



# The Horsemen's Newsletter



June 2017

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## 2017 Preakness Meet Numbers Break Records

Two days that are important drivers for Thoroughbred purses in Maryland generated record pari-mutuel handle this year, according to the Maryland Jockey Club.

Wagering on a 14-race program May 20, Preakness Stakes day, was \$97.168 million, up 3.2% from the previous record of \$94.127 million set in 2016 and about 14% higher than total betting in 2015. In-state handle on live Pimlico races increased 7.1% thanks to growth in the off-track betting network in the state.

On May 19, which featured the Black-Eyed Susan Stakes as part of a 14-race card, total handle was \$19.895 million, an increase of 6.6% from \$18.661 million in 2016.

Handle for the two days generated over \$4.7-million for purses.

The MJC also reported record attendance for both days: 140,327 (up 3.7% from 135,256 in 2016) on Saturday and 50,339 (up 4.9% from 47,956 last year) on Friday.

"The sport of Thoroughbred racing is being rejuvenated and reimagined by the Stronach family," MJC president and general manager Sal Sinatra said. "Their commitment to this sport is remarkable and unparalleled. Their vision is being embraced by horsemen and fans around the country."

"We want to thank the fans who came to Pimlico Saturday as well as the horsemen who supported our program and, of course, the incredible equine athletes for their spirit and beauty."

Sinatra said he believes total handle on May 19 could have been higher if not for a late-afternoon rainstorm and about 20 scratches.

The three racing days of Preakness week were the centerpiece of a short 12-day meet at Old Hilltop, which cur-

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## Beyond The Wire Program Gets Rolling



Beyond The Wire, Maryland racing's expanded aftercare program, had a successful soft launch Preakness Stakes week and through the end of May had taken in three racehorses from three different trainers.

Applications were approved for Charlie Bravo, a 5-year-old City Zip horse trained by Lacey Gaudet; D'Humerus, a 4-year-old D'Funnybone gelding trained by John Hartsell Jr.; and Smart Dixie Jones, a 5-year-old Smarty Jones gelding trained by Valora Testerman.

All three raced most recently in Maryland, which is one of the criteria for entering the racehorse retirement program.

"It went really well," said Jessica Hammond, administrator of Beyond The Wire and counseling administrator for the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. "People have been asking questions about the program, and trainers in Maryland have been helping to promote it. Some seem surprised at how fast we can go through the process and get a horse moved to one of our Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance-accredited

facilities."

Beyond The Wire has partnerships with two such farms in Maryland: Mid-Atlantic Horse Rescue in Chesapeake City and the Foxie G. Foundation in Union Bridge. Hammond said Smart Dixie Jones went to Mid-Atlantic Horse Rescue, while Foxie G took in Charlie Bravo and D'Humerus.

Beyond The Wire is designed to strengthen Thoroughbred aftercare in Maryland by providing more stable funding and increasing accountability for the whereabouts and welfare of equine participants.



MARYLAND THOROUGHBRED AFTERCARE

Jockey Club, as well as owners and jockeys who contribute on a per-start or per-mount basis.

Others also play an important role in the process. Maryland Veterinary Group performed the required examinations on the initial three horses in the program for free while Steve Pettit shipped them to the farms at a reduced rate.

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# Maryland Racing Commission Ratifies Preakness Bonus

The Maryland Racing Commission May 25 ratified the parameters of a Preakness bonus for the connections of Maryland-bred or -sired horses that finish first, second or third in the second leg of the Triple Crown. The bonus was created via legislation last year.

The bonus wasn't up for grabs this year given the lack of a Maryland-bred or Maryland-sired runner in the Preakness.

The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Maryland Horse Breeders Association and Maryland Jockey Club agreed to the bonus scheme, which is as follows:

For a Maryland-bred and -sired winner of the Preakness, the owner would get \$225,000, the breeder \$225,000, and the stallion owner \$50,000; a Maryland-bred but not Maryland-sired winner would produce \$225,000 for the owner and \$225,000 for the breeder; and a victory by a Maryland-sired but not Maryland-bred winner would be worth \$225,000 for the owner and \$50,000 for the stallion owner. For a second- or third-place finish in each category, the returns would be 20% and 10%, respectively, of the aforementioned amounts.

Should Maryland-bred or -sired horses run first, second and third an additional \$150,000 would be paid in the same percentages by the MTHA and MHBA.



# Revised Federal Medication Legislation Would Ban Race-Day Lasix

As expected, a revised version of federal legislation that would place the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) in charge of equine medication, testing and enforcement now includes a ban on the race-day medication Lasix and broadens its reach to Standardbred and Quarter Horse racing.

The Horseracing Integrity Act of 2017, formerly the Thoroughbred Horseracing Integrity Act of 2015, was introduced May 25 by U.S. Reps. Andy Barr, a Kentucky Republican, and Paul Tonko, a New York Democrat. Both lawmakers were involved in sponsoring the original bill, which never made it to the federal committee hearing stage.

The "uniform, anti-doping and medication control program" authorized by the legislation (House Resolution 2651) would create the Horseracing Anti-Doping and Medication Control Authority, which would be headed by the chief executive officer of USADA, currently Travis Tygart. USADA would have six other members and also the power to appoint the other six.

A release states that the Federal Trade Commission "would have limited oversight of the authority." The FTC in part was created to "protect consumers by preventing anti-competitive, deceptive, and unfair business practices."

The 2015 legislation didn't call for a ban on Lasix, the only medication that can be legally administered on race day. The bill did say that the oversight authority would have discretion over all policy, which led horsemen's groups to call the measure a stalking horse for elimination of the anti-bleeding medication.

The latest bill requires the authority to ban the use of all

medication within 24 hours of a race no later than Jan. 1, 2019, should it pass. It also says the authority is charged with establishing a list of permitted and prohibited medications and treatment methods.

Any attempts to ban race-day Lasix, which treats exercise-induced pulmonary hemorrhaging, have been widely opposed by horsemen's groups in the United States and North America. Most racetracks also have shown no appetite for a ban.

A release from the Coalition for Horse Racing Integrity, a Jockey Club-driven entity that supports the endeavor, said the 2017 bill "has no effect" on the Interstate Horseracing Act, which governs pari-mutuel wagering across state lines and gives multiple parties, including horsemen, rights regarding signal transmissions. The first version would have allowed the authority to block transmission of simulcast signals if jurisdictions didn't comply.

The bill instead employs this vague language: "As a condition of eligibility to participate in covered horse races, covered persons agree that they and their covered horses shall be bound by the provisions of the horseracing anti-doping and medication control program established" by the legislation.

The legislation makes no mention of the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium, which has guided the national uniform medication effort in the U.S. for about 10 years. The RMTC created the Multiple Medication Violation Penalty System under which points are assigned for violations; the new bill offers no details on penalties, which apparently would be at the discretion of the Horseracing Anti-Doping and Medication Control Authority.

## MJC Donates Truckload Of Food To Backstretch Workers

A refrigerated truckload of lunchmeat, fish, fruit, vegetables and Danish were delivered to Bryant Paz at the Laurel Park track kitchen from Pimlico Race Course late in the evening of May 20, Preakness Day.

The food, provided compliments of the

Maryland Jockey Club, was offered to backstretch workers beginning the following day. Employees got the word out to the backstretch community via public address announcements.

The MTHA thanks the MJC for thinking of and helping feed those on the backstretch.





## Rec Report

### MTHA Express

The MTHA Express is going very well, continuing to provide assistance in the backstretch community with doctor and dentist appointments, social security and social services visits, grocery shopping trips, haircuts and more.

Anyone wanting to hitch a ride on Tuesdays and Thursdays call Dan Mangum at 410-802-5798.

Also, MTHA took van load of backstretch workers to Washington, D.C., on April 12 to see the cherry blossoms and visit the Smithsonian museums.

### Baseball Tickets

The following backstretch workers have won the first Orioles Ticket Package Drawing (each winner received two tickets and a parking pass): RACHAEL ROETTGER (Salzman) 4/8 vs. Yankees, TINK THROWMARTIN (McMahon) 4/22 vs. Red Sox, MATT DILLON 4/25 vs. Tampa Bay, AMANDA RAWLINGS 5/6 vs. White Sox, BILLY GARDNER (Robb) 5/19 vs. Toronto, PHIL SCHOENTHAL 5/24 vs. Minnesota and JOHN MCQUADE 5/29 vs. Yankees.

Winners for Sunday Package Club Level Seats: GRETCHEN WERNER 4/23 vs. Red Sox, KENNY TUCKER 5/7 vs. White Sox, SKEETS HOLLAND 5/21 vs. Toronto Blue Jays and LESLIE LALANDE 6/4 vs. Red Sox.

The next drawings will be held Saturday, June 10 in the Laurel Track Kitchen.

The MTHA Orioles Night will be held on Wednesday, June 21 at 7:05 PM vs. Cleveland Indians. The sign up sheets for the drawing for these tickets will be held on June 10th.

### Poker Tournament

Jack Hurley won the May poker tournament. Anthony Farrior finished second and Mike LaRochelle third. We will be having our next poker game on Monday, June 12.

## The Horsemen's Newsletter

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forget!

## MTHA Annual Meeting

Friday, June 23  
Laurel Park Ruffian Room  
11am - All Members Invited

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rently is the focal point of a Maryland Stadium Authority study on its future use for racing. The Pimlico meet concluded May 29 with dead-heats in the owner, trainer and jockey standings.

Sagamore Farm, Hillwood Stable and James C. Wolf shared the leading owner title each with three victories during the compact meet. Of those three, Sagamore led the way in earnings with \$185,130, which included a victory by Recruiting Ready in the \$200,000 Chick Lang Stakes for 3-year-olds at six furlongs.

The race for leading trainer was decided on closing day as Graham Motion, Kieron Magee, Mike Trombetta and Mary Eppler all had five wins. Magee, who shared the winter/spring meet title at Laurel Park with Linda Rice (each had 27 wins) captured the second race with No More

Excuses, but Motion won the fifth race with Just Howard to give each trainer six victories.

Magee is based at Pimlico and has won the local training title three of the past four years.

"I love Pimlico," Magee said. "This is home for me and I'm just thrilled to share (the title) here. I came in empty and claimed some horses and brought some horses back off layoffs."

Motion, who is based at Fair Hill Training Center, won the LARC Sir Barton Stakes for 3-year-olds on Preakness day with No Mo Dough and the Hilltop Stakes with Happy Mesa.

In the riders' race, Kevin Gomez, Horacio Karamanos and Feargal Lynch each collected seven wins during the meet. Karamanos entered the final day leading by one, but Gomez and Lynch each won a race on the Monday closing-

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"They're donating services and time, and we're grateful for it," Hammond said. "They've been fantastic. The vets and shippers are invaluable to the program."

Beyond The Wire and its partner farms received exposure to the general public Preakness week when they participated in four days of the popular morning Stable Tours, which attracted thousands to Pimlico. Many of the visitors inquired about racehorse aftercare and expressed thanks to the industry for taking care of its own.

Hammond participated in the two-day International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses May 17-18 in Washington, D.C., to learn about various practices in other countries. A key component of the retire-

ment and re-homing process is traceability, and it was discussed during the conference.

"The whole point is to get an idea of the number of Thoroughbreds that are retiring and need assistance from aftercare programs," Hammond said. "It not only provides numbers but provides an extra level of security to make sure these horses end up in good places."

Beyond The Wire doesn't require an application fee but does suggest a donation fee when a horse enters the program. The partner farms assist in finding new homes for the retirees as they transition from racing to other disciplines.

More information is available at [www.beyondthewire.org](http://www.beyondthewire.org).

## MTHA Pickup Softball Games

The MTHA will be hosting pickup softball games for horsemen on Tuesday afternoons at 12:30 p.m.

Played on the softball fields at the Laurel Golf Center and Recreation Center across from Laurel Park on Route 198, everyone is welcome to join the fun.

Call Marty Leonard for more information.



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**The MTHA Board of Directors Election is this summer.**

**Ballots will be mailed to all current members in mid July.**

**Check your mailboxes!**



**MTHA**  
500 Redland Court, #105  
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

**June 2017**

STANDARD  
PRE-SORT  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT #15  
WESTMINSTER, MD



## Contest Standings

*As of June 1, 2017*

*View complete standings at  
<http://fantasyownership.com>*

1	<b>FLIGHT CREW</b>	\$46,028
2	<b>INDIAN PAINT</b>	\$34,020
3	<b>CLARAVOYANT</b>	\$31,030
4	<b>SUPERVISOR</b>	\$30,077
5	<b>WHISKEY SOUR</b>	\$29,375
6	<b>CROOKIT</b>	\$27,475
7	<b>GRACE ISABELLA</b>	\$27,153
8	<b>PARTICIPATE</b>	\$21,677
9	<b>CB BODEMASTER</b>	\$20,295

## Board of Directors

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