



The Horsemen's Newsletter

February 2012

Vol. 22 • Number 2

Maryland Purses See 10% Bump



Laurel Park purses increased roughly 10% across the board to a figure that tops the 2011 daily averages at two nearby racetrack casinos with which it competes for horses.

The Maryland Jockey Club made the announcement Jan. 11 in conjunction with release of the Laurel winter/spring meet stakes schedule. With the elimination of four stakes, purses for all but one stakes have been increased.

Laurel purses averaged \$185,813 over 115 days of racing in 2011. The average will increase to \$205,000 in the second condition book for the meet beginning Feb. 1.

The previous purse increase in Maryland came last February.

Even though Maryland tracks do not have video lottery terminals, they derive purse revenue from two VLT parlors in Maryland: Hollywood Casino at Perryville and Ocean Downs Casino, a harness track on the Eastern Shore. By law, VLT parlors contribute 4.98% of revenue to thoroughbred purses for racing in the state.

"We will have a purse increase across the board," Racing Secretary Georganne Hale said. "Some are 10%, others 11%. It will make our purses competitive with Charles Town, Penn National, and Parx Racing. Horsemen will not have to go out of town to run

Continued on Page 3...

Maryland-Based Horse-Of-The-Year Honors To Eighttofasttocatch

The Maryland Racing Media Association's Board of Directors has named EIGHTTOFASTTO C A T C H, who runs in the colors of Sylvia Heft, the 2011 Maryland Based Horse-of-the-Year.

Conditioned by Tim Keefe, the six-year-old bay gelding won five starts in Maryland in 2011, including the Harrison Johnson Memorial, the Japan Racing Association Stakes and the Maryland Million Classic with an average Beyer Speed figure of 100.

"Though I owned the Bullets and the Capitals with Mr. Abe Pollin, we never really had



a champion," said Arnold Heft, Sylvia's husband. "This is a great thing for my wife and me. This is my first real champion and I'm 92 years old."

EIGHTTO-

FASTTOCATCH, bred in Maryland by Dark Hollow Farm and Graham and Anita Motion's Herringswell Stables, joins past award winners Better Talk Now, Heros Reward, Ah Day, and Shared Account among others.

The Maryland-based Horse-Of-The-Year award will be presented at a ceremony to be held on February 11th.

Maryland Live! Casino On Track For June Opening

The first phase of the Maryland Live! Casino near Arundel Mills Mall in Hanover, Maryland is on target to open in early June, state lottery director Stephen Martino told the state's casino commission in early January.

The first phase of the Cordish Company project will open with between 2,500 and 3,000 slots machines with the rest of the 4,750-machine slots parlor to open by the end of 2012.

Seven percent of the revenue generated from slots at Maryland Live! is directed toward horsemen and breed-

ers. That 7 percent is divided between the Thoroughbred and Standardbred industries on an 80/20 percentage basis. The Maryland-bred Fund receives 11 percent of the Thoroughbred share, and the remaining 89 percent goes to the Purse Account.





News Clips

Ted Black Named President Of MRMA

Prince George's Gazette sports writer Ted Black was recently elected as the President of the Maryland Racing Media Association by members of the organization. Black succeeds former President Stan Salter who served at the helm of the group since May 2011.

Born and raised in Prince George's County, Black has been a staff writer for the Gazette Newspapers since 1999 and has been a member of the National Turf Writers Association since 1995.

Group That Includes Stronach Applies For Baltimore Slots License

Quicken Loans founder Dan Gilbert is one of the chief investors in a group that submitted paperwork and a \$22.5-million application fee to build a \$310-million casino in Baltimore, Maryland.

According to a report on the Crain's Detroit Business website, investors expect a decision on the casino application by April for the available license, for which no other group has submitted the necessary paperwork and fee.

The investment group is led by Caesars Entertainment Corp., which has a 20% stake in Gilbert's casinos being constructed in Cleveland and Cincinnati. The other investors in the deal are Frank Stronach's The Stronach Group, which owns Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course, and Maryland-based CVPR Gaming Holdings, Crain's Detroit Business reported.

Plans for the casino call for 110,000 square feet for 3,750 slot machines, a steakhouse and food court, and retail space.

The Horsemen's Newsletter

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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.

Rapid Redux Is Awarded Special Eclipse Award

Rapid Redux, perhaps the most famous starter-allowance horse in racing history, was honored for his 2011 accomplishments with a Special Eclipse Award at a ceremony on Jan. 16 in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Special Eclipse Awards periodically are given when accomplishments during a racing season fall outside established championship parameters, and Rapid Redux represents such a case.

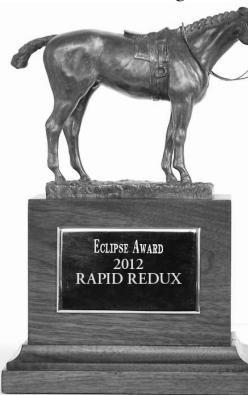
The six-year-old gelding, won all 19 of his starts during 2011, equaling a record for calendar-year wins held since 1948 by the great Citation. Rapid Redux's 20th victory without a defeat,

in November at Mountaineer Park, surpassed the 19-race winning streaks compiled in recent seasons by Peppers Pride and Zenyatta.

Rapid Redux's winning streak of 22, which began in December 2010 is the highest in North

America since Camarero set his world record of 56 in Puerto Rico between 1953 and 1955.

Rapid Redux was trained throughout 2011 by David Wells, and is owned by Marylander Robert Cole, who claimed the horse for \$6,250 in October 2010. Rapid Redux's 19 wins during 2011 came at seven different racetracks and at distances ranging from five furlongs to 1 1/8 miles.



Recreation Report

*From Dan Mangum,
MTHA Recreation Director*

Bowling

The bowling tournament is now scheduled for Monday, February 27, at Laurel Fair Lanes. Call Dan Mangum at 410-802-5798 or sign up in the track kitchens.

Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading material and/or other items for distribution on the backstretch or made a monetary contribution: Charles 'Snake' Frock, Gene Gilhooley, Georganne Hale and Lydia Williams.

2011 Maryland Slots Report

| Destination | % | 2011 Revenue | Since Inception |
|---|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Education Trust Fund | 48.5 | \$75,518,764.99 | \$88,903,032.49 |
| Casino Operators | 33.0 | \$51,383,901.95 | \$60,490,723.17 |
| Purse Dedication (80% Thoroughbred, 20% Harness) | 7.0 | \$10,899,615.55 | \$12,831,365.50 |
| Local Impact Grants | 5.5 | \$8,563,983.66 | \$12,831,365.50 |
| Race Tracks Facility Renewal Account | 2.5 | \$3,892,719.86 | \$4,582,630.54 |
| Maryland Lottery | 2.0 | \$3,114,175.87 | \$3,666,104.41 |
| Small, Minority, and Women-Owned Business | 1.5 | \$2,335,631.92 | \$2,749,578.34 |
| Total 2011 Revenue | 100.0 | \$155,708,793.80 | \$183,305,221.70 |



Reminders

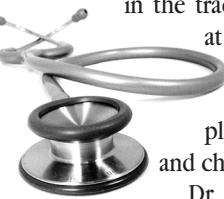
Backstretch Health Center

Colds... flu... allergies. Don't let winter-time illness get you down.

The Backstretch Health Center, located in the track kitchen building at Laurel Park, offers free care to all backstretch employees, their spouses and children.

Dr. Harry M. Harris, medical director, sees visitors at the center on a first-come, first-served basis Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

The center is a joint project of the Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund and the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association.



Pimlico Stall Applications

The Pimlico stable area is slated to be open March 12th through June 1st for the Spring meet.

Please have your stall applications into the Racing Office no later than March 1st.

TCA Grant Applications

Thoroughbred Charities of America (TCA), the largest non-profit organization in the Thoroughbred industry, is currently accepting grant applications.

Applications must be postmarked by March 15. TCA's mission is to provide a better life for Thoroughbreds, both during and after their racing careers.

For more information, go to thoroughbredcharities.org.



Need Help Filing Your Taxes?

The Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund is providing free help preparing backstretch workers EZ Form tax returns.

Contact Bill Borchardt at (301) 776-0404 for further information.



Horsemen's Calendar

Live Racing:

Laurel Park Now-Mar. 24

Pimlico Mar. 30-May 19

Timonium Aug. 24-Sept. 3

Fasig-Tipton Midatlantic Auctions:

AT TIMONIUM (410) 392-5555

Two-Year-Olds in Training May 21-22

Eastern Fall Yearling Oct. 2-3

December Mixed Dec. 3

Out Of State Auctions:

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Winter Mixed, Lexington, KY Feb. 7

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Selected Sale of Two Year Olds In Training, Ocala, FL Mar. 13-14

Keeneland Two-Year-Olds in Training, Lexington, KY April. 9

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Spring Sale of Two Year Olds In Training, Ocala, KY Apr. 23-26

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company June Two Year Olds & HORA Sale, Ocala, KY Jun. 19-20

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July Sale, Lexington, KY Jul. 10-11

Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Sale, Saratoga Springs, NY Aug. 6-7

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Selected Sale of Yearlings, Ocala, FL Aug. 21

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Open Sale of Yearlings, Ocala, FL Aug. 22-23

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Yearlings, Lexington, KY Aug. 17

In Memoriam

Backstretch worker **Michael Tarquino** passed away on December 27 at the age of 31. Michael worked as a hotwalker for trainer Charles Frock at the time of his death.

Dr. John Forrest Peacock passed away on December 30 at the age of 70. He was an Examining Veterinarian for the Maryland Racing Commission from 1980 to 2011 before he retired for health reasons.

Dr. Peacock was born in Asheville, NC and graduated from North Carolina State University in 1963. He received a doctorate degree in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Georgia in 1967.

Thomas J. Kennedy, Jr., a World War II hero and long-time Thoroughbred owner, died at his home in Mt. Washington, Md., Jan. 6.

Kennedy, a native of Kingsville, Md., raced horses throughout the Mid-Atlantic region for nearly five decades.

Longtime owner **Lillian J. Horner** passed away on Jan. 9.



Continued from Page 1...

because the purse is so much bigger.

"We are holding our own and this will boost morale, especially on the heels of the fact we will be running the same schedule as a year ago."

According to TJCIS, Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races in West Virginia paid an average of \$166,978 in purses over 232 racing days in 2011. Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course in Pennsylvania paid an average of \$181,020 over 199 days of racing.

Parx Racing in Pennsylvania led the way at \$321,331 per day over 202 days, according to TJCIS. But clearly the Laurel purses have become competitive in the region.

The Laurel stakes schedule will be headlined by two grade II events: the \$200,000 Barbara Fritchie Stakes for fillies and mares Feb. 18 and the \$200,000 General George Stakes for males February 20.



Backstretch Pension Plan Registration



Pension Plan Registration for the year ended 2011 will take place at the following times and locations.

Bring your Maryland Racing Commission Badge and W2, 1099, or tax return for 2011.

For more information call the MTHA office at (410) 265-6842.

March 26 through March 30

Bowie Track Kitchen, Office Next Door, 9:30 a.m. to noon

April 2 through April 6

Laurel Track Kitchen, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Attention All Backstretch Employees:
Assistant Trainers, Exercise Riders,
Grooms, Hotwalkers, Stable
Foremen, Trainers, etc.**

April 9 through April 13
Pimlico MTHA Office, 10 a.m. to noon

April 16 through April 20
Bowie Track Kitchen, Office Next Door, 9:30 a.m. to noon

April 23 through April 27
Laurel Track Kitchen, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

April 30 through May 4
Pimlico MTHA Office, 10 a.m. to noon

**Failure to register will result in
the loss of your 2011 benefit**



MTHA

6314 Windsor Mill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

February 2012

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 _____

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