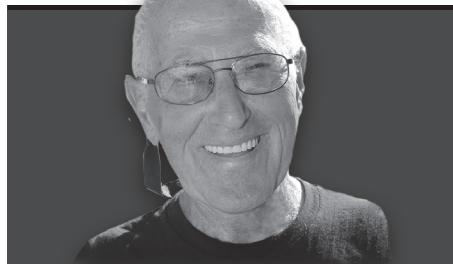




The Horsemen's Newsletter

November/December 2011

Vol. 21 • Number 8



Eddie Gaudet Going Out On Top

Maryland trainer Eddie Gaudet said that he plans to retire from training at the end of the year, with his wife, Linda, and daughter Lacey taking over the Bowie Training Center barn.

The 81-year-old has become a legend for being a top horseman and a practical joker. He finished third among Maryland trainers, behind King Leatherbury and Dale Capuano, for three straight years in the mid-1990s and has over 1,700 victories in a career that began in 1959.

Gaudet was also a recipient of the 1995 Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association's trainer of the year award.

"I will still be hanging around the barn but it is time," said Gaudet, "Lacey wants to pursue this as a career and was really ready years ago. She is a great horsewoman and they [Lacey and Linda] have been doing a great deal of the work for quite some time."

Gaudet, a mainstay of the Maryland circuit for decades after moving here from his native New England, won the 1971 Black-Eyed Susan with At Arms Length and the 2011 Federico Tesio S. and Find S. with Concealed Identity.

Race Track Union Attacks Horsemen's Slots Revenue To Fund Pension Plan

At the November Racing Commission meeting, Harry Manley, Director for United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 27, announced a plan to seek funds for MJC's Race Track Workers Pension Plan from slots money.

Receiving a portion of slots revenue would require a change in the State law. With the current budget restraints facing Annapolis there is little thought that the money the union is looking for will come from the state's share. These funds would most likely come from earmarks for purses and breeders' funds.

Local 27 represents race track workers at Maryland's thoroughbred and harness race tracks and the Pension Plan for race track workers has been funded from a percentage

of each track's share of pari-mutual revenues.

The Race Track Workers Pension Plan has seen its revenue drop in recent years due to a reduction of live racing days within the state.

At the commission meeting Maryland's track operators did not express any desire to making up any short falls in the pension plans for their workers.

The proposed funding, as endorsed by Mr. Manley, could mean that money intended for purses and bred funds would be used for race track employees.

The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association does not support this change to slots proceed distribution which would reduce purses and/or race days.

Jockey Worker's Comp Cost To Significantly Increase

Chartis Insurance Company, the current provider of worker's compensation for jockeys in Maryland, has notified the Maryland Racing Commission that it will cease writing this policy beginning in 2012.

The premium in 2011 through Chartis was slightly over \$500,000. Thus far the only entity to offer a policy for 2012 is the Injured Workers Insurance Fund (IWIF) at a cost of \$1.6-million.

These premiums are historically paid by an assessment on Maryland-licensed thoroughbred owners and trainers. In 2001 the fee was \$50. It would have been \$200, but the fund had a surplus from previous years that was able to make up the difference.



"The MTHA is examining funding alternatives for the state mandated policy so that the fee paid by each licensee will remain at a manageable figure," commented MTHA President Richard Hoffberger.

The Maryland Jockey Injury Compensation Fund is a nonprofit corporation managed by the Maryland Racing Commission and was created to protect riders and eliminate liability for owners and trainers.

Jockey claims for the Maryland Jockey Injury Compensation Fund are administered by the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association as a service to jockeys and horsemen.



Cole Makes History With Rapid Redux

RAPID REDUX, a 5-year-old gelding owned by Maryland horsemen and Towson native Robert Cole Jr., set the modern North American Record for consecutive victories by winning his 20th consecutive race on November 21.

Claimed by Cole for \$6,250 last year, RAPID REDUX won the 20 races in less than a year's time. His streak began Dec. 2, 2010.

Trained by David Wells, Rapid Redux has averaged one win every 17.75 days since the streak began.

Peppers Pride and Zenyatta, who both won 19 in a row, accomplished their streaks over four-year periods making this feat even more impressive.

RAPID REDUX has now captured 21 of 22 starts at a variety of venues around the Mid-Atlantic region including five wins in Maryland highlighted by his record tying 19th win at Laurel Park on October 27th. He is also a perfect 18-of-18 in 2011. The record for most victories in a year is 19 by Citation in 1948, the year he won the Triple Crown.

Robert Cole, Jr. a 1981 graduate of Loch Raven High School topped the Maryland standings four consecutive years (2006-2009), led the nation in victories in 2008 with a career-best 234 and has ranked among the nation's leaders in wins and earnings seven times since 2001.

Board Actions

MTHA Board Meeting – November 3rd at Laurel Park

Members present: Richard J. Hoffberger, President, Richard J. Meyer, Vice President, W. Robert Bailes, Howard M. Bender, Dale Capuano, Linda S. Gaudet, H. Neil Glasser, Christopher W. Grove, Arnold A. Heft, Michael F. Horning, R. Larry Johnson, Timothy L. Keefe, Lawrence E. Murray, Katharine M. Voss.

Member absent: Christine E. Bricker

Thanksgiving Dinners

The Board unanimously approved funding for the annual Thanksgiving dinner held at the Laurel Park and Bowie track kitchens for backstretch employees.

Recreation Program

The Board unanimously appropriated up to \$35,000 to extend the Recreation Program through December 31, 2012.

Benevolence

Following established procedure, the Board agreed to appropriate up to \$60,000 in 2012 to fund the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Benefit Trust, by which the MTHA provides health benefits to trainers and their spouses.

Backstretch Employee Pension

MTHA directors approved the allocation of \$300,000 from the Purse Account toward the funding of the Pension Plan for backstretch workers for 2012. This is the same amount that has been set aside in each of the last 24 years.

Jockey Fees

The Board unanimously approved a continuation of the \$10 losing mount fee bonus for 2011. The losing mount fee bonus is restricted to jockeys with the majority of their mounts in Maryland, who rode 50 or more horses and earned less than \$100,000 in Maryland in 2011 and paid as a losing mount bonus at year end.

Distributing the funds in this manner provides meaningful support for Maryland jockeys, and benefits hard working, worthy individuals.

Race Dates

The Board authorized a committee that consists of President Hoffberger, Alan Foreman, Wayne Wright and anyone else of their choosing to negotiate with the Stronach Group regarding race days and related issues.

Simulcasting Extension

In the absence of an agreement the simulcast agreement will end on December 31, 2011 the Board unanimously approved Simulcasting for 2012 contingent upon a satisfactory 2012 dates agreement with the Maryland Jockey Club.

Coupled Entries

The Board unanimously approved uncoupling entries in all overnight races except when there is common ownership.



Horsemen's Calendar

RACING

Laurel Park Now through Dec. 17

FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC AUCTIONS

AT TIMONIUM (410) 392-5555

Two-Year-Olds in Training May 21-22

OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

Keeneland January Horses of All Ages, Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412 Jan. 9-14

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Winter Mixed, Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555 Feb. 7

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Selected Sale of Two Year Olds In Training Ocala, Fl. (352) 237-2154 Mar. 13-14

Keeneland Two-Year-Olds in Training, Lexington, Ky., (800) 456-3412 ... April. 9

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Spring Sale of Two Year Olds In Training Ocala, Fl. (352) 237-2154 Apr. 23-26

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company June Two Year Olds & HORA Sale Ocala, Fl. (352) 237-2154 Jun. 19-20

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July Sale, Lexington, Ky., (859) 255-1555 . Jul. 10-11

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Selected Sale of Yearlings Ocala, Fl. (352) 237-2154 Aug. 21

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Open Sale of Yearlings Ocala, Fl. (352) 237-2154 Aug. 22-23

Keeneland September Yearling, Lexington, Ky., (800) 456-3412 Sept. 10-23



News Clips

Carmen Reyes Returns To Home In Panama



Longtime Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association's Administrative Assistant Carmen Reyes left her position with the MTHA to return to her home in Panama City, Panama with her brother Eddie.

A dedicated employee for over 10 years and friend of many horsemen, Ms. Reyes worked as the MTHA's racetrack representative.

Her helpfulness, knowledge and friendliness will be missed by all and the MTHA family wish her well and thank her for her years of service to the Maryland Thoroughbred industry.

Diana Pinones replaced Carmen as the MTHA racetrack representative.

Thanksgiving Dinners On The Backstretch

The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association served over 350 dinners Thanksgiving Day at the Bowie and Laurel Park kitchens.

Mario Pino Now 13th On All-Time Win List

Jockey Mario Pino moved ahead of Hall of Famer Eddie Delahoussaye for 13th on the all-time win list when he guided 13-1 shot Torcello to victory in the second race at Laurel Park, Nov. 17. The 50-year-old Pino now has over 6,400 wins and counting.

The Horsemen's Newsletter

Published monthly by the
Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc.

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The Horsemen's Newsletter
reports on issues and events of interest to owners and trainers in Maryland.
Your suggestions are welcome.



MRMA Scholarship Program A Success

MRMA President Stan Salter awards \$30,000 in financial assistance to 26 backstretch and farm workers at the Maryland Racing Media Association's Scholarship Awards Crab Feast Ceremony on Saturday, October 19th at Laurel Park.



Recreation Report

From Dan Mangum,
MTHA Recreation Director

Basketball

The MTHA Basketball League starts in January. Anyone interested in playing or having a team participate should contact Dan at 410-802-5798.

Texas Hold'em

The MTHA will sponsor a mock Texas hold 'em tournament at Bowie on Monday, December 12, beginning at 11:30 a.m. For more information call Dan at 410-802-5798.

Donations

The following generous people made donations: Jack Adamecz, James Boyce, Gene Gilhooly, Sylvia and Arnold Heft, Sean & Ruthanne Lillis, Herb and Miriam Mittenthal, David Richardson, Kathryn Size and Jay Williamson.

Donations of clothing of all types, shoes, reading materials, etc for distribution on the backstretch are always appreciated and accepted at the MTHA office at Laurel Park. Please call 301-470-5464 for more information.



Our dedicated backstretch workers can enjoy a free

HOLIDAY BREAKFAST

Christmas morning at both the Bowie Training Center and Laurel Park track kitchens compliments of the Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund and the Maryland Jockey Club.



MTHA

6314 Windsor Mill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

Nov./Dec. 2011

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Your Thoroughbred Horsemen's PAC is committed to the protection, promotion and improvement of live thoroughbred horse racing in Maryland.

We rely on your support. Please consider a donation.

Amount Of Donation

\$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

City, State, Zip _____

*Please make checks payable to Thoroughbred Horsemen's PAC. Mail this form and check to:
MTHA, 6314 Windsor Mill Road, Baltimore, MD 21207.*

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