



The Horsemen's Newsletter

April 2012

Vol. 22 • Number 4



Russell, Kobiskie win Laurel Winter Meet Title

The 12-week Laurel Park winter meeting ended with Sheldon Russell and Dane Kobiskie winning individual titles. The 48-day stand began at the central Maryland track on January 4 and ended March 24.

Russell, the top jockey in the Maryland colony a year ago, topped the rider standings with 54 first place finishes, 21 more than Malcolm Franklin. The 24-year-old had 16 multiple win days during the meet, including nine in the last four weeks of the stand.

Kobiskie won the training title at the winter meet for the second straight year with 34 victories from 81 starts, an impressive 42% winning percentage. The former rider conditioned seven runners who won multiple races during the meet, including Lady June Bug and Lipstick Traces, who visited the winners' circle three times.

Jamie Ness finished in second place with 23 wins.

Kobiskie's top owner, PTK LLC, led the owner standings, finishing first 29 times, six more than Midwest Thoroughbreds.

MTHA approves adjusted stakes payouts, Arabians

The Board of Directors of the MTHA voted unanimously at its March 21, 2012 meeting to endorse and approve a plan submitted by the Maryland Jockey Club's Racing Office that modifies the Maryland stakes purse payout structure by paying down to sixth place from the previous system which paid only to fifth place.

The new breakdown for stakes payouts, which began April 7 in the Mister Diz Stakes, is: 60% to first, 20% to second, 10% to third, 6% to fourth, 3% to fifth and 1% to sixth.

"This change was the idea of my Stakes Coordinator to attract fuller fields for Maryland stakes. If owners know there's one more way to get a check, in some instances they are more likely to enter their horse in a stakes race," remarked MJC Racing Secretary Georganne Hale.

To fund this new payout, 1% was removed from the previous system's third-place finishers' payout and transferred to a sixth-place finisher.

In addition, the MTHA Board unanimously approved an emergency request from MJC

by conference call to endorse House Bill 597 "Horse Racing - Mile Thoroughbred Racetracks - Payment of Taxes and Impact Aid and Arabian Breed Racing Authorization."

This emergency legislation, sponsored by Ways and Means Committee Chairman Sheila Hixson, was created to authorize limited Arabian racing at Maryland tracks under very specific conditions with no contribution requirements from the Thoroughbred Purse Account.

The purpose of this request by MJC management was to accommodate a potential international sponsor on Preakness Day. This sponsor has shown interest in conducting and funding an Arabian race early on the day's card, which requires legislative approval, with all pari-mutuel wagering proceeds distributed to Thoroughbred interests as a normally carded race.

Other requirements called for in this legislation are: no more than one race per day; no more than three races per meet; any Arabian race is to be conducted in addition to and not in place of an existing Thoroughbred race; and each Arabian race conducted must be approved and sanctioned by the Maryland Racing Commission.





In Memoriam

Longtime backstretch worker **James 'Pino' Jones** passed away on March 19 at the age of 69.

Jasmine D. Watkins, wife of 52 years to Maryland owner Robert Watkins and mother of trainer Shannon Watkins, passed away on March 17 after a long battle with cancer.

The Watkins family is best known for owning Smelly, an earner of \$308,862 from 26 starts while winning or placing in six stakes including a 10-length victory in the Grade 3 Federico Tesio Stakes.

Noted horsewoman and philanthropist **Mignon C. Smith** died February 10 of an apparent heart attack in Washington, D.C. She was 81.

Smith was an accomplished breeder and owner for 50 years, racing on the flat and over jumps. The horses she bred won over \$2.4 million in purses and included nine black-type winners.



Calendar

Live Racing:

Pimlico Now-May 19
Timonium Aug. 24-Sept. 3



Fasig-Tipton

Midlantic Auctions:

Two-Year-Olds in Training May 21-22
Eastern Fall Yearling Oct. 2-3
December Mixed Dec. 3

Out of State Auctions:

Ocala Two-Year-Olds in Training,
Ocala, FL April 23-26



Recreation Report

From Dan Mangum, MTHA Recreation Director

Orioles/Bay Sox Tickets

We will be distributing Orioles and Baysox tickets through a sign up and drawing on the following dates:

Baysox tickets will be passed out on April 7, April 28 and May 5 from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Bowie Kitchen. Also April 13, April 20 and May 11 at the Laurel Kitchen.

Orioles tickets will be distributed through drawings to be held on the following dates: Sat., May 11 at the Laurel Kitchen, Sat., July 28 at the Bowie Kitchen, and Sat., August 25 at the Laurel Kitchen.

Everyone may sign up at the track kitchens. By signing up for either the Baysox or the O's tickets you will be eligible for both drawings.

Golf Outing

We are attempting to get a golf outing together for May 7 or May 14 at Walden Country Club in Crofton. Please contact Dan or see Libby Butts if you're interested in participating or helping to organize this outing.

Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading material and/or other items for distribution on the backstretch or made a monetary contribution: Gene Gilhooly, Anthony R. Fulco, Pat Kelly, Herb & Miriam Mittenthal, Claire Minderlein and Caroline Stautberg.



Reminders

Backstretch Health Center

Dr. Harry M. Harris continues to see visitors during the Pimlico meet at the track kitchen building at Laurel Park on a first-come, first-served basis, on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

Doc Harris will also be available at the Pimlico First Aid Station on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Care is FREE OF CHARGE to all backstretch workers and their families.

Injured Jockeys

Jockeys injured during a race at the Pimlico meet are reminded to contact Diana Piñones first at (410) 578-4464 for help starting a Worker's Compensation claim.

If a jockey's injury is non-race related, please contact your employer at the time of the accident for Worker's Compensation insurance information.

MTHA Office Schedule

The MTHA race track office is open on live race days during the Pimlico meet from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. The office is located above the former Pimlico track kitchen. Call Diana Piñones at (410) 578-4464 for more information.

No Parking

Horsemen are reminded that there is NO PARKING in between the barns at Pimlico.

Trainers, please notify your owners of this notice. Track management will strictly enforce this regulation at the orders of the Fire Marshall and will tow any cars found between these barns.

Tattoo Schedule

Frank Saumell's current tattooing schedule is: Monday - Laurel Park, Tuesday - Bowie and Wednesday - Pimlico.

Kegesus Returns

The hard-partying centaur known as Kegesus will be back to promote this year's \$1 million Preakness Stakes.

The Maryland Jockey Club announced in a news release that Kegesus, Lord of the Preakness InfieldFest, will serve as the voice and personality of the InfieldFest advertisements again this year.

In February, the "International Brotherhood of Mythical Creatures" declared Kegesus "missing" as part of a marketing gimmick.





Board Actions

MTHA Board Meeting – March 12, 2012 – Conference Call

Members present: Richard J. Hoffberger, president, Richard J. Meyer, vice-president, Christine E. Bricker, Dale Capuano, Linda S. Gaudet, H. Neil Glasser, Christopher W. Grove, Michael F. Horning, R. Larry Johnson, Timothy L. Keefe, Lawrence E. Murray, Katharine M. Voss.

Members absent: W. Robert Bailes, Howard M. Bender and Arnold A. Heft.

Arabian Racing

The Board expressed support for the amendment to HB 597 "Horse Racing - Mile Thoroughbred Racetracks - Payment of Taxes and Impact Aid" that calls for the authorization of Arabian racing at Pimlico Race Course under specified conditions.

Voted unanimously.

MTHA Board Meeting – March 21, 2012 – Laurel Park

Members present: Richard J. Hoffberger, president, W. Robert Bailes, Christine E. Bricker, Dale Capuano, Linda S. Gaudet, H. Neil Glasser, Christopher W. Grove, Michael F. Horning, R. Larry Johnson, Katharine M. Voss.

Members absent: Howard M. Bender, Arnold A. Heft, Timothy L. Keefe, Richard J. Meyer, vice-president, and Lawrence E. Murray.

Drug & Alcohol Program

The Board appropriated \$40,000 from the Purse Account as the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association's 2012 contribution to the Drug and Alcohol Program.

Voted unanimously.

MTHA Board Meeting – March 26, 2012 – Conference Call

Members present: Richard J. Hoffberger, president, Richard J. Meyer, vice-president, W. Robert Bailes, Christine E. Bricker, Linda S. Gaudet, H. Neil Glasser, Michael F. Horning, R. Larry Johnson, Timothy L. Keefe, Lawrence E. Murray, Katharine M. Voss.

Members absent: Howard M. Bender, Dale Capuano, Christopher W. Grove and Arnold A. Heft.

Legislative Representation

The Board authorized up to \$20,000, if necessary, to secure additional legislative representation. *Voted unanimously.*

 **HAPPY HOUR - Fridays**
Laughing Horse Café at Pimlico
4:00-7:30pm, Drink Specials,
Food Specials, D.J.

Consultation with Gegorek & Company

The Board granted the MTHA's officers the authority to retain the services of Gegorek & Company when need arises in matters relating to The Stronach Group.

Voted unanimously.

Stakes Payouts

The Board approved modifying payout percentages in stakes races effective immediately to: 60% to first, 20% to second, 10% to third, 6% to fourth, 3% to fifth and 1% to sixth.

Voted unanimously.

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.

Jockey Club makes fatality database available

More than a dozen racetracks that participate in a horse racing industry fatality database, including Maryland tracks, have agreed to release statistics for their properties, according to The Jockey Club.

The Equine Injury Database was conceived after the breakdown of 2006 Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro in the Preakness Stakes, and launched in July 2008.

To encourage tracks' participation, the database organizers previously hadn't disclosed fatality rates for individual tracks. Now The Jockey Club will be making that data available through its website: www.jockeyclub.com.



Down the Stretch for Susan G. Komen returns

A week before the second jewel of the Triple Crown shines horse racing's spotlight on Baltimore, human runners will once again get the chance to dash around the historic Pimlico course, and raise money for a good cause at the same time.

The Maryland Jockey Club announced the return of the "Down the Stretch for SGK" Preakness 5K. The race will take place Saturday, May 12, at Pimlico Race Course, with part of the proceeds benefitting the Maryland Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

For the third consecutive year, runners will be able to compete on the Pimlico dirt course, where champion Thoroughbreds like Secretariat and Seabiscuit once ran, and finish in the legendary infield.

The 5K race will begin at 10:30 a.m. It will start on the parking lot at Belvedere and Park Heights Avenues and circle one mile around the Pimlico dirt course. The route will continue around the Pimlico perimeter before finishing in the infield.

For more information visit: <http://www.corrigansports.com>



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.

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

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



MTHA
6314 Windsor Mill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

April 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 _____

*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.*

MTHA Board of Directors

Richard J. Hoffberger
President

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Vice President

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