



Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Journal

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Cheering On Afleet Alex

A few days before the Kentucky Derby I stopped at a gas station in Dover to fill up. On the other side of the pumps two strangers were making small talk. One was in a pick-up truck with Kentucky tags. The other guy, a Dover local, noticed his tags—that's when the conversation turned to the upcoming weekend and the Kentucky Derby. Neither guy seemed to know much about horse racing, but one guy said, "All I know is that the horse with the best drugs wins, but at least at Dover Downs we have "real" horsepower with Nascar and we are the only location where live horses race inside of our Nascar track."

It scares me to think that the layman's perception of horse racing is solely based upon drug use. At the Kentucky Derby (Triple Crown) this year, more testing has been instituted. New York has a quarantine barn now that all horses have to report to on race day at least six hours before their post time, and now Delaware (scheduled to start June 10) along with several other states (Florida, California, New York and Kentucky, etc...) have made "milkshaking" or TC02 (bicarbonate loading) an issue among horsemen.

On May 23rd, the Commission along with the Department of Agriculture is scheduled to meet and begin the process for the Request For Proposal (RFP – phase 2) to allow samples to be sent out to "super labs" that can do extensive testing and detect designer drugs.

Horse racing needs to address its drug problems just as major league baseball has addressed steroid use. Racing Medication and Testing Consortium Executive Director Scot Waterman, D.V.M., has suggested a \$5 per start assessment, with the money going to the

consortium. This would enable scientists working with the consortium to catch up with currently undetectable drugs and cheaters who use them. Trainers, owners and tracks need to support the only logical way of financing the consortium, which has largely been operating under grants, soon to expire, from the National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA). People tend to believe what they perceive, even though it may not be reality, and the perception of horse racing is surrounded by drug use.

Speaking of the Kentucky Derby, congratulations go out to all the connections of AFLEET ALEX for his third place finish. Going into the Preakness as the favorite, AFLEET ALEX made it the fifth straight year that the favorite won, but by far was the most dramatic win – ever! AFLEET ALEX and jockey Jeremy Rose somehow managed not to go down and fall after clipping heels with SCRAPPY T and jockey Ramon Dominguez at the head of the stretch. With my heart in my throat, I was truly amazed to watch Jeremy stay on ALEX, after going to his knees, recover his balance and still WIN by nearly 5 lengths. Great job Jeremy and ALEX! I believe trainer Tim Ritchey said it best, ALEX had been at Pimlico for ten days, brought in ahead of the other horses, he had been prepped in every way. "But we didn't practice not falling down." Unbelievable, absolutely unbelievable!

The day after the Preakness Jeremy returned to Delaware Park to a crowd of cheering fans and a barrage of media interviews. Jeremy served up a hat trick for the cheering fans. Two of the wins were for Cash is King LLC and trainer Tim Ritchey, including KELSEY'S TREASURE, a filly first time starter by NORTHERN AFLEET (same sire as AFLEET ALEX).

I wish you lots of luck going into the Belmont – whatever you've been doing, keep doing it (just leave out the acrobats this time)! Bring home the final leg of the Triple Crown.

Plans for Owners Day 2005 are underway, beginning this year, it will be expanded into a weekend full of fun. On Friday,



Bessie Gruwell
Executive Director



Photo: William Bretzger, The (Wilmington, Del.) News Journal, Published May 22, 2005

Jeremy Rose brings in
AFLEET ALEX to win
the Preakness.

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After Hours

Play...Pray...Travel Away

Long time Delaware Park employee Bill Odman passed away on April 30th at his home. On Sunday, May 15th a memorial service was held in his honor in the Delaware Park winner's circle. Our sympathies go out to his daughters and sons-in-law Sandi and John Bruton, Laura and Ross Bailey, and Janet and Bruce Eckhart, and to his grandchildren Sarah, Jill, Scott, Lisa and Lauren. The Delaware Horsemen's Assistance Fund thanks them for their kind donation of items for the Backstretch Boutique.

We also lost one of our great Delaware Park vets, Dr. Jack Wilkes. On May 22nd a memorial service for him was also held in the winner's circle. Our sympathies go out to all his family and friends. He will be sadly missed on the backstretch.

Horsemen's BBQ

On Friday, June 3rd we hosted our first Horsemen's BBQ of the season. This much-anticipated event always attracts many of our backstretch employees and gives them an opportunity to share in food and fellowship. Two more BBQ's are planned for the meet.

Volleyball

We are currently forming teams for our 2005 volleyball tournament. This is a great outlet for competition among backstretch employees. Winners will receive championship jackets provided by the DTHA.

Counselor's Corner

I would like to thank everyone who made last year's 2nd Annual Delaware Horsemen's Assistance Fund (DHAF) golf tournament such a huge success. With 80 golfers and over 60 sponsors the DHAF Horsemen's Classic raised over \$6,000, which went towards backstretch services for the horsemen at Delaware Park, and more than tripled the amount raised in 2003.



G. Wesley Jones, MSW

This year we will be holding our Owners Day Horsemen's Classic Golf Tournament here at Delaware Park's White Clay Creek Country Club. The tournament will be held Friday, September 9, 2005, the day before Owners Day. The event will be limited to the first 120 golfers who register. If you are interested in golfing, sign up as soon as possible. Call me at (302) 383-7233. For more information on this event, read the enclosed flyer.

G. Wesley Jones, MSW

Backstretch Employee Assistance Program

Work Visas

Representatives of MJA Attorneys visited Delaware Park on Saturday, June 4th to begin processing visas for 2006. For questions regarding work visas, please contact MJA attorneys at (858) 259-0755.



Pete Lizarzaburu

Donations

Thank you to the owners and trainers who have donated clothes and furnishings to our Backstretch Boutique. A special thank you to Mike Jester for his donation of 40 mattresses for our bunkhouse residents. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Pete

Continued from page 1

September 9, the 3rd Annual Delaware Horsemen's Assistance Fund Horsemen's Classic will be held in conjunction with Owners Day at White Clay Creek (see flyer). Space will be limited to 120 golfers, so if you are a golfer and would like an opportunity to participate, make sure to sign up NOW. We hope that this event will become an annual event, with all proceeds going to the Delaware Horsemen's Assistance Fund.

On Saturday, April 30th the training track opened after several floodings and much renovation. Two new bunkhouses were set on Thursday, May 12th and will be finished and ready for occupancy sometime in July. Manure pits continue to be a work in progress and the "chuck wagon" prototype seems to be working best thus far.

This month racing lost two good friends, Bill Odman, who worked here and drove the starting gate for more than 15 years and Dr. Jack Wilkes, who worked here as a practicing veterinarian for many years. They both will be sorely missed.

Just as a reminder, sign ups for the Defined Contribution Retirement Plan for Delaware Park backstretch employees will be held on Tuesday, June 14th and Thursday, June 16th, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the Horsemen's Office. Sign ups for the retirement plan will be on these two dates only.

Bessie

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 21	DTHA Board Meeting
August 5	Paddock Party
September 9	DHAF Golf Classic
September 10	Owners Day

DTHA Board meetings are held monthly on the third Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in the Horsemen's Office. All owners and trainers are encouraged to attend.



Meet Arlene Taylor: her love of horses as a kid became a lifelong passion for racing

If you're stabled at Delaware Park and you stop by the Horsemen's office shortly after the office opens at 8 a.m., you'll see a woman with a cup of coffee reading the *Thoroughbred Daily News*. That woman is Arlene Taylor, the first woman to be licensed as a groom in Delaware and a familiar racing personality at Delaware Park.

Arlene recalls vividly when she fell in love with horses. "I was a little kid, about ten years old, and I cut out pictures of horses from *Turf and Sport* magazine. From that time on, I was crazy about horses and thoroughbred racing. Neither one of my parents was interested in racing at the time," she said.

Through the years, which Arlene politely declines to number, she turned her childhood passion for horses into employment with two well know trainers, Frank Bonsal and Henry Clark.

"I met Mr. Bonsal in the fifties while I was watching horses at Delaware Park. He offered me a job as a hot walker. It was only a thirty day meet back then," she said. She also walked hots for Henry Clark, trainer for Mrs. Jane Lunger's Christiana Stables.

While living in California, Arlene was also a frequent visitor to Santa Anita Park. "I just went to watch the races. I didn't know any of the horsemen there."

Over the years, Arlene has enjoyed seeing more women involved in thoroughbred racing as owners, trainers and jockeys. "There were only two women trainers at Delaware Park and three in Maryland back in the fifties," she said. "I think a lot of women are more devoted to horses."

Arlene remembers the heyday of racing at Delaware Park. The stands were full. The noise of the crowds. The trains full of bettors from Philadelphia. "It's different now because of simulcast." She also remembers Mr. William duPont, who built Delaware Park. "He was a gentleman in every sense of the word," she recalled.

As a nearby resident of Delaware Park, you can find Arlene around 6:45 a.m. every morning during the meet visiting the horses at Scott Peck's barn. Peck is a longtime friend and president of the Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association.

Following her backstretch visit, Arlene stops by the Horsemen's Office every morning at 8 a.m. during the meet. Engage her in conversation about thoroughbred racing and you'll quickly see how much this gentle, unassuming woman loves horses and thoroughbred racing.



Arlene Taylor

Dogwood Dominion



Award Nominating Time

2005 marks the 13th year for the Dogwood Dominion Award, which honors a man or woman who is truly an unsung hero of the thoroughbred racing industry. Nominations for this award are now being accepted.

This year's winner will be honored at a luncheon on August 3 at the Saratoga Reading Room and presented with a \$5,000 check and a bronze statue of Dominion.

The award was inspired by the multiple stakes winner Dominion, who was campaigned by Dogwood Stable in the 1970s and then went on to become five-time Champion Sire in England. Upon Dominion's death in 1993, Dogwood President Cot Campbell created the award to recognize the industry's unsung heroes, the behind-the-scenes men and women who work to create a positive influence in their work environment.

Nominations must be received no later than June 27 and mailed or faxed to: Mary Jane Howell, Public Relations Director, Dogwood Stable, P.O. Box 1549, Aiken, SC 29802. Fax: (803) 642-2747. An electronic nominating form is available on the stable's website: www.dogwoodstable.com.

Sign up for Retirement

This is another reminder for all licensed trainers, assistant trainers, stable foremen, grooms, exercise riders, pony persons and hot walkers to sign up for the DTHA Defined Contribution (retirement) Plan. Sign up will take place in the Horsemen's Office on Tuesday, June 14 and Thursday, June 16 from 11:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. These will be the ONLY two days for sign up. The program is free and all you need is either your 2004 taxes, 1099 or W2 showing your Delaware earnings plus your current Delaware Park backstretch license.

2005 Meet Directors

The DTHA welcomes our 2005 meet directors Aimee Hall, Mike Petro, Janet Ritchey and Karin Wagner to the board. The new directors will attend the monthly board meetings as well as serve on various board committees. Congratulations!

Editor's Note

The Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Journal is published monthly. Members are invited to submit suggestions for future articles and letters to the editor. Contact Kim Sprenger, at (302)994-2521 ext. 7284; Fax (302) 994-3392.



The Delaware Certified Thoroughbred Program Continues to Bloom



On Sunday, May 22nd, BELLO VICTORIO became our first Delaware Certified winner of the meet, winning a \$40,000, 2-year-old maiden claiming race for trainer Mark Fusco, owner D & D Stable and certifier Francis B. DeLuca. The owner and certifier each earned an extra \$1,890 for the victory.

DTHA Backstretch Social Program Coordinator Pete Lizarzaburu shared the excitement because BELLO VICTORIO spent the 90 day certification residency period at his Delaware farm.

At the time of this writing, 32 different Delaware Certified horses have gone to post, with 1 win, 7 seconds, 7 thirds and \$9,798 of DCTP bonuses for their owners.

In June, legislation will be introduced in the Delaware General Assembly to obtain \$500,000 in state matching funds to help grow the Delaware Certified Thoroughbred Program, which has contributed more than \$1,875,000 to Delaware's agribusiness economy since it was introduced by DTHA two years ago. While there is strong legislative support for the State funding, we may ask for the support of participating Delaware farms, owners and certifiers to advance the proposed legislation.

DATE	HORSE	FINISH	OWNER
05/22/05	Bello Victorio	Win	D & D Stables
04/30/05	Primal Wizard	Second	Rocky Hill Group Inc
05/02/05	Rust Tully	Second	Andrew Simoff
05/03/05	Harley's Road	Second	Smart Start Stables LLC
05/03/05	Magical Gem	Second	Mary Eppler Stable, Inc & Triple Tree Stable
05/07/05	Ebony Star	Second	William Rickman
05/16/05	Cheer the Heroes	Second	Don Tae Stables Inc
05/23/05	Gemofnangel	Second	Racing Corporation Et Al
04/30/05	Scary Bob	Third	Candy Stables
05/03/05	Noble Cloud	Third	Donald Churchill
05/07/05	Shmoo	Third	The Elkstone Group LLC
05/09/05	Pam D'Monia	Third	D & D Stables
05/14/05	Pilot Point	Third	D. Scott Peck
05/17/05	Pam D'Monia	Third	D & D Stables
05/17/05	Queen's Hero	Third	Candy Stable

In Memoriam



Photo: Hoofprints, Inc.

Bill Odman, a longtime Delaware Park employee who could always be found driving a tractor passed away on April 30, 2005. Our hearts go out to all his family and friends.



Photo: Hoofprints, Inc.

Dr. Jack Wilkes, highly regarded veterinarian passed away this month. He was a legend on the backstretch and admired by all. Our sympathies go out to all his family and friends.





Delaware
Thoroughbred
Horsemen's Association, Inc.

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Applause!

SEE YOU IN THE WINNER'S CIRCLE! _____

DTHA OWNER BLANKET RACE 2005

DATE	OWNER	HORSE	TRAINER
5/03	Bridget & Eric Scott LLC	Ballroom Champ	M. J. McCarthy
5/10	Win and Place Stable	Fed Funds	A.W. Dutrow
5/17	Larry Brafman	Monetary Monarch	A.W. Dutrow
5/25	William M. Rickman	Raging Slavic	R. A. Alfano

MAY'S GROOM OF THE WEEK

GROOM	HORSE	TRAINER
Felix Morales	Glorious Raj	K. Wagner
Salvadore Nunez	Apalachee Warrior	P. McClelland
Santonio Sanchez	Racing Luck	T. Ritchey
Raoul Arreagada	Datsallme	S. Lake

Note: your newsletter is online at www.dtha.com