

REVIEW

Illinois horse racing again flourished in 1992. Total handle was \$1,290,919,614, an increase of 3.43% over 1991 and another all-time record. Privilege tax increased 3.3%, to \$30,707,350, while total revenue from racing reached \$44,744,193. Revenue to cities and counties from off track betting increased 27% to \$9,114,052. The intertrack surcharge resulted in revenues of \$789,426 to county governments. While off track wagering increased 27.2%, on track handle declined 10.8%. Twenty OTB facilities were operating at the end of 1992, with total off track handle of \$786,362,455.

For the third year, the Board allowed other states to wager upon Illinois races utilizing a single commingled pool. This form of wagering increased from \$17 million in 1991, to \$82 million in 1992. The following states wagered directly into Illinois pools in 1992: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, Rhode Island and West Virginia.

Races of national and international importance were simulcast into Illinois and wagered upon by Illinois fans. A total of \$34 million was bet in Illinois on out-of-state races, which represented an increase of 12.3% over 1991. Over \$8 million was wagered in Illinois on Kentucky Derby Day alone. This was the largest handle for a single program in Illinois history.

Illinois also participated in five national pools during the year. A series of three national Pick-6 pools were conducted involving most racing jurisdictions. Arlington was one of six national tracks to devote one of its races to the National Pick-6. The Breeder's Cup conducted a National Pick-7 pool on each of its races and Illinois wagered \$226,102 into a nationwide pool of \$5,104,480. A National Twin-Trifecta

Exchange was conducted on the Breeder's Crown harness championship in November.

The racing schedule was nearly identical to 1991, with two notable exceptions. For the first time ever, Quad City Downs was allowed to simulcast its race programs to all Illinois wagering facilities and Hawthorne Race Course was granted a 10 day harness meet in mid-May. Average daily handle at Quad City Downs increased from \$89,992 in 1991, to \$172,009 in 1992.

For the second straight year all Illinois betting locations received the simulcast of the World Trotting Derby. Also, for the first time, a race from the Illinois State Fair in Springfield was simulcasted to all Illinois sites.

The Board conducted a regular meeting at the Fairgrounds to coincide with the opening day of harness racing at the Fair and the event was well-received by the industry.

On September 24th, the Illinois Supreme Court decided the case which challenged the Board's denial of the 1991 thoroughbred license application of Balmoral Park. The Court affirmed the discretionary authority of the Board to award race dates which will be conducive to the best interest of the public and the sport of horse racing. However, the Court held that proceedings to issue racing licenses must be conducted in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act. This will result in a protracted trial-like hearing involving numerous parties, rather than the single day hearing the Board has conducted historically.

Sportsman's Park conducted its first meet on its new 7/8 mile oval to the delight of horsemen and racing fans alike. Sportsman's now boasts of the longest stretch in North America.

All tracks utilized the racetrack improvement fund to upgrade their facilities.

Sportsman's Park spent over \$1 million to replace windows and doors in its clubhouse and to install a new air conditioning system. Maywood Park also installed a new air conditioning system at a cost of \$300,000. Arlington International Racecourse performed several backstretch projects including painting, roof work and renovation of dormitories at a cost of \$225,000. Balmoral Park performed miscellaneous backstretch projects at a cost of \$140,000.

The legislation enacted in 1991 to limit charitable grants to non-profit organizations that provide medical and counseling services to persons who work or reside on the backstretch of Illinois racetracks has had a beneficial impact. The Racing Industry Charitable Foundation has received \$750,000 in each of the last two years. From offices located on the backstretch of each racetrack, the Foundation provides on-site medical, dental and educational services, health screenings, state licensed substance abuse counseling, treatment for gambling disorders, physician and dental services and other related services. The 1992 grant enabled the Foundation to perform 14,506 medical services, 6,568 dental services, 31,530 social services and 13,045 services for addiction treatment and counseling. Through racetrack funding, the Foundation continues to provide wide ranging health and social services to thoroughbred and harness horsemen throughout the state.

The 1992 Illinois Harness Horse of the Year was Incredashell. The 2-year-old daughter of Incredible Finale won 9 of her 10 starts winning \$214,100 with a 1992 best time of 1:54.3. Incredashell was trained by Jim Banks, owned by Bob Vernol and driven by Jim Curran.

Bungalow was voted 1992 Illinois Thoroughbred Horse of the Year. The 5-year-old mare by Lord Avie out of Westward Hope won \$489,863 winning 5 of 15 races. Owned by

Nancy Vanier and trained by Harvey Vanier, Bungalow has lifetime earnings of \$850,141.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture contributed \$3,295,903 in 1992 to purses for races limited to Illinois-bred horses.

LABORATORY

The Board Laboratory participated this year in the International Association of Racing Commissioners' Quality Assurance Program. The laboratory performed at 100% accuracy on all blind testing samples received through the international laboratory quality assurance program. The laboratory director, Shelley Kalita, was appointed to the QAP's National Chemist Advisory Committee, and state veterinarian, Dr. Ronald Jensen, was elected chairman of its Veterinarian Advisory Committee.

The laboratory reported a record number of positives in 1992 and was the first racing laboratory to detect several substances including the recently developed anti-inflammatory drugs, Ketoprofen and Ketorolac. The laboratory continues to develop new screening and confirmation methods for the detection of local anesthetics and nerve blocks.

The Board initiated new rule making to toughen permitted medication policies. The amended medication rule increases the penalties for excessive use of Phenylbutazone. Mandatory fines, suspensions and purse redistributions are now imposed. The revised rule has the approval of the national and local divisions of the Humane Society and all horsemen groups.