



President's Update

By Dan Sullivan



Summer's Rise

Last weekend, I walked through the barn and watched the last in-foal mare who should have foaled yesterday. She is huge and just stands there waiting. I thought of the state of Illinois racing. All the owners whose investments make Illinois racing possible are just standing there waiting.

Racing, for an owner right now, is kind of like my overdue mare. We are all standing there in our respective stalls waiting. The purses are so depressed we wonder why we bother. Day money doesn't go down. Layups don't go down. The vet bills don't go down. Farrier bills don't go down. It seems like nothing goes down in Illinois racing except the purses.

No, there is one other number that is going down. The number of Illinois foals and Illinois-bred horses are going down. So, the source of the product an owner relies upon and which makes up over 50 percent of Illinois races is going down.

The tracks want fields of eight or more. But, the Illinois product that can provide those fields is disappearing. Why? Where are the owners that will buy the horses? Where are the

owners to provide this field size? Their numbers are going down along with the number of farms in Illinois.

How can Illinois racing support itself? Five years of waiting to be bailed out by gaming legislation hasn't proven productive. Also, even if legislation passes, gaming is now in every gas station and bar. Is there really a bail out waiting with a gaming subsidy? Will there be gamblers who will be waiting at the track gates even if gaming passes—if it ever passes?

Illinois racing is at a tipping point, and the tipping point is purses. Either purses go up or the breeders, trainers, vets, farriers and the rest go down in Illinois. Everyone must contribute to purses in this difficult time. If ever there is a time for belt tightening it is now.

My horse will foal with summer's rise. But, I wonder whether that foal will race in Illinois.



FOAL ARRIVALS

GALLAGHER FARM



Walnut Hill, IL

Foals are appearing on farms across the state.

Each month we will print foal arrivals. Information needed is farm and location, date of birth (optional), color, sex, sire, dam, owner, and breed-back (if known). Photos are also welcome.

Send Foal Arrivals to: Illinois Racing News, 111 Shore Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, Fax: (630) 887-0210 or email: info@midwest-outdoors.com (mark for Illinois Racing News Foal Arrivals).



2/5/16, c. by First Samurai, out of Le Sang Royale. Foaled at Gallagher Farms. Breeder: Dana Waier Thoroughbreds. Bred back to Fed Biz.



4/8/16, f. by Flat Out, out of Jabber Dabber Doo. Breeder: Dana Waier Thoroughbreds. Bred back to Violence.

RIDGEWOOD STABLES, LLC

Villa Ridge, IL



3/30/16, f. by Greytap, out of Camagin. Foaled at Ridgewood Stables LLC. Owners: Mark & Brian Rivolta.