 400 Yards

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Full Page	\$200.00
Half Page (horizontal or vertical)	\$100.00
Quarter Page	\$ 50.00
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Texas Horsemen's Calendar of Events



Date	Event	Place	Time
Jul. 21 (Sat.)	Mixed Meet Racing	Gillespie County Fairgrounds	1:00 pm
Jul. 22 (Sun.)	Chapel Service	Chapel, Retama	11:00 am
	Mixed Meet Racing	Gillespie County Fairgrounds	1:00 pm
Jul. 25 (Wed.)	Bible Study	Chapel, Retama	11:30 am
Jul. 27 (Sat.)	TQHA Yearling Sale	Freeman Coliseum, San Antonio, TX	10:30 am
Jul. 28 (Sun.)	TQHA Yearling Sale	Freeman Coliseum, San Antonio, TX	10:30 am
Jul. 29 (Sun.)	Chapel Service	Chapel, Retama	11:00 am
Aug. 1 (Wed.)	Bible Study	Chapel, Retama	11:30 am
Aug. 5 (Sun.)	Chapel Service	Chapel, Retama	11:00 am
Aug. 8 (Wed.)	Bible Study	Chapel, Retama	11:30 am
Aug. 11 (Sat.)	Mixed Meet Racing	Gillespie County Fairgrounds	1:00 pm
Aug. 12 (Sun.)	Chapel Service	Chapel, Retama	11:00 am
	Mixed Meet Racing	Gillespie County Fairgrounds	1:00 pm
Aug. 15 (Wed.)	Bible Study	Chapel, Retama	11:30 am
Aug. 18 (Sat.)	Closing Night of Quarter Horse Meet	Retama Park	6:45 pm
Aug. 25 (Sat.)	Mixed Meet Racing	Gillespie County Fairgrounds	1:00 pm
Aug. 26 (Sun.)	Closing Day of Mixed Meet	Gillespie County Fairgrounds	1:00 pm
Aug. 28 (Tues.)	Fasig-Tipton Summer Yearling Sale	TTA Sales Pavilion, LSP	4:00 pm
Sep. 3 (Mon.)	All American Futurity	Ruidoso Downs, Ruidoso, NM	1:35 pm
Sep. 10 (Mon.)	Zero Date for Quarter Horse Papers	Racing Office, LSP	12:00 pm
Sep. 11 (Tues.)	First Entry Day for Quarter Horse Meet	Racing Office, LSP	8:00 am
Sep. 14 (Fri.)	Opening Night of Quarter Horse Meet	Lone Star Park	6:35 pm
Sep. 16 (Sun.)	Free Off-Track Shuttle	Chapel, LSP	12:00 pm
Sep. 17 (Mon.)	Free Off-Track Shuttle	Chapel, LSP	12:00 pm
Sep. 23 (Sun.)	Free Off-Track Shuttle	Chapel, LSP	12:00 pm
Sep. 24 (Mon.)	Free Off-Track Shuttle	Chapel, LSP	12:00 pm
Sep. 30 (Sun.)	Chapel Service	Chapel, Retama	11:00 am
	Free Off-Track Shuttle	Chapel, LSP	12:00 pm
Oct. 1 (Mon.)	Free Off-Track Shuttle	Chapel, LSP	12:00 pm
	Zero Date for Thoroughbred Papers	Racing Office, Retama	12:00 pm
Oct. 2 (Tues.)	First Entry Day for Thoroughbred Meet	Racing Office, Retama	8:00 pm
Oct. 5 (Fri.)	Opening Night of Thoroughbred Meet	Retama Park	6:45 pm

NOTE: All events subject to change. Please check THP website and track bulletin boards at racetracks for changes.



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Following Trevino Indictments, THP Institutes New Policy Designed to Uncover Any Future Attempts at Improprieties

On June 12, seven members of Mexico's Zeta drug cartel were arrested after a U. S. indictment charged a total of 14 cartel members of conspiracy using the American Quarter Horse breeding and racing industry in the United States to launder money. The Los Zetas cartel, headquartered in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, directly across the border from Laredo, Texas, is Mexico's largest drug cartel in terms of territory and has operations in 11 Mexican states, according to the indictment.

Los Zetas leader Miguel Angel Trevino Morales, 38, and his two brothers were named in the federal indictment. One of those brothers, Jose Trevino Morales, 45, and his wife, 38-year-old Zulema Trevino, were among the seven arrested. Also arrested were Fernando Solis Garcia, 29, in Ruidoso; 26-year-old Carlos Miguel Nayan Borbolla, 32-year-old Adan Farias, and 28-year-old Felipe Alejandro Quintero in Los Angeles; and trainer Eusevio Maldonado Huitron, 48, in Austin, Texas.

Cartel leader Miguel Angel Trevino Morales and his brother, Oscar Omar Trevino Morales, 36, are believed to be in Mexico. The five others indicted who had not yet been arrested as of June 12 were Raul Ramirez, 20, of El Paso, Texas; Francisco Antonio Colorado Cessa, 51, of Veracruz, Mexico; Victor Manuel Lopez, 31, of Nuevo Laredo, Mexico; and Sergio Rogelio Guerrero Rincon, 40, and Luis Gerardo Aguirre, 35 of Mexico.

According to a report by CNN, Miguel Angel Trevino Morales and his brother, Oscar Omar Trevino Morales, directed millions of dollars in drug money to brother Jose and his wife for buying, training, breeding and racing Quarter Horses in New Mexico, Oklahoma, California, and Texas since 2008. According to authorities, Jose Trevino, his wife, and others disguised the ownership of the horses through the use of "front" companies.

The indictment describes how the Trevino brothers - operating as Tremor Enterprises, LLC - and a network quietly arranged to purchase Quarter Horses with drug money at auction and disguise the source of funds used to buy them so that the Zetas' involvement would be masked. The indictment indicated that they would often pay in cash, or use fake names, which helped keep the owners and the money a secret.

According to *The New York Times*, "Using Miguel Angel Trevino's cash, Jose Trevino's legal residency and Mr. [Ramiro] Villarreal's eye for a good horse, Tremor bought a sprawling ranch [Zule Ranch] in Oklahoma and an estimated 300 stallions and mares."

Ramiro Villarreal worked for the Trevino family finding and buying racehorses. According *The New York Times*, in September of 2010, Villarreal was detained for several hours by D.E.A. agents at a Houston airport. *The Times* report alleged that Villarreal was reluctantly convinced to act as an informant. On March 10, 2011, Villarreal's car was found incinerated - with Villarreal inside - outside of Nuevo Laredo.

Despite suspicions of foul play, no investigation was conducted.

Among the horses that were part of the alleged laundering operations were 2010 All American Futurity (G1) winner Mr. Piloto and Temping Dash, undefeated champion two-year-old male of 2009 and winner of the 2009 Dash For Cash Futurity (G1) and Texas Classic Futurity (G1) - breaking track records in both - at Lone Star Park.

According to an FBI affidavit, Miguel Angel Trevino boasted to associates that he had paid some \$10,000 to "gatekeepers to hold back the horses competing against Mr. Piloto" in the 2010 All American Futurity.

In addition to the money laundering charges, the government is seeking seizure of the horses, money, and property - including a parcel of land in Bastrop County, Texas. The indictment alleges the horse racing and breeding conspiracy raised \$20 million, and authorities are seeking a monetary judgement in that amount.

On June 18, a federal judge ruled that trainer Eusevio Maldonado Huitron of Bastrop should be released on bail. According to a report by the *Austin American-Statesman*, "[Maldonado Huitron's attorney, assistant federal Public Defender Jose] Gonzalez-Falla said

Maldonado Huitron is an illiterate horse trainer who poses no threat to the Zetas. An associate of Maldonado Huitron's from El Paso testified Monday that the trainer was actually dismissed weeks before his arrest because his horses were underperforming, which the defense attorney said meant his client was now even less important in the eyes of the cartel."

On Tuesday, July 3, a bond hearing for Jose Trevino Morales was held in federal court in Austin, Texas. U.S. Magistrate Judge Mark Lane ruled that while there is no evidence that Trevino poses a risk to the community, he believes that Trevino could flee to Mexico if released. Thus, Jose Trevino Morales continues to be held without bail. In addition, Lane ruled that trainer Fernando Garcia should be released pending trial.

The previous week, Jose Trevino's wife, Zulema Trevino, was released pending trial.

New THP Policy Regarding Large Deposits

As a result of these recent events, the Texas Horsemen's Partnership (THP), has instituted a new policy regarding large deposits into the Texas Horsemen's Bookkeeper system. According to the policy, the THP will, on a weekly basis, report all deposits of \$10,000 or more (single or cumulative during that week) to the Texas Racing Commission (TxRC).

This information has always been available to the TxRC upon request, but in an effort to increase transparency and deter any future problems, the THP will now proactively produce this report for the TxRC. All transactions at Texas racetracks must be entered into the Texas Horsemen's Bookkeeper system, and the report will be generated automatically. 🐾





Trainer Bret Calhoun Records Career Win 2,000



Trainer W. Bret Calhoun won the 2,000th Thoroughbred race of his career on Thursday, April 19 at Lone Star Park when Forty Winks made a bid at the furlong marker, to draw clear by three lengths.

"It's pretty exciting that it happened there, at my home track," said Calhoun, a 47-year-old native of Grand Prairie, Texas. "It's been a long time. You never

expect to win that many races," he added, "It's a significant amount. It feels good."

Calhoun, who was winless at Lone Star Park during the 1997 inaugural season, has since been in the top 10 of the trainer standings at Lone Star for 12 of 16 seasons. He has been leading trainer for the past two seasons (2010 and 2011) and has amassed earnings of over \$10.9 million, at the Grand Prairie track.

Since recording his first win on April 1, 1994 at Trinity Meadows with a horse named Ramjet, Calhoun's stellar career has been highlighted by his first two Breeders' Cup wins in 2010 - the Filly & Mare Sprint (G1) with Dubai Majesty and the Turf Sprint (G2) with Chamberlain Bridge. He also trained his first Eclipse Award winner that same year, when Dubai Majesty was voted champion female sprinter.

TAHC Update: New Mexico Reports More Cases of Vesicular Stomatitis



In May, Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) was detected in two horses in Otero County in New Mexico. The horses were sampled after vesicular lesions were observed on both animals.

As of June 21, 11 premises are now under quarantine. The counties of Otero, Valencia, Socorro and San Miguel have confirmed positive VS

cases. The counties of Dona Ana and Roosevelt have also had suspect cases. The counties of Bernalillo and Santa Fe are considered high risk for cases of VS.

According to the New Mexico State Veterinarian, based on the current findings of VS in the area: where out of state livestock are a part of a public event such as roping, racing, breeding or other forms of public exhibition or traveling interstate, a health certificate (CVI) written within five days of entering the show will be required for all New Mexico origin livestock. The following statement is to appear on the CVI: "The animals represented on this certificate have not originated from a premises or area under quarantine for Vesicular Stomatitis (VS), or a premises on which VS has been diagnosed in the past 21 days. I have examined these animals and have not observed lesions or clinical signs of VS."

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) prohibits

entry of animals from VS quarantined premises, and also requires livestock to be accompanied by a valid certificate of veterinary inspection.

VS can cause blisters and sores in the mouth and on the tongue, muzzle, teats or hooves of horses, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, llamas and a number of other animals. Lesions usually will heal in two or three weeks. Because the signs of VS mimic those of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), animal health officials strongly urge livestock owners and caretakers to report potential cases of VS to their private veterinary practitioner or state livestock health officials.

TAHC officials encourage livestock owners to use the best means possible to limit exposure of their livestock to insect bites. It is theorized that insects are an important vector in the transmission of VS.

For more information on Texas entry requirements, visit <http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/regs/entry.html> or call 1-800-550-8242 and ask for the Permits Department.

A USDA APHIS-VS fact sheet about Vesicular Stomatitis is available at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/content/printable_version/fs_vesicular_stomatitis_2012.pdf.

All Thoroughbred Racing Economic Indicators Up in June

On June 5, Equibase, LLC released its "Thoroughbred Racing Economic Indicators" for June 2012, and all of the indicators were up significantly over June of 2011. Moreover, all indicators are up for the first five months of 2012 compared to the same time period last year.

Wagering on U.S. races is up 6.99 percent compared to last June, and purses are up 13.10 percent. Race days are also up 9.78 percent over June of 2011. For the first five months of the year, wagering on U.S. races is up 2.38 percent, purses are up 8.31 percent, and race days are up 1.89 percent.

* Includes worldwide commingled wagering on U.S. races.

Horse Racing Under Fire Nationally

Nationally, the horse racing industry has been under heavy criticism this spring and summer. From the time the scathing March 25 *The New York Times* article titled "Mangled Horses, Maimed Jockeys" was printed, it has seemed like one piece of bad news after another as racing continues to sit in the crosshairs of both the media and the United States Congress.

The criticism, fair or unfair, is the continuation of issues that started long before this year, and much of the current furor centers on the use of race-day medication. If you have not yet seen the Summer 2012 issue of *The Horsemen's Journal*, it contained a summary of events over the past several months up to May. The article by Kimberly French,





“The Uncertain and Unknown Road Ahead: Race-Day Medication in the USA,” can be found at the following link: <http://www.nationalhbpa.com/HorsemensJournalDisplay.asp?section=9&key1=14354>.

On July 12, the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation held a hearing on the prevalence and use of medications and performance-enhancing drugs in horse racing. Among the speakers invited to testify was Florida HBPA Executive Director and National HBPA Medication Committee Chairman Kent Stirling.

According to a Daily Racing Form report: “Sen. Tom Udall of New Mexico used a three-hour Senate hearing on Thursday to gauge the level of support in the racing industry for federal regulation, at times threatening to scuttle the industry’s federal authority to conduct state-to-state simulcast wagering if it did not address critics of its medication policies and regulation.

“The hearing - which was sparsely attended by legislators - did not result in any firm resolutions that would dramatically impact the sport, though Udall said toward the end that he would continue to press forward on getting support for his legislation. Along with a House co-sponsor, Udall first introduced a bill calling for federal regulation of racing several years ago, but it has yet to come up for a vote at any level of the legislature.”

TRA Board Endorses Each State’s Adoption of Uniform Medication Policies and Stronger Penalties



The Thoroughbred Racing Associations (TRA) Board of Directors, after meeting in Baltimore in late May, has endorsed a number of safety measures intended to ensure only sound horses participate in

North American Thoroughbred races. This policy calls for the implementation of uniform regulations regarding more restrictive use of a limited number of therapeutic drugs, a strong penalty structure for violators, and the elimination of treatment practices that could imperil the welfare of the horse when racing.

“The TRA Board identified those issues that most relate to the safety of horses and jockeys,” TRA President Chris McErlean said. “In many cases, these issues have been studied by the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTC) and the Association of Racing Commissioners International (RCI), and rules already have been passed with the support of many of racing’s national organizations. We could make tremendous strides quickly by having each state implement those rules. That is the objective of the TRA members.”

The TRA Board seeks implementation across the nation of rules enhancing equine safety by strictly and uniformly regulating the use of therapeutic drugs in racing. In particular, the TRA supports extending current pre-race-day withdrawal times for approved non-steroidal anti-inflamma-

tory drugs (NSAIDs, e.g. phenylbutazone), clenbuterol, and corticosteroids.

The TRA also endorsed a revision of the RCI’s Model Rules on Medication to reduce the number of approved therapeutic medications to be used on horses in training and to increase significantly the penalty guidelines for prohibited substance violations and repeat violations of therapeutic medication rules. Furthermore, multiple penalties should be determined on a cross-jurisdictional basis, not state by state.

The RMTC already has begun work on a revision that would reduce the number of permitted drugs to the 26 therapeutic medications most commonly used to treat race horses and for which test thresholds and withdrawal guidelines already have been established. (Even minute trace residue of a drug can be detected long after there has been any pharmacological effect, so threshold levels ensure the drug has had no influence on the horse during the race.) Any trace level of any other drug during testing would constitute a violation and be subject to penalty.

TRA supports the existing RCI rule setting the threshold detection level at 2 micrograms (two trillionths per milliliter) for phenylbutazone as a result of the examining veterinarians’ position that higher levels could hamper their ability to evaluate the soundness of a horse during pre-race exams. TRA also advocates pre-race examinations in every regulatory jurisdiction.

The threshold limit for clenbuterol should be 2 picograms (two millionths per milliliter) to prevent the misuse of the FDA-approved syrup for any muscle mass-building effects, as well as effectively preclude the use of imported higher-strength clenbuterol compounds. (The presence of compounded clenbuterol on racetrack grounds should be severely punished.) The RMTC is awaiting the conclusion of laboratory research later this summer to determine a recommended withdrawal time for adoption in a model rule. Similar research is nearing completion for approved anti-inflammatory corticosteroids.

Also identified as vital to the safety of the horse and rider is the adoption of the RCI model rule prohibiting shock wave therapy within 10 days of a race and the implementation of minimum standards requiring ISO (International Organization for Standardization) and RMTC accreditation for all testing laboratories.

The TRA urges all racing jurisdictions to immediately prohibit the use of race-day administration of adjunct bleeder medications.

The TRA Board also took the position any jurisdiction permitting race-day use of furosemide should implement the RCI model rule which restricts its administration to regulatory veterinarians or a commission designee, sets a minimum and maximum dosage, and has provisions for post-administration monitoring of horses identified as racing that day.



The Jockey Club Announces Project to Identify At-Risk Horses



On June 13, The Jockey Club today announced plans to develop a statistics-based system that would notify track officials and regulatory veterinarians when a horse that has been entered in a race is facing a heightened risk of injury.

Dr. Tim Parkin, a noted epidemiologist from the University of Glasgow who has conducted research and studies on Thoroughbreds in the United Kingdom and Hong Kong, is currently developing the protocols, which are based on The Jockey Club's Equine Injury Database. The project is expected to be complete in August 2012.

"This project provides us with an exciting opportunity to identify the top risk profiles and focus our interventions on the horses that fit those profiles," said Dr. Parkin, who made a presentation on the potential of such a system at The Jockey Club's Round Table Conference on Matters Pertaining to Racing in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., in August 2011.

That presentation centered on a complex analysis of data that included more than 1.5 million race starts to identify risk factors for injury. For example, a horse that had made numerous starts in a period between one and six months, while also meeting other similar criteria, would fit the highest risk profile.

"With this system in place, we can identify the population of horses at markedly increased risk — and potentially implement measures to mitigate that risk," Dr. Parkin said.

Using data from the Equine Injury Database, racing officials and regulatory veterinarians would receive automatic notifications from racing office software tools provided by InCompass Solutions Inc. The alerts would indicate, based on statistical analysis of patterns in past performances, when a horse presented a heightened risk of injury and needed a closer inspection. Those notices would be sent to regulatory veterinarians and racing office personnel at the racetrack.

"This development has the potential to be among the most significant advances in the safety of our equine and human athletes," said James L. Gagliano, president and chief operating officer of The Jockey Club. "It is only possible because of the excellent participation by racetracks in the Equine Injury Database, which now contains approximately 37,000 injury reports from 86 tracks, representing more than 92 percent of North American racing days."

Gagliano noted that The Jockey Club, through InCompass, would provide these tools to racetrack and regulatory officials for no additional fee, and that The Jockey Club will be collaborating with the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) to develop the examination protocols that would be used to assist regulatory veterinarians dealing with horses deemed to be at-risk.

"The AAEP routinely and actively participates in a wide

variety of programs designed to maintain and improve the health and welfare of the horse," said Dr. John Mitchell, president of AAEP. "Our veterinarians and staff will proudly share their expertise with Dr. Parkin and his team as they create the examination protocols that will benefit the Thoroughbred industry."

DOL Withdraws Proposed Child Labor Rules on Farms



On April 26, the Obama Administration announced its plans to withdraw a Department of Labor (DOL) proposed child labor rule applicable to agriculture. The proposed rule would have severely limited the ability of young people to work on farms and ranches.

"We are pleased the Administration responded to the concerns of the agricultural community and decided against changing the current rules for young people working on farms and ranches. This was a poorly conceived rule, and they did the right thing by withdrawing it," said American Horse Council (AHC) President Jay Hickey.

The proposed rule would have placed new limitations on the ability of young people to work for pay on farms or ranches not owned solely by their parents and would have effectively barred employees under 16 from working in most capacities in agriculture, especially around livestock, such as horses.

The AHC had been working with a broad coalition of agricultural organizations to convince the Administration and Congress that these rules were ill-considered, would prevent young people from becoming involved in agriculture, and would negatively impact family farms and ranches. In November 2011, the AHC submitted comments opposing the rule.

"When the DOL proposed this rule, we don't think they completely understood the impact it would have on young people who work in agriculture. Thousands of Americans from the agricultural community, including the horse community, submitted comments to the DOL explaining the problems with this rule and also contacted their Member of Congress to express their concerns," said AHC Legislative Director Ben Pendergrass. "The Administration listened and withdrew the rule. This is a good example of the way the system should work."

The Administration has stated it will not re-propose any new regulations on this issue. Instead it will "work with rural stakeholders to develop an educational program to reduce accidents to young workers and promote safer agricultural working practices."

- courtesy American Horse Council

Equibase Past Performance App Introduced for iPad



In May, Equibase Company LLC unveiled the Equibase iPPs™ Past Performance app for the



iPad, the company's first product specifically customized for Apple's popular tablet.

The Equibase iPPs app, which can be downloaded free from the App Store on an iPad, enables customers to download past performances to their iPad and then "mark-up" the program as if handicapping with a traditional pen and paper.

"The Equibase iPPs app displays past performance information in a format that can be easily personalized simply by touching the iPad screen," said Hank Zeitlin, president and COO of Equibase. "Whatever marks you make while handicapping using a traditional print program or *Daily Racing Form* – whether it's circling, highlighting or making specific notes – you can now make and save right on your iPad."

Users can select from a variety of past performance program formats for every North American racetrack for as little as \$2. In addition to Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse programs, Harness past performances are also available for download to the app.

2012 Online Fact Book Available on The Jockey Club Website



The Jockey Club announced on March 6 that the 2012 edition of the Online Fact Book is available within the Publications & Resources section of its website at www.jockeyclub.com.

The Online Fact Book is a statistical and informational guide to Thoroughbred breeding, racing and auction sales in North America and includes some state and provincial analysis. Also available are state fact books, which feature detailed breeding, racing, and auction sales information specific to numerous states and Canadian provinces. The state fact books are updated monthly.

"We produce these fact books as a service to the industry and as a way to benchmark trends in the Thoroughbred industry," said James L. Gagliano, president and chief operating officer of The Jockey Club. "They provide valuable, educational insight into Thoroughbred breeding and racing, and we believe they will be helpful to industry stakeholders and newcomers to our sport as we launch many of the fan development initiatives recommended last summer by McKinsey & Company to grow our sport."

The print edition of the 2012 Fact Book was published in April.

H-2B Visa Changes Averted for Now Program

On February 21, 2012 the Department of Labor (DOL) issued a final rule concerning the H-2B temporary guest worker program. This new rule, which was set to go into effect on April 23 and would have made significant changes to the way the H-2B program operates for all employers including those in the horse industry. The new rule would

make the H-2B program more costly and burdensome for employers who are forced to use the program.

DOL guidance and the complete rule can be found on the Department of Labor's website at <http://www.dol.gov/whd/immigration/H2BFinalRule/index.htm>.

The multi-industry coalition, which includes the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, that is working together to head off the implementation of the new Department of Labor (DOL) H-2B rules, filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida (Bayou Lawn & Landscape Services et. al. v. Solis) in mid-April seeking to block the implementation of the new DOL H-2B rules that were scheduled to go into effect before the end of April.

On April 26, the federal judge in the Florida court case issued a preliminary injunction nationwide blocking the implementation of the new proposed rules until the court can consider the merits of the plaintiff's case.

Also, as an important follow-up to the meeting Horseman Labor Solutions' Will Velie, owner Jerry Crawford, trainer Dale Romans, and representatives of the American Horse Council (AHC) and National HBPA had with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Director Alejandro Mayorkas at the end of March on the USCIS' "temporary need" interpretation, the USCIS Office of Public Engagement has called for a nationwide H-2B stakeholder's meeting to discuss the temporary need requirements of the H-2B rules. Originally scheduled for May 2, the stakeholder's meeting with the USCIS Director was postponed by the agency to a new date yet to be announced. The nationwide stakeholder's meeting is a direct result of National HBPA's and its allies' continuing efforts to fix the USCIS' flawed interpretation of the H-2B temporary need requirements.

New Owner Profile Pages Introduced on equibase.com



Equibase Company LLC has introduced Owner Profile pages in the Stats Central section on equibase.com.

These pages consolidate and present in one convenient location the most current racing statistics for individual owners, owners who race in partnerships and stables, syndicates and other racing entities.

"During 2011, a total of 64,670 Thoroughbred starters in the USA and Canada were raced under 32,124 unique ownerships," said Hank Zeitlin, president and COO of Equibase Company. "Owners make a tremendous commitment to this sport every time they breed or purchase a Thoroughbred to race. These Owner Profile pages provide not only information, but well-deserved recognition for the owner."

Owner names listed throughout equibase.com will now include links that will take the user to that owner's or partnership's specific stat profile page. The owner profiles are also searchable from 2010 to present and provide current year statistics as well as entry and result information.

The Owner Profile pages are the latest addition to the



Stats Central section of equibase.com, which includes expanded horse, jockey, trainer and track statistical profiles in one central location.

The Owner Profile pages will also complement Thoroughbred OwnerView, a free website being developed by The Jockey Club to encourage ownership of Thoroughbreds. Set to launch this month, Thoroughbred OwnerView will include detailed information on trainers, public racing syndicates, racehorse retirement and owner licensing.

The Jockey Club and NTRA Launch America's Best Racing Website

On April 16, The Jockey Club and the National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA) announced the launch of a new fan-oriented website: America's Best Racing. The web address is www.followhorseracing.com.

The new site, jointly managed by The Jockey Club and NTRA Communications, includes information about horses, jockeys, trainers, owners, and races; various tools to explore and learn about wagering; and the latest news, videos, and photographs surrounding the Triple Crown and Breeders' Cup seasons. There are profiles of the top 50 Triple Crown contenders and their connections, features provided by *The Blood-Horse*, and contributions from more than a dozen of the sport's leading bloggers and reporters.

"America's Best Racing is a key component in The Jockey Club's multi-pronged marketing and fan development campaign, which includes the 'Road to the Kentucky Derby' television series and the development of other digital content," said James L. Gagliano, president and chief operating officer of The Jockey Club.

"Following its initial launch, America's Best Racing will grow and unfold through a series of phased roll-outs as Thoroughbred racing transitions from the Triple Crown season to the Road to the Breeders' Cup," Gagliano added. "Additional content relating to the older horses will be added and new features will include behind-the-scenes access, exclusive videos, interactive functionalities and social media games."

"We are pleased to collaborate with The Jockey Club to expand the sport's digital platform," said Alex Waldrop, president and chief executive officer of the NTRA. "At a future date, many of the fan-centric components of www.NTRA.com will be transitioned to America's Best Racing."

New Horse Racing Mobile Application "Horse Races NOW!" Launched



On April 2, Kenny and Sue McPeek, past winners of the Big Sport of Turfdom Award, announced the launch of their iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch application created to provide the most comprehensive horse racing video and data for new fans and veteran

horseplayers alike. Horse Races NOW! The Coolest Horse Racing App EVER!®, is a mobile app being offered free at iTunes for a limited time.

"Sue and I felt there was a strong need for a unique app designed to deliver live video and replays of horse races in order to get all the data into the hands of new audiences and experienced horseplayers alike," said Kenny McPeek, trainer of over 120 stakes-winning Thoroughbreds. "It's like having the program to every racetrack in the palm of your hand. It alerts the user before, during, and after each race with unique sounds via push notifications. I believe fans will love it."

Horse Races NOW! is not a wagering device. It can be downloaded by anyone, any age, living anywhere. Currently it's only available as an Apple product, with long term hopes to bring the application to Android users, as well.

Features of the new iPhone and iPad application include: overnight entries for upcoming races, streaming live video from participating racetracks, results and payoffs delivered quickly, race replays from participating racetracks, select your favorites (racetracks, horses, trainers, and jockeys), push notifications for each favorite so you never miss a race again, and search engine to find race replays from participating racetracks.

Horse Races NOW! is working to add new racetracks every day. The goal is to expand the fan base and to bring racing into mainstream like other sports. The app, developed and engineered by The Jockey Club Technology Services, has benefitted from the full cooperation of Keeneland, and the National HBPA, among others.

Giving back to the industry and the fans means a lot to both Kenny and Sue McPeek. Their passion for horse racing sparked the idea, and every effort will be made to give back to the industry. None of this would be possible without the horses, horsemen and racetracks. If Horse Races NOW! becomes successful financially, each of them will be rewarded. The goal would be a profit sharing approach in the form of a purse supplement. The amount will be determined by the number of fans that watch each racetrack, of which the application has records.

For more information about Horse Races NOW!, please visit www.HorseRacesNow.com. Horse Races NOW! can also be found on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

The Jockey Club Releases Update From Equine Injury Database



In late March, The Jockey Club released an updated North American fatality rate for Thoroughbreds that includes three years' worth of data collected in the Equine Injury Database™, the North American database for racing injuries.

Based on an analysis of 1,160,045 starts collected during the three-year period January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2011, the prevalence of race-related fatal injury was



1.91 per 1,000 starts. For individual years, the prevalence of fatal injury per 1,000 starts was 1.98 for 2009, 1.88 for 2010 and 1.88 for 2011.

Matt Iuliano, executive vice president and executive director of The Jockey Club, noted two changes in the reporting of these and future national benchmark statistics:

- Statistical updates now reflect data collected during the calendar year (January 1 through December 31)
- Only injuries that result in fatality within 72 hours or less from the date of race are included in the national figures

“Originally, Equine Injury Database reports were generated from November 1 through October 31 of the following year to coincide with the first full year of data from a significant number of participating tracks,” Iuliano said. “The Equine Injury Database has grown large enough that, with 93 percent of race days represented in the statistics, reporting was changed to a calendar-year basis to match other statistical reporting by The Jockey Club.”

In an effort to provide more uniformity in the national benchmarks, only race-related injuries that result in fatality within 72 hours or less from the date of race are included in the national figures. Previous statistical summaries included race-related injuries that resulted in fatality regardless of when the fatality occurred after the date of the race.

Under reporting parameters used in previous years, which included injuries that resulted in fatality more than 72 hours from the date of race, the prevalence of fatality per 1,000 starts would have been 2.05 in 2011.

“Continued growth of the database has shown variations among jurisdictions in follow-up reporting during the days and weeks after an injury was sustained, creating variation in the results,” Iuliano said. “We realize there are situations in which the outcome is not determined until much later than 72 hours after an incident, but our confidence level in

reporting an accurate benchmark statistic is greatest when we utilize information available within 72 hours.”

The statistical analysis was once again performed by Dr. Tim Parkin, a veterinarian and epidemiologist from the University of Glasgow, who serves as a consultant on the Equine Injury Database.

“The addition of more than 379,000 starts to the database in year three enabled us to statistically validate certain trends seen in the data,” said Parkin. “The prevalence of fatality is not the result of a single variable in isolation, but rather the simultaneous interaction of myriad variables contributing in concert to injury,” Parkin added.

“The Equine Injury Database continues to be a work in progress,” explained James L. Gagliano, president and chief operating officer of The Jockey Club. “To fully recognize the enormous potential of the EID, we urge full participation of all racetracks in reporting injuries during racing and training hours. Currently, 93 percent of race days are represented in the race-related fatality statistics. Approximately half of the participating racetracks are also reporting injuries sustained during training hours.”

The Equine Injury Database contains a suite of reports for racetracks to analyze data collected at their respective facilities. In early March, The Jockey Club unveiled a new website that enables racetracks to make public their data in a standard, summary fashion. The website (jockeyclub.com/initiatives.asp?section=2) will be maintained by The Jockey Club.

Summaries of fatality statistics for a participating track include the year, number of race days, number of starts, age and sex of the horse, distance of the race, and the surface on which the incident occurred.

A list of racetracks that have signed up to participate in the Equine Injury Database, including those who are now reporting their statistics publicly, can be found at jockeyclub.com/initiatives.asp.

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News from TTHBPA Director of Racing Terry Blanton



Terry Blanton

Lone Star Park's 2012 Thoroughbred meet wrapped up as of July 8. Racing Secretary Mike Shamburg was pleased with entries of 8.9 horses per race.

Horsemen have completed their move off the backstretch as of July 15. As most of you are aware, a training center at Lone Star will not be offered this year due to the installation of a large screen infield tote board. According to Drew Shubeck, this is a major undertaking, and the track must be closed due to safety issues. Horses will be allowed back into the barn area on Monday, August 27. Be sure to check with the race office before shipping to ensure entry criteria and stall availability.

Several purses have been held up at the lab due to the complicated procedures of testing for the drug der-

morphin that we have heard so much about. I understand why many of you are upset – especially in today's hard economic times. But if you stop and think for a minute, you realize that catching these cheaters is important in order to keep our industry honest. Most of the folks in this industry are honest, so let's all be patient while these dishonest people are caught for the safety of everyone and the integrity of our livelihood.

Congratulations go out to our season champions: Danny Pish for winning his first Champion Trainer title at Lone Star Park, End Zone Athletics for winning the Champion Owner Title, Cliff Berry for his fifth Champion Jockey title at Lone Star, and Gerarado Mora for taking the title for Champion Apprentice Jockey. Congratulations to the connections of Nate's Mineshaft for winning the Horse of the Meet and the connections of Youcannotbeserious for Champion Claiming Horse.

The next Thoroughbred races are at the Gillespie County Fair meet in Fredricksburg until Retama begins

its 26-day meet on October 5. The dates for racing at Gillespie are July 21 and 22, August 11 and 12, and the final weekend being August 25 and 26. Retama will have weekend racing on Fridays and Saturdays though December 29. Stall applications and condition books will be out within the next 45 days. The best guess right now is that we will be running for an average of \$106,000 a day, including stakes.

The El Joven and M2 Technology La Senorita Stakes will be run on November 10 at Retama. Retama has over seeded the turf course with winter rye grass, and Racing Secretary James Leatherman expects to be able to put it to use about the middle of October. Waiting a few weeks will give the roots a chance to get a good hold and will ensure full use of the course through the end of the year.

Be sure to take a look at the front of this issue for any events that may be scheduled. And, as always, should have any questions or concerns that you would like to discuss, please feel free to contact me at (214) 384-9547 or Tami Hare at (214) 850-6821.

Retama Park 2012 American Quarter Horse Meet Stakes Schedule



Date	Race	Conditions	Distance
July			
Sat., Jul. 21	\$12,500-guaranteed La Villita Stakes	3 YO, TX-Bred	330 Yards
Fri., Jul. 27	\$35,000-added Garland Shelton GMC Truck Stakes (RGIII)	3 YO & Up, TX-Bred	400 Yards
	\$30,000-added TQHA Stakes	3 YO & Up, TX-Bred	250 Yards
	\$30,000-added TQHA 550 Stakes	3 YO & Up, TX-Bred	550 Yards
	\$15,000-added Jones Bloodstock Insurance Starter Stakes	3 YO & Up, TX-Bred	350 Yards
	Adequan Derby Challenge Trials	3 YO	400 Yards
Sat., Jul. 28	\$100,000-added TQHA Sales Futurity (RGII)	2 YO, TX-Bred	350 Yards
	\$75,000-added The Retama Park Derby (GIII)	3 YO	400 Yards
	John Deere Juvenile Challenge Trials	2 YO	350 Yards
August			
Sat., Aug. 4	\$15,000-added Colors of the Alamo Paint & Appaloosa Futurity	2 YO, Paint & App.	350 Yards
	\$12,500-guaranteed The San Marcos Handicap	3 YO & Up	870 Yards
	\$10,000-added Colors of the Wind Paint & Appaloosa Stakes	3 YO & Up, Paint & App.	350 Yards
Fri., Aug. 10	\$15,000-guaranteed The Live Oak Handicap	3 YO & Up, TX-Bred	350 Yards
Sat., Aug. 11	\$25,000-added John Deere Juvenile Challenge	2 YO	350 Yards
	\$25,000-added Adequan Derby Challenge	3 YO	400 Yards

Below is a complete list of end of meet award recipients as well as total business levels for the 53-day season:

Season Champions

Horse of the Meeting - Nate's Mineshaft (1-1-0-0, \$174,000), won Lone Star Park Handicap, Grade III

Champion Claiming Horse - Youcannotbeserious (7-4-1-1, \$45,680)

Champion Jockey - Cliff Berry (182-62-29-25, \$832,627), 5th Lone Star Park riding title

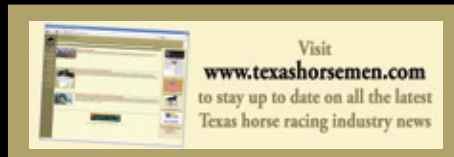
Champion Apprentice Jockey - Gerardo Mora (263-23-44-36, \$212,385), 1st career title

Champion Trainer - Danny Pish (195-42-34-32, \$525,190), 1st Lone Star Park training title

Champion Owners - End Zone Athletics, Inc. (60-17-9-3, \$139,164), 1st Lone Star Park owners title 🏆

Season Total Business Levels

Total Attendance & Handle	2012 (53 dates)	2011 (52 dates)	+/-
Attendance:	388,248	396,281	-2%
On-Track, Live Handle:	\$14.9 million	\$15.7 million	-5%
Simulcast-In Handle	\$23.7 million	\$23.2 million	+2.2%
Off-Track, Export Handle:	\$35.5 million	\$39.7 million	-11%
Live Product/Merge Handle (On-Track, Live & Off-Track):	\$50.4 million	\$55.4 million	-9%
On-Track Total (Live Handle, Simulcast-In)	\$38.6 million	\$38.9 million	-.001%
All-Sources Handle (On-Track, Live & Off-Track, Simulcast-In):	\$74.1 million	\$78.7 million	-5.8%
Daily Attendance & Handle Averages	2012 (53 dates)	2011 (52 dates)	+/-
Attendance:	7,325	7,620	-4%
On-Track, Live Handle:	\$281,132	\$301,923	-7%
Simulcast-In Handle	\$447,169	\$446,153	+2.2%
Off-Track, Export Handle:	\$669,811	\$763,461	-12%
Live Product/Merge Handle (On-Track, Live & Off-Track):	\$950,943	\$1,065,384	-11%
On-Track Total (Live Handle, Simulcast-In)	\$728,301	\$748,076	-2.6%
All-Sources Handle (On-Track, Live & Off-Track, Simulcast-In):	\$1,398,113	\$1,513,461	-7.6%



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Retama Park American Quarter Horse Meet Underway

Retama Park's 2012 American Quarter Horse meet got underway on Friday, June 8 and will continue through Saturday, August 11. Racing is held on Friday and Saturday evenings, with a first post time of 6:45 p.m.

On opening night, Jose Luis Salazar's Bertha Venation got up for a head victory in the first division of the \$20,000 Selma Stakes for fillies and mares, three and up. The Eusevio Huitron trainee ran the 350 yards in :17.551. In the second division, Shirley Flores' Bz Amazin Grace rallied for a neck score. The Manuel Flores trainee got the 350 yards in :17.708.

On June 9, Clem D. Nava, III's Jc My Diamond Man dominated the \$12,500 Universal City Handicap for three year olds and upward going 870 yards. Trained by Brian Stroud, the seven-year-old gelding drew off for a 4 3/4 length win in :46.024.

Trials were held for the TQHA Sires' Cup Derby (RG3) and TQHA Sires' Cup Futurity (RG3) the following weekend. On June 15, Juan Carlos Perez's Ss Poker Face Dream took his 350-yard trial in :17.774 to become the fastest qualifier for the Futurity for trainer Cleto Martinez, Jr. The following night, P and J Racing Ltd.'s Runaway Trs Seis emerged as the fastest qualifier for the Derby, running her 400-yard trial in :19.995 for trainer L. R. "Tooter" Jordan.

On June 23, A and D Racing's Tommy Smalls won a sev-



en-way photo finish to take the \$12,500 Ben E. Keith Stakes for three-year-old Texas-breds going 330 yards by a nose in :17.038 for trainer Alfred Aparicio.

Clem D. Nava, III's Jc My Diamond Man struck again on June 29, taking the \$12,500 Tower of the Americas Handicap for three and up going 550 yards by three lengths in front-running style in :26.935.

Three stakes were conducted on June 30. Francisco J. Garza's Jumpn Beau Chick took the \$50,000 TQHA Sires' Cup Derby (RG3) in :19.763 for 400 yards, while fastest qualifier Runaway Trs Seis finished fourth, beaten about three-quarters of a length. Roberto Madrigal trains the winner.

Bob McClure's Dale N James led all the way for a half-length win in the \$19,750 TQHA Sires' Cup Stakes for three and up going 400 yards in :19.872. He is trained by Cindi Keeton.

Fastest qualifier SS Poker Face Dream justified his even-money favoritism in the \$101,950 TQHA Sires' Cup Futuriy (RG3) with a 1 1/4-length triumph over Jess a Swingin in :17.555 for 350 yards.

On July 7, it was Bertha Venation back in the winner's circle - this time in the 350-yard \$20,000 King William Handicap for three and up in :17.779.

The track's popular Fifty Cent Nights are back this season, every Friday night. 🐾



Gillespie County Fairgrounds Association Mixed Meet Stakes Schedule

Date	Race (Breed)	Conditions	Distance
July			
Sat., Jul. 21	\$15,000-added TQHA Futurity (QH)	2YO, Accredited TX-breds	350 Yards
	\$10,000-added Texas TB Breeders Stakes (TB)* Trials for G.C.F.A. 79 & Under Allowance (QH)	3YO&Up, Accredited TX-breds 2YO, highest SI of 79 or below as of 7/1/2012	6 Furlongs 330 Yards
Sun., Jul. 22	\$5,000-added Dutchman's Quarterhorse Hdcp. (QH)*	3YO&Up, Non-winners of 3	350 Yards
	\$10,000-added G.C.F.A. Maiden Challenge (QH)	3YO&Up, enrolled in AQHA Racing Challenge Program	350 Yards
August			
Sat., Aug. 11	Trials for G.C.F.A. Maiden Classic (QH)	3YO&Up, Mdns. as of 7/1/2012	350 Yards
	Trials for G.C.F.A. Maiden Futurity (QH)	2YO Mdns.as of 7/1/2012	350 Yards
Sun., Aug. 12	\$7,500-added G.C.F.A. All Breeds 870 Stakes*	3YO&Up, QH preferred	870 Yards
	\$5,000-added G.C.F.A. 79 & Under Allowance Finals (QH)	2YO, highest SI of 79 or below as of 7/1/2012	330 Yards
Sat., Aug. 25	Trials for Gillespie County Fair Futurity (G3) (QH)	2YO	350 Yards
	\$12,000-added Simulcast Services Stakes (QH)*	3YO&Up	330 Yards
	\$5,000-added G.C.F.A. Maiden Classic (QH)	3YO&Up, Mdns. as of 7/1/2012	350 Yards
Sun., Aug. 26	\$5,000-added G.C.F.A. Maiden Futurity (QH)	2YO Mdns. as of 7/1/2012	350 Yards
	\$15,000-added Gillespie County Fair Futurity (G3) (QH) \$15,000-added G.C.F.A. Accredited TX-Bred Stakes (TB)*	2YO 3YO&Up, Accredited TX-breds	350 Yards 7 Furlongs

*Highest lifetime earnings preferred

*High weights preferred

Terry Blanton Sits Down with Lone Star Park Track Maintenance Director George McDermott

The following question and answer session with Lone Star Park Track Maintenance Director George McDermott was conducted by THP Director of Racing Terry Blanton.

TB: There have been a limited number of complaints concerning the track and turf surface at Lone Star Park. Every Thursday at 11:00 a.m. in the Texas Horsemen's Partnership office at Lone Star Park, we hold a meeting with LSP Track Maintenance Director George McDermott and Assistant Director Aaron "Pee Wee" Pelt. In these meetings, horsemen that would like to discuss any concerns they may have concerning either surface have the opportunity. For those that do not have the opportunity to attend the meetings each Thursday, I sat down with George for a short interview. I hope his answers will help horsemen understand what track maintenance does to help the horses and riders run safely over both tracks:



TB: How many years have you been at Lone Star Park?

GM: I started at Lone Star Park on October 17, 2005. This will be my seventh year. I have been in the track maintenance area for 37 years.

TB: I know you came over from Louisiana Downs. Tell us about your experiences with that track and any previous professional experience you've had that pertains to racing.

GM: I served in the United States Navy Submarine Service. I went to Midlands Tec. under the GI bill after leaving the United States Navy and earned a Diploma in Heavy Equipment Operation Maintenance and Heavy Construction Blueprint reading. My background prior to racing was in construction and being a heavy equipment operator.

I was hired at Louisiana Downs in May of 1975 as their equipment operator. That year, the racing surface was taken up and redone from the bottom up. I was involved in the entire operation to replace the racing surface. The track had its base redone, with a new surface applied.

In 1978, the building of the turf track was my next project to help with. The infield was prepped for the turf track base, and sand and grass were installed. In 1980, I was named the assistant track superintendent to Track Superintendent Joe Souza. In 1991, I replaced Mr. Souza as track superintendent.

TB: I know you visit several other tracks and attend seminars with other track superintendents visiting Lone Star Park. Please give us a run-down of who they are and why they visit this track.

GM: I have been attending the Track Superintendents Annual Field Day for nine years. The NTRA credits each event with

ECU of furthering track superintendents' education in the field for track maintenance. In 2007, Lone Star Park hosted the event, with track directors from all over the country and beyond - even Australia and Dubai.

I am a committee member in WSS Jockey Club on dirt and turf surfaces, ASTM (the international standard setting organization on equine surfaces), and a Safe Arena Footing (SAF) committee member for national rodeo events.

I have assisted the following states in racing surface problems: New York (the state racing commission and the HBPA), Pennsylvania (the state racing commission and the HBPA), and Louisiana (the HBPA). I have also been interim track superintendent at Louisiana Downs and Beulah Park.

I have consulted and assisted: Louisiana Downs (Louisiana), Arlington Park (Illinois), Oaklawn Jockey Club (Arkansas), Turf Paradise (Arizona), Penn National (Pennsylvania), Beulah Park (Ohio), Delta Downs (Louisiana), Gulfstream Park (Florida), Evangeline Downs (Louisiana), Hawthorne Race Course (Illinois), Prairie Meadows (Iowa), Santa Anita Park (California), Canterbury Park (Minnesota), Remington Park (Oklahoma), Prairie Meadows (Iowa), Retama Park (Texas), Fair Grounds (Louisiana), Calder Race Course (Florida), and Finger Lakes (New York).

TB: Some folks think you run a harrow and a water truck over the track, and that's it. Give us a quick run-down of a day in your job, starting with opening the track for training until the last race. What equipment do you use, and what testing equipment is used?

GM: First, I will say that the track surfaces (dirt and turf) are tested two times a year through laboratories. I only use laboratories that test racing surfaces (Soil and Plant - Environmental Technical Services and a new one, Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory). If results come back with recommendations, I will amend as needed. These labs give recommendations on fertilization schedules for the turf, as well.

It's not just dirt or grass. The racing surface is a special blend of materials that has proven safe for the riders and horses.

Maintenance of the racing surface starts at 2:00 a.m. My morning crew, with Aaron "Pee Wee" Pelt heading it up, is dedicated to getting the track ready for morning workouts.

The following is on a normal race day when all weather conditions are good:

Main Track

- We apply at least 40,000 gallons of water.
- Harrow the track open with three tractors.
- 8:00 a.m. - Break harrow the track at break.
- 10:00 a.m. - Training over, harrow the track and seal to retain moisture.

- 11:30 a.m. - Grade track, if needed, or at least make sure any problem areas are attended to (ridge under rail, fill gaps with material, or outside rail preps).
- 1:00 p.m. - The live racing track crew starts watering the dirt surface (probably another 40,000 gallons of water).
- 5:00 p.m. - (For night racing) prepare equipment (check cutting depth) for racing and open track.
- 6:05 p.m. - Drop final water and prep racing surface for racing.
- Race events crew applies 12,000 gallons of water (until moisture is correct or until the end of racing) after each race and harrow in.
- After last race, harrow the track. If water is needed, apply 12,000 gallons of water. This will end at 8:00 p.m. for day racing and at 11:30 p.m. for late race nights.
- Start irrigation on turf track two to three hours, depending on moisture content. Application is about 75,000 to 80,000 gallons each race night.

Turf Track

- After irrigation stops, we let the turf rest until the live turf crew comes in at 11:00 a.m.
- Inspect for any damage to the turf and top dress low spots (green top dress sand for looks).
- Cut the turf (two inches).
- Check all rails and make sure they are straight.
- Move gate boards and set-up for turf races at starting point gap.
- Take Clegg reading of turf at all locations needed to insure uniformity and proper compaction does not exceed safe limits.
- After live turf event, use light tractor with light roller (no water added for extra weight) to lay down divot marks and gate wheel marks.
- After live turf event six (6) men walk the turf to inspect and hand repair divot spots not corrected by light roller.

TB: What do you add to the track to maintain moisture levels?

GM: The material on the main track has a level of silt and clay that retains most of the moisture. We add organic bark material at intervals to help in moisture retention. This bark material is special and used for the dirt surface. It is a special blend that I created and is used all over the country. This process has been used in dirt tracks for many years, and I found that it helps with moisture and gives life to the racing surface.

TB: When we have rain, what is your schedule and procedure for taking races off of the turf? And why do you call them off early in the day? How does this help the horsemen?

GM: After a rain event, the first thing we do is to check the rain gauge for the amount of rain we had in that event (here at Lone Star Park, not DFW). If it is over 0.25 inch, we get ready to take Clegg measurements after training. On early race days, this has to be done prior to 11:00 a.m., and for late racing, no later than 2:00 p.m. This gives horsemen plenty of time to adjust shoes for the main track.

Walking the track - checking for proper readings and looking for unsafe areas - usually takes at least an hour and gives the turf crew plenty of time to correct any problem

areas. In some cases, races have to be taken off due to unsafe racing conditions. This also lets the riders know of any harder or softer spots to watch out for. With over four years of data taken in Clegg readings, we can insure the safety of riders and horses.

TB: Several horsemen believe that the turf is hard and not enough water is applied. Please explain the equipment and what you are accomplishing when you roll the turf. Could the rolling of the turf make it hard? What do you do to improve it?

GM: Water is applied to attain the safest racing conditions. The Clegg gives an impact reading that insures the proper running areas for the horses. This level is checked daily, and water is applied after races to make the turf uniform. If moisture is not monitored, you can have soft or hard areas. All the data taken gives the irrigation man the exact amount of water to be applied. If too much is applied, we lose a race day. If too little is applied, the turf can become too hard and uneven. Wind causes many problems, so the irrigation man stays and watches the entire water irrigation event (he stays until the turf track is done!).

The roller insures the turf is level after the horses run their race. As a horse hits the ground, it pushes the turf up slightly, making a slight hole in the ground. The roller only pushes in the opposite direction to aid in leveling back the turf. The roller has no added weight (water) to what you see. To insure against any compaction forming, either starting gate, mowers, people, horses, and the roller, a slicer is used. This slicer softens the ground without interfering with racing. This is done several times a week, and more if any area has a Clegg reading to indicate a hard area. This also aids in getting water, nutrients, and oxygen to the plant (turf).

TB: We have also heard many comments that claim you are limited by track management. Does management limit the expenses and manpower to maintain and improve both dirt and turf tracks?

GM: I have to say without reservation that management gives me whatever I need to maintain a safe racing surface. Drew Shubeck, our president and general manager, is dedicated to having a safe racing surface. Both tracks get whatever they need for safety. Drew has always said, "If you need it, get it." He is great to work for, and I have never had a better president and general manager. Watching budgets is important, but safety for riders and horses comes first.

Last but not least, without my crew, none of this takes place. I cannot thank my crew enough for their dedication to a safe racetrack. Without a good crew, I would not be able to give riders and horseman a safe racing surface.

TB: George, thank you for your time and answers. I hope this will help the horsemen to understand what all must be done to maintain a safe racing surface.

Meetings to discuss any issues and concerns about either the dirt or turf track are held each Thursday at 11:00 a.m. in the Texas Horsemen's Partnership office at Lone Star Park. Horsemen, this gives you an opportunity to receive answers directly from your track maintenance director. 🐾

Pinnacle Entertainment Announces Agreements to Acquire Majority Interest in Retama Park

On April 26, Pinnacle Entertainment, Inc. (PNK-1.50%) announced that a wholly-owned subsidiary of the company has entered into agreements to execute a series of transactions that would result in the company securing a 75.5 percent equity stake in Retama Partners, Ltd. ("RPL"), the owner of the racing license for Retama Park Racetrack. Located approximately 20 miles northeast of downtown San Antonio, Texas, Retama Park is a class 1 pari-mutuel horse-racing track directly off of Interstate 35 in Selma, Texas.

Under the terms of the agreements, Pinnacle will pay \$22.8 million to acquire the 75.5 percent stake in RPL, comprising a purchase of debt securities and other interests related to Retama Park for \$7.8 million and cash consideration of \$15.0 million that will be used primarily to refinance Retama Development Corporation's ("RDC") existing indebtedness and to provide working capital. The initial purchase of debt securities and other interests related to Retama Park are expected to close immediately. The subsequent transactions are subject to the receipt of all applicable regulatory approvals and additional agreements with RDC, with closing expected by the end of 2012. In order to maintain continuity in the operation of Retama Park, Pinnacle intends to provide bridge loans of up to \$2.6 million to RDC in the near term, which are to be repaid upon closing of Pinnacle's 75.5 percent stake purchase with the cash consideration contributed in that transaction.

Anthony Sanfilippo, president and chief executive officer of Pinnacle Entertainment, commented, "The Retama Park transactions provide Pinnacle with the opportunity to expand our portfolio of properties, diversify our operating base and provide strategic value for our shareholders. Pinnacle, along with Retama Partners, Ltd., will improve

the financial health of Retama Development Corporation. Upon closing, we will immediately begin work to integrate Retama Park into our portfolio of properties and leverage our operational and marketing expertise to bolster the track's performance. We look forward to partnering with the City of Selma to enhance the value of Retama Park



Racetrack and its economic impact on the State of Texas, the local community, and the horse-racing industry. We believe Retama Park provides significant strategic value for our shareholders given the potential approval of gaming entertainment centers at Texas pari-mutuel facilities and by expanding the reach of Pinnacle's operations in the region into

two key Texas markets, San Antonio and Austin."

Bryan Brown, Chief Executive Officer of Retama Entertainment Group, commented, "We are very excited at the prospect of having Pinnacle Entertainment as operator and majority partner of Retama Park. Pinnacle Entertainment's investment significantly improves the outlook for Retama Park, and we will undoubtedly benefit from Pinnacle's resources and long track record as a developer, marketer, and operator of gaming entertainment facilities throughout the U.S."

About Pinnacle Entertainment

Pinnacle Entertainment, Inc. owns and operates six casinos, located in Louisiana, Missouri, and Indiana, and a racetrack in Ohio. In addition, Pinnacle is developing L'Auberge Casino & Hotel Baton Rouge, and holds a 26 percent ownership stake in Asian Coast Development (Canada) Ltd. (ACDL), an international development and real estate company currently developing Vietnam's first large-scale integrated resort on the Ho Tram Strip. 🇻🇳

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T E X A S
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Benefits of Membership

Every person that starts a racehorse at a licensed Texas racetrack is automatically considered a member of the Texas Horsemen's Partnership for that year and is entitled to membership privileges.

The Texas Horsemen's Partnership (THP) is officially recognized by the Texas Racing Commission as the organization representing owners and trainers of horses racing in Texas. The Texas Horsemen's Partnership is a partner-

ship between the Texas Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association and the Texas Thoroughbred HBPA, Inc.

The Texas Horsemen's Partnership is an affiliate of the National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, as well as a member of Texans Horse Organizations for Racing, Showing and Eventing (HORSE). Certain members also may qualify for assistance through a trust fund administered by the THAFI to assist qualified horsemen with certain medical needs. In 2011, the THAFI paid out over \$98,000 in benevolent assistance to horsemen.

Funding for the THP is derived from several sources, including a contractual deduction from the purse accounts at each track, corporate sponsorships, revenue generating programs initiated by the THP and interest from treasury management. Therefore, no direct dues are required from any single member.

The Texas Horsemen's Partnership conducts numerous programs and services aimed at improving efficiency and enriching the lives of ALL horsemen at our tracks in Texas. This benefits package is second to no other racing jurisdiction in the country.

Below are some of the benefits that the Texas Horsemen's Partnership provides for its members:

Centralized Horsemen's Bookkeeping System: This revolutionary system was conceived and implemented by the THP and brings a branch-banking approach to our members. Horsemen are now able to consolidate all of their financial activity associated with horse racing at the various Texas tracks on one account and have one comprehensive statement. This allows for easier accounting and simplified tax reporting.

Free subscription to *The Texas Horsemen's News*: Every member who signs up at our website is e-mailed *The Texas Horsemen's News*, the official publication of the Texas Horsemen's Partnership. The THP's goal in producing and distributing this publication is to keep all of our members up to date on the news that affects our industry. We also want to give horsemen a "behind-the-scenes" look into many of the issues and personalities that shape our sport.

Interactive Website (www.texashorsemen.com):

- Latest industry news and information affecting Texas horsemen
- Access to online Horsemen's Bookkeeper account balances
- Organization information such as structure, bylaws, meeting minutes, etc.
- Information on benefits available to members

Chaplaincy Services: The THP and each racetrack cooperatively provide funds for a chaplain at all tracks. The chaplain conducts Sunday church services, weekly bible studies, offers counseling, facilitates drug intervention treatments when necessary and, in some cases, teaches an English/Spanish course. The Chaplain also assists horsemen with obtaining GEDs and gives classes in computer use.

Complimentary Fire, Disaster & Vanning Insurance coverage: \$25,000 per horse fire insurance coverage against death by fire, disaster & vanning for horses currently racing or in training to race at a participating race track in the U.S. or P.R. or in transit between them.

Groom Elite Educational Program: Groundbreaking groom training program offered at all Class One racetracks in Texas to improve the skill level of the people working with racehorses in Texas on a daily basis. Offered in both English and Spanish. The program has been endorsed as the national groom-training program of the National HBPA, and beginning in 2002, it became available in other racing jurisdictions outside of Texas.

Compass Bank Bonus Banking Package: This program offers free checking, discounts on installment loan rates, first check order free, customized THP checks, free online banking for 90 days, and more.

Free subscription to EquineLine.com Portfolio Service: The THP, in cooperation with the Jockey Club Information Systems, offers a free 90-day chance to try this great service that includes access to online condition books, horse tracking, nicking reports, etc. at no risk.

Group rates on Equine Liability Insurance: This is a cost effective group-rate policy to protect your assets in case of an injury or damage to property arising from your equine activities.

Discount at Sheplers Western Wear: All members are eligible to receive a 20% discount at selected Sheplers Western Wear super stores by presenting your TRC license at the checkout stand.

Representation in:

- Purse negotiations with racetracks
- Texas Racing Commission (TxRC)
- National HBPA (NHBPA)
- Legislative matters
- Texas Horse Organizations for Racing, Showing and Eventing (HORSE)

Other Member Benefits Include:

- On-track doctor services for trainers, grooms, and stable foremen
- Off-track shuttle services for members living in the stable area
- Continuing education seminars for owner and trainer members
- Outings to special events during live meets
- Horsemen's appreciation dinners

Charmin Chief Corona Named Horse of the Meet for Sam Houston Race Park American Quarter Horse Meet

Sam Houston Race Park announced that Charmin Chief Corona, a three-year-old filly bred and owned by Gary Kurz, was named 2012 Horse of the Meet. The talented filly won three of her four starts in the 2012 American Quarter Horse meeting, which concluded on May 19.

The chestnut filly is by Chief Corona out of the First Illusions mare Charming Illusions. She made her career debut last May at Sam Houston Race Park, won two races at Retama Park last summer, and ran in trials for the Dash for Cash Futurity at Lone Star on September 24.

Charmin Chief Corona had her first victory of the 2012 Sam Houston Race Park meet on March 30 in trials for the \$180,900 Sam Houston Derby (G3). She was returning off a six-month layoff and posted the second fastest time. In the finals, she was sent off at odds of 5-1 out of respect to the fastest qualifier, Sarah Must, who set a new track record in her trial victory.

The accomplishments of Charmin Chief Corona came under the watchful eye of trainer Cindi Keeton, who admired the calm demeanor of the filly in the barn, but saw her fire and determination when she entered the starting gate.

"She's turned into a beautiful horse," said Pat Kurz, who accepted the Sam Houston Derby trophy with her husband, Gary. "My husband was the one who wanted to breed to Chief Corona, and he came through for us. Cindi is a beautiful person inside and out, and we are so happy for her."

Francisco Raul Ramirez, Jr. had the mount in three of Charmin Chief Corona's four starts. James Flores rode her in trials for the Adequan Derby on May 5.

Charmin Chief Corona returned to the winner's circle on May 5, setting the fastest qualifying time in trials for the \$54,450 Adequan Texas Derby Challenge. In the finals on May 19, she stumbled to her knees when the gates opened and finished seventh to A Game Dame.

Fortunately, she came out of the race in good shape, and Keeton reports that Charmin Chief Corona has been shipped back to the Kurz's farm in Somerset, Texas.

"She is going to get some rest and will likely return for the Dash for Cash Derby trials at Lone Star Park," said her trainer.

Kurz has been a longtime supporter of Texas racing. He has bred some exceptional stakes winners including Gols Honey Money Pop, Jakes Charmin Jody, and Shake Em Special Pop.

Judd Kearl Wins His Fifth Houston Training Title

Judd Kearl continued his domination at Sam Houston Race Park, winning 35 races from 133 starts to clinch his fifth leading trainer title. Kearl's runners hit the board at a rate of 55.6 percent, with claiming, allowance and trial victories. He earned purses of \$213,977 throughout the 27-day meet. His lone stakes winner was Nowurtalkin, who captured the \$50,000 Sam Houston Classic (G2) on May 5.

Born in Utah, Kearl now calls Madisonville, Texas home and continues to be an ardent supporter of Texas racing. He won his first Sam Houston training title in 2006,

and topped all conditioners in 2007, 2010 and 2011. This year, Kearl also ran horses Remington Park and has a string at Delta Downs as well.

"I could not have this success without the support of my owners and an excellent staff of assistants and grooms," said Kearl. "I don't have to worry about my horses at Remington Park and Delta Downs; I know they are taken care of."

The 37-year-old conditioner and veteran jockey Rodrigo Vallejo have forged a solid union over the past five years.

"Our relationship is more than trainer and jockey," adds

Kearl. "We are friends, and I trust him completely."

Cindi Keeton enjoyed a successful debut at Sam Houston Race Park, finishing second with 13 wins. Brian Stroud was third, saddling 11 winners, and Guy Hopkins, Jorge Haddad and Cleto Martinez, Jr. each had 10 wins.

Rodrigo Vallejo Earns Third Leading Riding Title

Jockey Rodrigo Vallejo picked up his third leading rider title at Sam Houston Race Park. He won his first title in 2008 in a tie with Gaspar Garcia and his second in 2010. As the first call rider for leading trainer Judd Kearl, Vallejo won 38 of his 136 starts, as well as 26 seconds and 15 third-place finishes. The 46-year-old jockey was born in Jalisco, Mexico and has been one of the top riders in Texas, with solid showings in Louisiana and Oklahoma as well. His 2012 stakes wins here included the \$50,000 Sam Houston Classic (G2) aboard Nowurtalkin for Kearl and Zoomin Moon, for trainer Gary Jacobs in the \$15,645 Colors of Houston Futurity (G2).

"I want to thank Judd Kearl and other trainers for putting me on very good horses," said Vallejo. "Judd and I have been a team for the last seven years. We may not speak the same language, but we have always communi-



Horse of the Meet Charmin Chief Corona sprinting to victory.

Coady Photography

cated perfectly. This has been one of my best meets.”

Last year's leading rider, Luis Vivanco, finished second with 32 wins, and Luis Ramirez was third with 24 victories.

Vallejo has a rich history at Sam Houston Race Park. He is the only four-time winner of the Sam Houston Futurity and was the regular rider of Azoom, who was honored as the 2004 Sam Houston Horse of the Meet as well as AQHA Champion Two-Year-Old Colt/Gelding. Vallejo will divide his time between Ruidoso Downs and Retama Park over the summer.

Filimon Saucedo and A.D. Maddox Tie as Top Owners

The battle for owner of the meet went the distance, with A.D. Maddox having sole possession until the sixth race of the May 19 closing day card. Filimon Saucedo's Executive Tone won a 250-yard allowance to vault him into a tie for leading owner with Maddox with seven wins each.

This was the first owner title at Sam Houston Race

Park for Saucedo, whose horses are trained by his son, Juan. Maddox has captured three previous titles; the first came in 2005, another in 2007, and he tied with Jorge Haddad in 2009. His top highlight of the 2012 Sam Houston Race Park meet was a victory by CC Miss Yin You in one of the three divisions of the 110-yard \$15,000 Texas Twister Stakes. The five-year-old mare is trained by James Gerhards.

Jerry Windham and Eleazar Martinez, Sr. were tied for second with five wins.

Sam Houston Race Park will offer free admission through Labor Day.

Sam Houston Race Park will open its 20th Annual Live Racing Season with the opening of its Thoroughbred Meet on Friday, January 18, 2013. The meet will be highlighted by Texas Champions Weekend, The Connally Turf Festival (G3), Texas Stallions Day, and the MAXXAM Gold Cup Racing Festival. 🐾

Gillespie County Fair's Annual Mixed Meet Underway

The Gillespie County Fair Association (G.C.F.A.)'s annual mixed racing meet is underway. Racing commenced on Saturday, July 7 and Sunday, July 8, and there will be three more weekends of live racing at Gillespie in July and August. Racing will take place on July 21 and 22, August 11 and 12, and August 25 and 26. The popular meet is held at the Gillespie County Fairgrounds in Fredericksburg.

The meet's stakes schedule is topped by the \$15,000-added Gillespie County Fair Futurity (G3) for two-year-old Quarter Horses going 350 yards. Trials will be held on Sunday, August 12, and the final will be run on Sunday, August 26.

Other Quarter Horse stakes during the meet include the \$15,000-added (includes \$5,000 added by TQHA) TQHA Futurity for accredited Texas-bred two-year-olds going 350 yards on Saturday, July 21; the \$15,000-added Hill Country Dash for three-year-olds and up enrolled in the AQHA Racing Challenge Program going 440 yards on Sunday, July 8; \$12,000-added Simulcast Services Stakes for three-year-olds and upward going 350 yards on Saturday, August 25; the \$10,000-added G.C.F.A. Maiden Challenge for three-year-olds and up enrolled in the AQHA Racing Challenge Program going 350 yards on July 22; the \$5,000-added G.C.F.A. Maiden Futurity for two-year-old maidens (as of July 1, 2012) going 350 yards on Saturday, August 25; the \$5,000-added G.C.F.A. Maiden Classic for three-year-olds and up maidens (as of July 1, 2012) going 350 yards on Saturday, August 25; the \$5,000-added G.C.F.A. 79 & Under Allowance for two-year-olds with a high Speed Index of 79 and under as of July 1, 2012, to be run on Sunday, August 12 going 330 yards; and the \$5,000-added Dutchman's Quarter Horse Handicap for three-year-olds and up that have not won three races going 350 yards on Sunday, July 22.



Thoroughbreds will contest the \$15,000-added (includes \$10,000 added by TTA) G.C.F.A. Texas-Bred Stakes for accredited Texas-bred three-year-olds and up going seven furlongs on Sunday, August 26 and the \$10,000-added (includes \$8,000 added by TTA) Texas Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes for three-year-olds and up going six furlongs on Saturday, July 21.

All of the racing breeds will get a chance to compete against each other in one stakes race - the \$7,500-added G.C.F.A. All Breeds 870 Stakes for three-year-olds and upward going 870 yards on Sunday, August 12. While the race is open to all breeds, it is Quarter Horse preferred and highest lifetime money earners preferred.

Racing Paint horses competed on Sunday, July 8 in the \$5,000-added Paint Maturity for three-year-olds and upward going 350 yards.

Wendell Blankenship's 4-to-5 favorite Indians Quick Dash raced to a 1 1/2 length victory over Sherrills Babe in :18.143 under Ricardo Aguirre for trainer Gary Jacobs.

Also on July 8, Dr. Tommy Hays and Bobby Barnett's four-year-old filly Painted Sable scored a front-running one length triumph in the \$16,950 Hill Country Dash Stakes for Quarter Horses going 440 yards in :21.682 under Ricardo Aguirre. She is trained by L. R. "Tooter" Jordan.

Entries for race days are to be taken 72 hours prior to race day, with entries opening at 8:00 a.m. and closing promptly at 10:30 a.m.

Post time on race days is 1:00 p.m., and gates open at 11:00 a.m.

Admission is \$5 for adults. Admission for children six to 12 is \$1, and children under six are admitted free. Box seats are \$9 apiece, and advanced box seats can be reserved by calling the Fair Office at (830) 997-2359. 🐾

Chaplain's Corner: The Tally Sheet

by Chaplain Sam Ed Spence, Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie

As a boy growing up on ranches in the Hill Country of central Texas, I remember my dad often using some kind of tally sheet when we were working stock. Sometimes it would be a little index card swiped from the back of mom's kitchen recipe box and stuffed into a shirt pocket with a stub-nosed, soft-lead pencil from the local auction barn. Sometimes the tally sheet was just a bunch of straight marks made with a nail on a 2'x 6' at the nearest fence ... or barn wall ... or working chute ... maybe even on the concrete around a dipping vat.

Regardless of where or how it was kept, the tally sheet was pretty important to daily ranch business.

Somehow, down through the years, I got it in my head that the Lord was keeping a tally sheet on me . . . a tally sheet with two columns – one for good marks and another column for bad marks. I figured if I could just manage to earn enough marks on the good side, I'd stand a pretty fair shot at making it through those pearly gates when my time was up on this earth.

But what a battle it was, especially in those younger years, trying to keep that tally sheet heavy on the good side. I failed one moral test after another. And these defeats most always brought frustration, condemnation, and despair. Finally, I quit trying so hard and just marked myself off as

one of those that wasn't going to make the cut.

Years later, I heard a former gangster deliver a message explaining that God had provided a way to wipe my tally sheet clean as a whistle. He said that God knew way ahead of time that there was no way that I – or any other mortal – could tally up enough good marks to qualify for His stable.

So God, in His infinite mercy, sent His own Son, Jesus Christ, to walk the same old testing trails that I'd have to walk, and Jesus walked 'em perfect without ever faltering. Then, even though He was totally innocent and free of all sin, Jesus went to the cross at Calvary and paid the price and penalty for all my failures – all those bad marks on the tally sheet.

What a great joy and relief it was to find out that my tally sheet was clean. God wasn't holding *anything* against me, because His Son had actually become my sin, as He had the sins of the whole world. All I had to do to *experience*

that forgiveness was to believe it in my heart and speak it out. (*Romans 10:9*)

Yep, I still blow some turns (bad marks), but I've found that Jesus doesn't condemn me. Instead, He just picks me up, dusts me off, and says, "Come on, son, we'll win this next one." He did a *complete* job on that old tally sheet idea. 🙏

He just picks me up, dusts me off, and says, "Come on, son, we'll win this next one."

2012 Race Dates for Texas

Gillespie County Fairgrounds

Mixed: July 7, 8, 21, 22,
August 11, 12, 25, 26 (8 days)

Laredo Race Park

Mixed: August 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25 (8 days)

Longhorn Downs

Mixed: July 20-August 26 (18 days)

Lone Star Park

Thoroughbreds: April 12-July 8 (53 days)
Quarter Horses: September 14-November 10
(26 days)

Retama Park

Quarter Horses: June 8-August 11 (20 days)
Thoroughbreds: October 5-December 29 (26 days)

Sam Houston Race Park

Thoroughbreds: January 20-March 12 (31 days)
Quarter Horses: March 22-May 19 (27 days)

Valle de los Tesoros

Quarter Horses: August 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26 (6 days)

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2012 LONE STAR PARK RACING CALENDAR



2012 SPRING THOROUGHBRED SEASON April 12 - July 8 (53 Race Days)

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

First Live Race Begins at 6:35 p.m. Weeknights and 1:35 p.m. Weekends*
 May 28 - First Live Race at 1:35 p.m.* • July 3 & 4 - First Live Race at 5 p.m.*

2012 FALL MEETING OF CHAMPIONS FOR AMERICAN QUARTER HORSES September 14 - November 10 (26 Race Days)

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

First Live Race Begins at 6:35 p.m. Weeknights and Weekends*
 *Post times subject to change.

■ Live Race Days