

OKLAHOMA HBPA

SUMMER EDITION 2008

THOROUGHBRED RACING ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA

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The following article recently appeared in the Ft. Worth Star Telegram. It is a testament of how far we've come in Oklahoma over the past few years and how bright the future looks for the Thoroughbred industry of our state.

Reprint Courtesy of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Oklahoma Is Running Circles Around Texas Horse Racing

Bad enough that we sometimes have to watch the student-athletes of Oklahoma beat the young men from Texas on the football field; now we have this embarrassment to ponder and endure: the racing north of the Red River could be better, too.

When Remington Park in Oklahoma City opens Thursday for its 68-day season, it will start its purses, or prize money, at \$208,000 a day. No Texas racetrack is close to that. During its recent 65-day season, Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie paid a daily average of \$185,331 in purses.

Perhaps the totals are more emphatic; perhaps they hit the cautionary notes more loudly. Lone Star paid \$12,046,530 in total purses for the meeting that ended last month. At current levels, the Oklahoma City racetrack will pay \$14,144,000 during its upcoming season. And Remington general manager Scott Wells said he expects the purses to increase.

Horses race for the money, and good horses race for the good money: Purse levels, in other words, are reliable predictors and indicators of racing quality. Purse levels in Texas and Oklahoma indicate just how much Lone Star has slipped and just how far Remington has come.

Although separated by about 200 miles, Lone Star and Remington were at opposite extremes of the racing world just four years ago. In 2004, while Lone Star was hosting the Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships, Remington was preparing to go out of business.

Remington was leaking cash, its purses had fallen to the minor-league level of \$65,000 a day, and the track could no longer put on a quality racing program. Remington would not have opened, Wells said, on Jan. 1, 2005, if not for a dramatic change of

circumstances.

Oklahoma lawmakers and voters approved slot machines for Remington and two other racetracks, Blue Ribbon Downs in Sallisaw and Will Rogers in Claremore.

Since then, the gaming devices have produced more than \$42 million in purses for the state's horsemen — and more than \$20 million, Wells quickly and proudly points out, for education.

"It has completely revitalized the Oklahoma horse industry," Wells said, pointing out that the higher purses have led to better racing, which can only invite more handle, which, in turn, will lead to even higher purses.

The momentum, in other words, has turned to Oklahoma's advantage.

"I don't think we're anywhere close to peaking here," said trainer Joe Lucas, president of the Thoroughbred Racing Association of Oklahoma. In recent months, his group and the racetracks have reached agreements to simulcast races into some of the state's tribal casinos. "The potential here," Lucas continued, "is huge."

Remington already has regained its position as host to some of the country's best quarter horse racing.

The track paid \$207,000 a day in purses during its recent quarter horse season. For Lone Star's upcoming quarter horse meeting, purses are expected to average about \$122,000 daily.

The purse discrepancy, which will widen if trends continue, would be alarming, but, of course, Lone Star and Remington are both Magna tracks, and they don't compete with each other for horses.

And so the discrepancy becomes, more than anything, a humiliation, a blow to state pride, and something a Texan might ponder to steel himself for the football season.

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**STABLE
EMPLOYEE OF
THE WEEK**

The OKHBPA/TRAO will sponsor Stable Employee of the Week. The winner will receive \$50. For nominations, please contact Danielle Barber or Justin Cassity at 405-427-8753.

**RACE OF
THE WEEK**

Every Friday at Remington Park the OKHBPA/TRAO will sponsor a bridal presentation for Race of the Week.

**OKHBPA/
TRAO FREE
ICE
PROGRAM**

OKHBPA/TRAO trainer members please stop by the Remington Park OKHBPA/TRAO office to pick up your OKHBPA/TRAO ice card.

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Directive on Commission-Sanctioned Thresholds [3A:205.2 (H)]

Approved by Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission, 3/23/06; 5/18/06, 1/25/07, 2/21/08, 6/19/08

(1) A finding by the Primary Laboratory of a prohibited drug, chemical or other substance in a test specimen of a horse is prima facie evidence that the prohibited drug, chemical or other substance was administered to the horse and, in the case of a post-race test, was present in the horse's body while it was participating in a race. Prohibited substances include:

- (a) Drugs or medications for which no acceptable threshold concentration has been established;
- (b) Therapeutic medications in excess of Commission-Sanctioned Threshold concentrations as set forth below;
- (c) Environmental contaminants and substances of human use present in the horse in excess of Commission-Sanctioned Thresholds as set forth below;
- (d) Any medication, drug, substance, or metabolic derivative thereof that might mask or screen the presence of prohibited drugs, or prevent or delay testing procedures.

(2) The use of the following therapeutic medications shall be permitted not less than twenty-four (24) hours before post time for the race in which the horse is entered, provided the concentration in the horse's plasma/serum sample or specimen does not exceed the following levels when tested post race:

- (a) Acepromazine: negative/LOD*.
- (b) Albuterol: 1 ng/ml plasma/serum.
- (c) Clenbuterol: 1 ng/ml plasma/serum.
- (d) Dantrolene: 100 ng/ml plasma/serum.
- (e) Detomidine: negative/LOD*.
- (f) Dexamethasone: negative/LOD*.
- (g) Diclofenac: 5 ng/ml plasma/serum.
- (h) DMSO: 1 ug/ml plasma/serum.

*Plasma/Serum Level - Negative/LOD: Less than the limit of detection of the method.

- (i) Dipyrone: 1 ug/ml plasma/serum.
- (j) Flunixin: 100 ng/ml plasma/serum effective 6/2/08
- (k) Ketoprofen: 100 ng/ml plasma/serum.
- (l) Mepivacaine: negative/LOD*.
- (m) Methocarbamol: 1 ug/ml plasma/serum.
- (n) Methylprednisolone: 2 ng/ml plasma/serum.
- (o) Naproxen: 750 ng/ml plasma/serum.
- (p) Pyrilamine: 50 ng/ml serum/plasma.
- (q) Procaine Penicillin: 25 ng/ml serum/plasma.
- (r) Salicylic Acid: 6.5 ug/ml serum/plasma.

(3) Environmental Contaminants
Although the following environmental contaminants and/or substances may be found in the horse, no sample or specimen shall exceed the following levels when tested post race:

- (a) Caffeine: 100 ng/ml urine.
- (b) Cocaine: 150 ng/ml urine (Benzoyl Ecgonine Metabolite).
- (c) Morphine: 100 ng/ml urine.
- (d) Lidocaine: 25 ng/ml urine.
- (e) Strychnine: 100 ng/ml urine.
- (f) Atropine: 70 ng/ml urine.

(4) Other acceptable therapeutic medications.

In light of the fact that scientific research is an evolving process in recognizing therapeutic medications at non-performance enhancing levels, the Commission acknowledges that the laboratory may detect levels for therapeutic medications not previously identified in this Directive. In the event of detection of a medication that is subsequently established as routine and safe to use in the industry, it should be considered as a mitigating factor in any disciplinary action taken against the affected Trainer.

*Plasma/Serum Level - Negative/LOD: Less than the limit of detection of the method.

**Final 2008 FMT
Live Meet Stats**

Number of Thoroughbred Days	31
Total Number of Races Fair Meadows Tulsa	401
Number of Thoroughbred Races	162
Number of Oklahoma Restricted Races	27
Number of Allowance or Stake Races	49
Number of Claiming Races	113
Base Overnight Purse Distribution	\$1,570,700
Oklahoma Bred Restricted Distribution	\$106,000
Oklahoma Plus Money Distribution	\$191,520
Total Purse Distribution	\$1,868,220
Average Daily Distribution	\$60,265
Average Daily Purse	\$11,532
Average Daily OK Bred Distribution	\$9,597
Average OK Bred Distribution Per Race	\$1,837
Thoroughbred Mutuel Handle	\$2,006,331
Average TB Handle Per Day	\$64,720
Average TB Handle Per Race	\$12,365

LEADING OWNERS at FAIR MEADOWS at TULSA

Owner Standings

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Win%	\$ %
Southern Okie Boys	13	6	6	1	46	100
Danny R. Caldwell	18	4	3	1	22	44
Center Hills Farm	8	4	1	0	50	63
James W. Hatcher, Jr.	15	3	5	4	20	80
Jimmie L. Hale	21	3	3	1	14	33
G and S Stables	12	3	2	2	25	8
Shawn Schabel	14	3	1	3	21	50
Donna Cline	9	3	1	1	33	56
J and T Racing	3	3	0	0	100	100
Robert H. Zoellner	6	2	2	2	33	100

(May 21 Through July 27 Inclusive.Thoroughbred Only)

Stats provided by InCompass Solutions

LEADING TRAINERS at FAIR MEADOWS at TULSA

Trainer Standings

Trainer	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Win%	\$ %
Mike R. Teel	27	14	5	0	52	70
Boyd Caster	41	11	11	5	27	66
Roger F. Engel	30	8	8	11	27	90
Ricky J. Gustafson	29	7	6	3	24	55
Tommy Page	21	6	4	1	29	52
Leo D. Deutsch	16	5	2	2	31	56
Veronica Griggs	26	4	4	1	15	35
Mark C. Lee	11	4	2	1	36	64
James W. Hatcher, Jr.	15	3	5	4	20	80
Lynn Sullivan	18	3	4	4	17	61

(May 21 Through July 27, Inclusive.Thoroughbred Only)

Stats provided by InCompass Solutions

H-2B Temporary Work Visas for Grooms And Hotwalkers Must Be Filed No Later Than Oct. 1

BY:

Will Velie, Immigration Lawyer

Dear OKHBPA Members:

The deadline for filing petitions to immigration for 10 month H-2B visas for Grooms and Hot walkers is rapidly approaching. The quota cut-off date will hit sometime in early to mid-December, so H-2B petitions **MUST BE FILED** no later than October 1, 2008 to avoid missing the cap.

In order to gain the information necessary to process the H-2B petitions the OKHBPA and Horsemen Labor Solutions (HLS) have a simple packet that will be available at OKHBPA office at Remington Park and also available with the OKHBPA horsemen's representative at Blue Ribbon Downs.

The packets consist of a form letter with blanks which trainers can fill in relevant information, a

brief questionnaire and a blank employment data chart to be completed by trainers.

These three documents can be given to the HBPA office and will be collected and transferred to HLS. The documents will also be available for download on the HLS website – www.horsemenlabor.com.

Time is of the essence. Many different industries are competing heavily for these scarce temporary visas.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call – Justin Cassity with the OKHBPA or HLS members Michael Brooks-Jimenez, Tom Ebrey or Will Velie at 405-364-2525 or 405-272-9393.

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FREE DVD

Winning OKHBPA/TRAO-owner members shall receive a **FREE DVD** of their horses victory at

RemingtonPark.

Courtesy of Remington Park, in cooperation with OKHBPA/TRAO.

For more information contact: Danielle Barber at 405-427-8753 or Sandy Steinberg at 405-419-4459

TRACK COMMITTEE AT REMINGTON PARK

The OKHBPA/TRAO will have the following track committee members for the 2008 race meet at

Remington Park.

Members are as

follows:

Boyd Caster**Larry Frazee****Martin Lazano****Kenny Nolen****Randy Oberlander****Joe Offolter****Donnie K.Von Hemel**

The track committee

will meet every other

Friday at noon.

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**BRD
REPRESENTATIVE**

Bonnie Cusimano is the Blue Ribbon Downs TRAO/OKHBPA Representative.

If you need any assistance, please call **918-774-8449**.

"HORSEMEN HELPING HORSEMEN"

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Benevolence Guidelines



These guidelines have been established to outline the benevolence benefits funded by the TRUST division of the Thoroughbred Racing Association of Oklahoma (TRAO).

This guideline will briefly explain the outline of benefits and eligibility for the program. While the guideline is as accurate as possible, this document is not the final disposition.

INFORMATION:

- This is NOT an insurance program. It is an TRAO Trust funded benevolence assistance program
- This program is not intended as a SUBSTITUTE for private insurance
- All TRAO members are urged to acquire private insurance in case of catastrophic illness
- The TRAO Benevolence Committee has the FINAL determination of all requests for assistance

ELIGIBILITY:

TRAO Members (Owners, Trainers, Assistant Trainers) (Dependents of Owners, Trainers, Assistant Trainers under the age of (18) are eligible)

OHRC Licensed Full-Time Employees' racing at the current meet; Employees' must be employed for no less than 30 consecutive days with the trainer; Proof of employment may be required, including but not limited to; current OHRC license, payroll verification.

Eligibility starts once a member has (3) starts at the current Oklahoma thoroughbred meet; or (3) starts within the past (3) calendar months at an Oklahoma thoroughbred meet.

BENEVOLENCE PROGRAM:

- MEDICAL:** \$2,500 per calendar year (Includes RX)
- DENTAL:** \$500 per calendar year
- VISION:** \$200 per calendar year
- DEATH:** Approved on individual request (Maximum Benevolence assistance per family, shall not exceed \$4,000 per calendar year).

All appointments will be made by the TRAO Office with our contracted providers. If you use your private physician, reimbursement will require; Detailed Billing Statement and proof of payment.

All benevolence assistance will cease (15) days upon the current race meet ending

Benevolence assistance will resume (15) days prior to an opening of a thoroughbred race meet (if eligibility requirements are met)

All benevolence claims and requests must be filed no later than (60) days of service

PROCEDURES NOT COVERED:

Any Illness/Injury derived from ANY employment situation. (Workman's Compensation)

Any cosmetic, alcohol/drug/substance abuse, mental or nervous illness.



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