

REVIEW

For the second consecutive year, wagering in Illinois broke all previous records. Pari-mutuel handle reached \$1,252,368,115, a new all-time high and an increase of 5% over 1989.

Privilege tax increased 4.3% to \$29,723,166 while total state revenue derived from horse racing was \$45,723,937, an increase of 5.6% over 1989.

Revenue to counties and cities from off-track wagering was \$5,936,292. On-track handle decreased 1% while off-track wagering increased 22.55%.

The 1988 legislation which reduced privilege taxes and allowed for off-track wagering was strongly felt in 1990. We saw 9 full-time off-track facilities operating with total off-track handle at \$296,814,586. On the down side, state revenue is still far short of pre-1988 levels despite the significant increase in off-track activity and the overall increase in handle.

While they ran for the roses in Kentucky on the first Saturday in May, Illinois bettors wagered \$7,306,348 on Kentucky Derby Day - the largest handle for a single program in Illinois history. Handle on the seven Breeder's Cup races in October was \$3,496,398 making the total for that racing program \$6,247,831. These and other out-of-state simulcasts increased Illinois' pari-mutuel handle by \$23,020,321, an overall increase of 7% over 1989.

The state fairs at DuQuoin and Springfield handled \$1,373,326. Each fair raced a five day meet. DuQuoin averaged \$107,574 per program while the Springfield Fair averaged \$167,091 daily. On September 1st, the World Trotting Derby Day at DuQuoin, 4519 visitors wagered \$261,751.

Illinois racetracks once again proved to be innovative leaders in the industry. Arlington International Racecourse and Hawthorne Race Course simulcasted races to other states under a new format that permitted patrons in these other states to wager directly into Illinois pools. Commingled interstate pools accounted for more

than \$18,000,000 in 1990 handle.

A new off-track facility opened in Joliet in late October bringing the statewide total to nine. An additional six facilities are authorized to begin operation but are yet to be constructed.

The Racing Board developed and required all racetracks to implement an automated clearing house (ACH) system for collection and deposit of state revenue. This proved to be a dramatic improvement over our prior methods. Tax collection is now much simpler and more efficient.

More than \$3,000,000 in winning tickets were uncashed in 1990 and will be remitted to the Veteran's Rehabilitation Fund.

One-half of the privilege tax collected went to the Agricultural Premium Fund to provide for Illinois Racing Board expenditures, the Cooperative Extension Program for the University of Illinois, and funding for the Department of Agriculture. Of the remaining privilege tax, 34 1/2% was remitted to the Metropolitan Exposition, Auditorium and Office Building Fund, and another 8 1/2% was divided between the Illinois Thoroughbred Breeder's Fund and the Illinois Standardbred Breeder's Fund. The final 7% went to the Build Illinois Fund and the Fair and Exposition Fund.

Half of the breakage generated from the odd cents involved in pari-mutuel pricing went to the General Revenue Fund and amounted to more than 4.4 million dollars. The other half of breakage was remitted to the Racetrack Improvement Fund. Application and license fees, admission taxes, fines and other miscellaneous revenue were also deposited in the General Revenue Fund. These other revenues amounted to \$1,274,001 in 1990.

Approximately \$6.7 million dollars from the Race Track Improvement Fund was used to reimburse racetracks for various improvements.

Sportsman's Park remodeled the first floor of its grandstand area and spent approximately \$1,000,000 on the concession stands, mutuel areas,

new furniture, new seating and new televisions. Sportsman's Park also remodeled its second floor clubhouse spending approximately \$450,000 to replace the existing theater-type seating with private booths and tables and to install new television monitors and replace the existing windows with new glass partitions.

Quad City Downs upgraded its video system with purchases of new equipment and computer software modifications at a cost of \$185,000. The improvements provide better quality viewing both for the stewards judging the races and for the wagering public. Fairmount Park completed the first phase of its clubhouse renovation plan at a cost of over \$400,000.

Long-time Board Chairman Farrel "Tex" Griffin, submitted his resignation effective December 10, 1990. Chairman Griffin's term was characterized by an unflinching devotion to the integrity of horse racing. Mr. Griffin was replaced as Chairman by Gary Starkman, a partner in the Chicago law firm of Arvey, Hodes, Costello & Burman. Mr. Starkman was Counsel to the Governor of the State of Illinois from 1977 through 1981. Also appointed to the Board in 1990 were Lorna Propes and John Simon.

The Board collected \$750,000 from Illinois racetracks for distribution to eligible charities. The Racing Industry Charitable Foundation, a group that provides a comprehensive range of social services to individuals who work on the premises of Illinois racetracks, received a grant of \$600,000.

The 1990 Illinois Thoroughbred Horse of the Year was Tex's Zing who earned \$557,598. He will be remembered as the winner of the Regional Final 14 Series at Balmoral Park when he "wired" the field and eventually became the national winner of the Final 14 Series. Tex's Zing was trained throughout his career by Bob Byrne and was ridden by three jockeys in 1990, Ronnie Gabriel, Earlie Fires and Shane Sellers. He racked up a lifetime tally of 17 wins, 5 seconds and 3 thirds in 28 starts.

In a vote that definitely went down to the

wire, Plum Peachy edged Gosox for the 1990 Illinois Harness Horse of the Year honors. Trained by Mark Fransen, Plum Peachy was driven in all of her starts by Walter Paisley as she banked \$198,395. In the \$305,843 Orange and Blue Stakes in September at Sportsman's Park, Plum Peachy went wire-to-wire stopping the timer in 1:56 2/5, again lowering her own track record.

In 1990 the Bureau of the Budget approved plans to relocate the Board's drug testing laboratory from the Elgin Mental Health Center (EMHC) to new facilities in the Tech 2000 Building at Chicago Technology Park, just west of the University of Illinois Medical Center. The facility occupied by the Board at EMHC was determined to be unsafe and inadequate to meet the laboratory's needs. The building interiors for the new space were designed by Alter Design Builders in conjunction with Illinois Racing Board Laboratory technical staff to provide a safe, functional environment that meets the special demands of the laboratory's drug testing applications and specialized equipment.

The new facility serves to modernize the main testing laboratory and optimizes functional work areas to provide for more efficient and effective testing in a minimum amount of space. The close proximity to the University will allow the laboratory convenient access to the University of Illinois and Medical Center services, computers and libraries. The Board intends to pursue cooperative efforts for collaborative research in the areas of drug testing methodology and pharmacology. The new facility was completed in 1990 and the laboratory relocated early in 1991.

The laboratory reported a substantial increase in the number of prohibited drug positives issued and the types of different drugs reported over the last two years, in spite of the fact that the number of post race urine test samples received has decreased slightly over the last 5 years. Thirty-three prohibited drug positives were reported in 1990. The laboratory has expanded its testing menu to

include a wider variety of drugs and metabolites, including respiratory stimulants. Sample turn around time (the time from when a test sample is taken to when it is reported positive) has also improved dramatically. This progress was prompted by a concerted effort and allocation of resources to daily routine screening.

Beginning in 1989 and continuing through 1990, significant enhancements were made in the

expansion of routine testing of all test samples. The number of tests performed per sample has more than tripled over the last 3 years. The addition of the more sensitive drug specific ELISA testing has made possible the detection and identification of a wide variety of drugs. The Board's Laboratory will continue its commitment to work towards the development of a diverse selection of immunological test for drugs of abuse in racing.

TEST SAMPLES

POST-RACE	URINE	BLOOD	TOTAL
Thoroughbred	6,477	6,611	13,088
Harness	7,237	7,500	14,737
Total	13,714	14,111	27,825

PRE-RACE	URINE	BLOOD	TOTAL
Thoroughbred	N/A	14,107	14,107
Harness	N/A	13,040	13,040
Total	N/A	27,147	27,147

POSITIVES

Post-race Urine Thoroughbred	3
Post-race Urine Harness	28
Total Post-race Urine Positives	31

Pre-race Blood Thoroughbred	2
Pre-race Blood Harness	0
Total Pre-race Blood Positives	2

Total Prohibited Drug Positives	33
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Phenylbutazone Blood Overages:

Thoroughbred	251
Harness	142
Total	393