



The Horsemen's Newsletter



April 2017

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Commission Hears About Report on Maryland Purse Payouts

The Maryland Racing Commission March 23 received a report from the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association that shows owners, trainers and breeders with ties to Maryland took home the bulk of the more than \$50 million in purse money paid at the state's Thoroughbred tracks in 2016.

The subject was raised by MRC commissioner Konrad Wayson, who said he had heard a large amount of purse money was going to out-of-state interests. Wayson then cited the report, which indicates 78.2% of the \$50,085,471 in purse earnings was paid to horses with Maryland connections.

Maryland connections for the purse report were defined as owners, breeders and trainers, either separately or in combination.

"We obtained a detailed report from the Jockey Club on every starter in Maryland last year and then analyzed this data in depth," MTHA Executive Director David Richardson said. "I think it's important that we have actual raw data instead of backstretch rumor."

Of the \$40,293,471 in purses paid in overnight races at Laurel Park, Pimlico Race Course and the Maryland State Fair at Timonium, 86.4% went to horses with Maryland connections. Of the \$9,792,000 paid in stakes earnings, horses with a Maryland connection earned 44% (\$4,312,570)—or 52% if the Preakness Stakes isn't factored in the equation.

Richardson elaborated: "This year, we experienced the first serious push in Annapolis to start to erode our purse dedication funds. While lobbying legislators, we delivered a positive message that the state's investment in our industry is really paying off. This positive message worked since the effort to take a portion of our slots money was scuttled."

The Thoroughbred purse account provided \$6,251,200 of the total stakes earnings. The Preakness purse is split 50-50 between the MJC and horsemen.

"If you look at the money that went out of town, the



Fantasy Ownership Challenge begins with a bang

The luck of the draw paid off for T. Chris Young and a few others when Triple Tree Stable's Claravoyant won one of six races to kick off the 2017 Fantasy Ownership Challenge at Laurel Park.

Participants in the free Fantasy Ownership Challenge were randomly assigned horses in the six overnight races on the Saturday program, and Claravoyant, trained by Mary Eppler and ridden by Alex Cintron, won the race with the largest purse of \$50,000. Claravoyant earned \$28,500 for winning the maiden special weight event for fillies and mares and as of March 19 topped the earnings' list for the more than 40 horses that are now part of the

contest that runs through Dec. 31 of this year.

About 300 people signed up for events on Fantasy Owners Day—far more than expected—which included a seminar for prospective owners. Many of those eligible to register for the Fantasy Ownership Challenge expressed enthusiasm throughout the day.

Among those who drew an envelope containing the name Claravoyant in the fourth race was T. Chris Young, a vice president and investment adviser for PNC Bank who visits Maryland racetracks from time to time.

"I enjoy the races, and this event

—Continued on Page 3

Backstretch Pension Sign Ups Begin April 24



The MTHA has scheduled three sign-up periods for its backstretch pension program beginning April 24 in the Laurel Park track kitchen.

Individuals licensed by the Maryland Racing Commission for one year as either a trainer or stable employee (grooms, exercise riders, hot walkers, pony person and stable foremen) with 1,000 hours worked on the backstretch at Laurel Park or Pimlico are eligible to participate.

Complete details and the 2017 sign up schedule appears on page 2.

Continued on Page 2

OTB In The Works For MGM National Harbor Casino

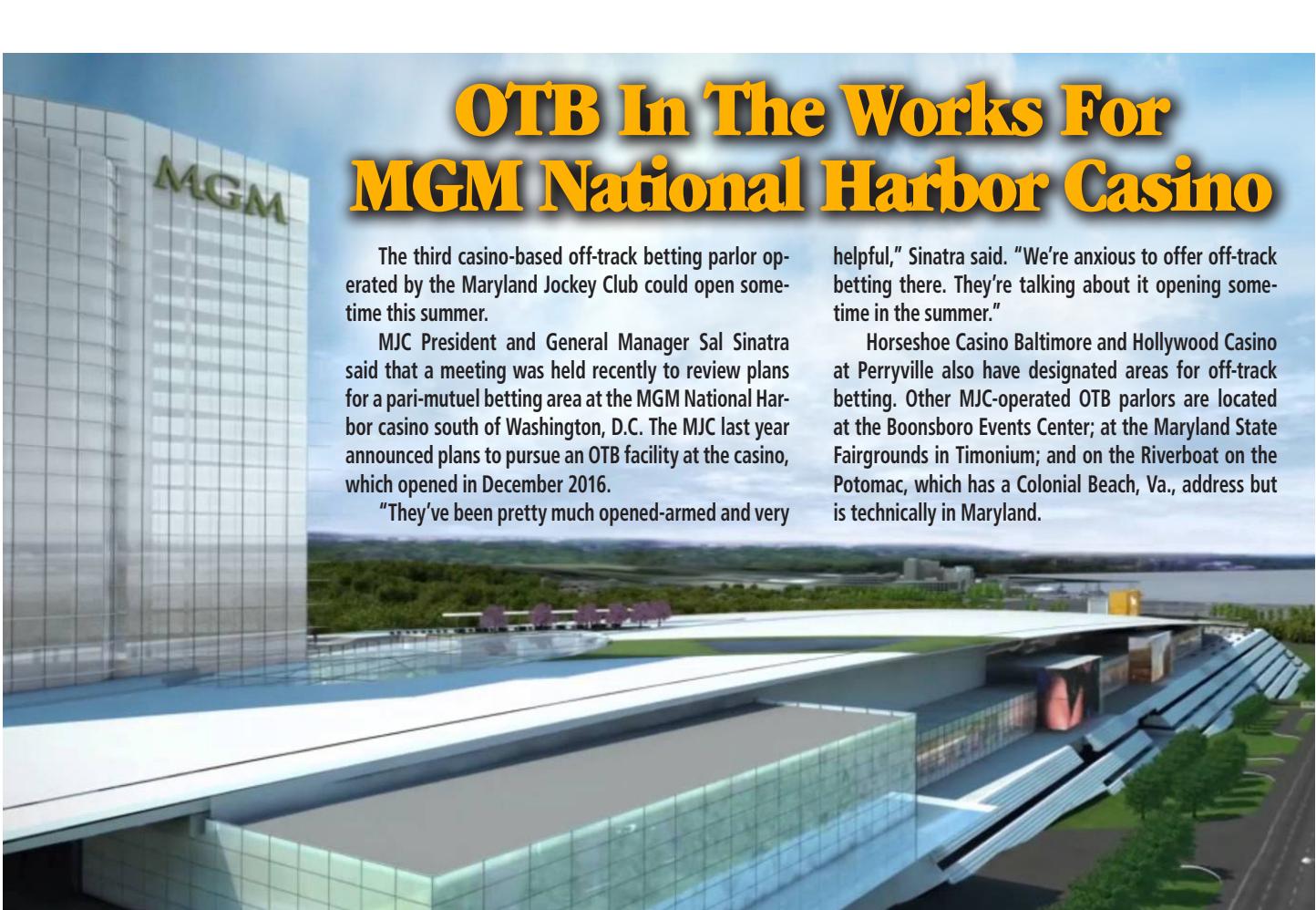
The third casino-based off-track betting parlor operated by the Maryland Jockey Club could open sometime this summer.

MJC President and General Manager Sal Sinatra said that a meeting was held recently to review plans for a pari-mutuel betting area at the MGM National Harbor casino south of Washington, D.C. The MJC last year announced plans to pursue an OTB facility at the casino, which opened in December 2016.

"They've been pretty much opened-armed and very

helpful," Sinatra said. "We're anxious to offer off-track betting there. They're talking about it opening sometime in the summer."

Horseshoe Casino Baltimore and Hollywood Casino at Perryville also have designated areas for off-track betting. Other MJC-operated OTB parlors are located at the Boonsboro Events Center; at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium; and on the Riverboat on the Potomac, which has a Colonial Beach, Va., address but is technically in Maryland.



MTHA Backstretch Pension

2017 Sign Up Schedule

Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Backstretch Pension Plan Registration for the year ended 2016 will take place at the following times and locations.

Please bring your MRC Badge and W-2, 1099, or tax return for 2015.

For more information call the MTHA office at (410) 902-6842.

Failure to register during these times will result in the loss of your 2016 benefit.

April 24 through April 28

Laurel Track Kitchen,
9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

May 1 through May 5

Laurel Park MTHA Office,
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

May 8 through May 12

Pimlico MTHA Office,
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

► Purse Payouts, From Page 1 —

vast majority was paid on Black-Eyed Susan and Preakness Stakes days," said trainer Katy Voss, an MTHA board member. We need to attract horses from out of state, and we still made more (revenue for purses). We need to give our fans a good experience. There has to be a balance."

According to the report, stakes purses on the MJC's two biggest racing days of the year totaled \$2,414,750, but total revenue for the purse account exceeded \$4 million for Black-Eyed Susan and Preakness Stakes days.

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Free Easter Breakfast

For Maryland's Dedicated Backstretch Employees

Easter Sunday

Laurel & Pimlico Kitchens



MTHA Golf Tournament Monday, April 10

Spring is right around the corner and that means one thing, the MTHA Spring Golf Tournament is upon us.



Compass Point G.C.
Pasadena, Maryland
Registration: 11 a.m.
Tee Off: Noon

\$65 per golfer. Contact Marty Leonard at (203) 733-1367

Fantasy Owner's Challenge, From Page 1

today is a fantastic experience," Young said. "I know folks who own horses like Linda Gaudet and Dr. James Casey. They always talk about coming out to the track. I couldn't be more pleased with the experience."

Young's son, Zian, accompanied him to Laurel and also spent some time on the backstretch with Casey. Zian Young has been riding horses since the age of five and is interested in veterinary medicine.

Claravoyant, a 4-year-old Kentucky-bred filly by Drosselmeyer, is yet another successful claim for the Eppler barn, which now has 10 wins during the Laurel winter/spring meet. Eppler claimed the filly for \$10,000 in October of last year, and she showed gradual improvement at a higher level leading up to her March 18 start.

In the fifth race, Joan Everett's homebred 4-year-old filly Participate grabbed the early lead under Julian Pimentel and never looked back to win and collect \$20,377, which put her second on the earnings' list for the day. The Maryland-bred by Include is trained by Jason Egan.

Rob Thomsen is one of the fantasy owners of Participate, who won for the second time in 10 starts. The purse for the fifth race was \$27,500, but Participate qualified for a 30% Maryland-bred bonus that is included in her earnings.

"It was more exciting than you can possibly imagine," Thomsen said. "It was an unbelievable opportunity. I'm from Baltimore and I've been to the Preakness and Maryland Million over the years, but when I heard about this latest opportunity, I couldn't pass it up."

After the race, Thomsen spoke to Egan, who encouraged him to stay involved and follow Participate, especially with turf racing scheduled to begin soon in Maryland.

"If we're trying to get more people involved in racing, this is certainly worth a few minutes of our time to thank them for showing up," Egan said. "I heard the reception for this event was pretty good. We want people to have a reason to stay connected with racing, and if following a horse for the year does it, that's a great incentive."

Maryland Jockey Club President and General Manager Sal Sinatra said he was encouraged by the response to Fantasy Owners Day, which included a look at morning training, a prospective owner seminar, a free buffet lunch and trips to the paddock and winner's circle.

"This was our way of giving people the experience of being an owner without any expense," Sinatra said. "It will now be our job to treat them like owners, inviting them to events and making them feel a part of our group. This day was a success, and it couldn't have been done without the help of horsemen and breeders."

As noted earlier, all fantasy horse earnings in U.S. races will be tracked from March 18-Dec. 31 of this year. Prize money for participants is as follows: \$30,000 for the horse with the most earnings, \$10,000 for second, \$5,500 for third, \$3,000 for fourth and \$1,500 for fifth. If multiple participants are assigned to the same fantasy horse, the share of the prize will be divided equally among the number of participants.

Published earnings by Equibase.com will be the source of determining earnings for each fantasy horse. The earnings will be compiled and posted on this website on a weekly basis, usually Sunday or Monday.

Be sure to check the standings regularly. To better track when your horse is entered to run, and the results of races, sign up for Virtual Stable at www.equibase.com

Rec Report

Golf Tournament

The Annual MTHA Golf Tournament will be held at Compass Pointe Golf Course in Pasadena, MD on Monday April 10th with registration starting at 11:00 am and Tee Time at 12:00 pm. We will be having teams of 4 and we will be playing best ball. The price will be \$65 per person. Prizes will be given out for Longest drive and the closest to the pin. After the round is over we will have a dinner and award ceremony. If you have any questions, please contact Marty Leonard at 203-733-1367. Please call as soon as you can and reserve your spot.

Poker Tournament

A record number attended the March poker tournament which was won by Campbell Wilson. Howard Wolfendale finished in second while Tim Walsh finished in third.

The next poker tournament will take place at Laurel in the MTHA Rec Center on Tuesday April 11th starting at 12:30.

Baseball Tickets Are Here

Sign up for O's or BaySox tickets in the kitchens or call Dan at (410) 802-5798.





Please join us for a fun day in a beautiful setting to support the horses and cats of Foxie G

April 30, 2017
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Linganore Winecellars
13601 Glissans Mill Rd
Mt Airy, MD 21771

AN ALL VOLUNTEER 501(C)(3)
NON-PROFIT HORSE AND CAT RESCUE
ORGANIZATION



\$20 PER PERSON IN ADVANCE*
\$25 AT THE DOOR

Includes 8 wine tastings (for those 21 and older), cheese, fruit and chocolates

Under 18 admitted for FREE with an adult

For ticket sales visit <http://www.mdtix.com/thefoxiegfoundation.html>



HIGHLIGHTS

Live Music By The Knight Brothers with a Live Broadcast from 99.9 WFRE

Meet retired racehorse Wilbur, saved from slaughter • Family and dog** friendly event

Vendors, Silent Auction, Pony Rides, Moon Bounce, Face Painter, Pet Communicator

whinnywhiskers@thefoxiegfoundation.org • www.thefoxiegfoundation.org/equines-in-the-vines

*There is a \$3 service fee for online ticket transactions. **Dogs must have a current rabies tag and be on a leash.



MTHA

500 Redland Court, #105
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

April 2017

STANDARD
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WESTMINSTER, MD

Tax time is here. The MTHA will assist backstretch workers and trainers to prepare and file their state and federal tax returns.

An appointment is required. Stop in the MTHA racetrack office during live racing from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or call 410-902-6843 to schedule.



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