



**Emerald Downs
Presiding Steward
2018 End of Meet Report
November 9, 2018**

Emerald Downs Racing LLC.

Emerald Downs offered 67 live racing days this year compared to the 72 days from last year. For the first time Emerald Downs offered one day of racing on opening weekend Sunday, April 22 which was followed by two weeks of weekend racing before going to the regular three day of live racing on Friday, May 11th. The only holiday racing offered for the second year was on Memorial Day. Emerald Downs conducted its annual firework display on Tuesday July 3rd. Emerald Downs did change their Saturdays racing post times starting June 16th from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the remainder of the race meet.

Emerald Downs presented several fun promotional days including the fan favorite Indian relay races this year. Another promotion Emerald Downs brought in was zebra races to go along with the ostrich and camel races for the first time. The long time fan favorite wiener dog races returned this year along with the popular corgi dog races on a separate weekend and brought in almost 13,000 people to the track. The corgi races expanded this year and had six qualifying corgi trial heats this year compared to only four last year.

Emerald Downs / Race Office

Emerald Downs offered four stake races to close out the final day of racing and with the help of an anonymous donation a \$100,000.00 "The Getaway Day Stakes" for three year olds was carded which brought in four entrants from out of state. The number of races carded this year dropped by 56 races. This factor was largely due to five less days of racing 67 days compared to 72 days last year which resulted in 558 races being run compared with 604 races last year. The number of starters decreased from 4,223 horses last year to 3,927 horses this year as calculated by the WHRC. Emerald had a starter count of one more than the WHRC shows, 3928 because they paid a starting fee for a horse that was made a non starter for wagering purposes. With the five less days it did bring the field size up slightly from 6.99 to 7.04. The race stall applications declined from 96 last year to 76 this year making the number of stalls allotted drop from 1249 last year to 1150 to this year.

The two year old races were about the same as last year with an increase this year by one with 42 races compared to 41 last year. The number of Washington bred races carded showed a big decline this year with 21 races carded last year and only 3 this year. Emerald Downs was again the host of the Quarter Horse Bank of America Emerald Challenge Championship for the eighth year. This is another area that showed a decline with only 3 quarter horse races this year compared to 11 last year.

Emerald Racing Club was a big success again this year in its fifth year of racing, its membership was slightly down this year as not all of the 200 memberships for the racing club were sold. The racing club is still an asset to the industry by bringing participants back and having some branch out on their own or in other partnerships. The club had a total of four horses with Mike Puhich training Twirling Cinnamon and trainer Larry Ross training Oopper Wallah, She Got Away and Zanab. Zanab was the only one to win a race but did have 3 wins for the club.

Jockey Colony

The jockey colony was adequate all season with a total of 57 individuals being licensed this year, 7 apprentices and 50 jockeys. Three new jockeys that joined the colony this year were Austin Solis from California, Patrick Henry Jr. from Pennsylvania and Gary Wales from Florida. There were only three horses which had to be scratched due to no rider, although one of the scratches was the result of the trainer not wanting to use the rider that was available and was willing to accept the mount.

There were a total of 23 jockey rulings issued this year, four less than last years 27. Of these rulings, 13 rulings were issued assessing fines ranging from \$200 to \$500 for careless riding infractions. One three day suspension for careless riding, two rulings were issued assessing a two day suspension due to a disqualification and a one day suspension for failing to ride through the wire. Three rulings were issued holding the rider blameless in a disqualification and one for conduct (aggressor in an altercation) in the jockey's room.

Mutuel Department and Sportech Totalizator System

Sportech, the tote company serving Emerald Downs, headed by Tony Lovell, worked well with the board of stewards with very few interruptions. The new console software that was put in last year by Sporttech was once again a learning process for the stewards and media. The board of stewards had one incident in which the inquiry and objection signs were not posted properly. The media department that posts the running order during the live race had a couple issues also. Once it posted the objection sign on the main reader board when trying to clear the running order and another time posted a photo and couldn't get it cleared. The WHRC added new employee Yvonne Doll as the Mutuel Inspector and claims clerk.

Emerald Downs Video Department

The video department is essential to the stewards when regulating live racing and they worked hard to ensure that the videos were working properly and rectifying any malfunctions that occurred. There were a couple times that the board of stewards didn't have all the needed views for an inquiry/objection. This was due to having new people filling in when needed.

Emerald Downs Security

Emerald Downs security department had several turnovers this year and had several new employees which all worked well with the WHRC staff. There was a good working relationship between Emerald Downs security and the WHRC staff. Emerald Downs security kept the WHRC investigators informed of situations that needed to be addressed by the board of stewards along with assisting the WHRC in any way they could.

Physical Inspection of the Grounds

The annual inspection of the barn area once again demonstrated that the association does an excellent job maintaining the property including the perimeter fence and barn area throughout the season.

Licensing

Longtime employee Debbie Hopkins ran the licensing department with Yvonne Doll filling in as needed. Debbie was instrumental in ensuring that all licensing tasks are done efficiently and correctly. Debbie has been significant in the agency's ongoing efforts to administer the Labor & Industries (L&I) Industrial Insurance program, as well as tracking all Washington-bred horses for the yearly owners and breeders bonuses.

There was a slight drop in the number of licenses issued in 2018 with 2,699 compared to 2,879 licenses issued last year, down by a total of 180. The three areas that showed the largest decrease for the industry was the owners licenses that were down by 108 with 1279 issued in 2018 compared to 1387 in 2017, grooms licenses down 27 with 199 issued this year compared to 226 in 2017 and trainers licenses with 149 in 2017 compared to 163 in 2018. The Honorary licenses is the only area that showed an increase to licensing this year with 20 in 2017 compared to 32 in 2018.

WHRC Investigators

There were changes to the WHRC Investigative department again this year. Darrell Farwell returned for his second year and Josh Williams was added to the investigation department. Darrell Farwell taught Josh Williams the duties of the WHRC investigators position. Both investigators were well liked by the employees and horsemen.

The WHRC Investigator did a total of 82 drug and alcohol tests this year compared to 98 last year with 70 tests for random licensees on horseback. Of the total number of positive tests there were 3 for alcohol with one repeat offender and two positive for illegal controlled substance. These results continue to demonstrate the value of the testing program in controlling and keeping the barn area alcohol and drug-free as possible.

WHRC Veterinarians/Test Barn

Dr. Ron Friedman, WHRC State Veterinarian and Equine Medical Director, along with the WHRC Veterinarians and the test barn staff continue to work well with the stewards. Dr. Colette Bergam DVM again was very helpful after her return from the Class C tracks. Dr. Campbell and Dr. Eilbeck both filled in as the backup veterinarian at various times. There were several days when the WHRC didn't have a second official veterinarian available. License equine medical vet techs were used as backups. All of the

veterinarians did their jobs with professionalism and integrity and were available to assist the stewards in all equine medication matters.

WHRC Receiving Barn

The receiving barn, staffed by identifier Joan Hutchison and receiving barn clerk Kimberly Wales did a good job identifying the horses to ensure that the right horse was in each race. Joan and Kim also assisted in the transfers of all claimed horses this year, that were not selected for post race testing. Kathy Connell was hired as a backup in the receiving barn. She learned and picked up the duties of this position quickly. Again this year Vince Funk, along with the help of Marlene Spencer, Kathy Connell and Brenda Holmes from the test barn filled in as needed in the receiving barn and test barn positions due to staffing issues.

Photo Finish

Photo finish operator Jody Parmenter as always did a good job in producing the order of finish and the photo finish images in a timely manner for the stewards. The photo finish system had a few problems this year when the board of steward needed to produce an official order of finish. The issues involved the quality of the picture and not being able to identify the images of the nose, pictures being washed out and having to be darkened as much as possible to allow any visual reading of the image which was blamed on the sun setting and hitting the mirror. An incident also occurred when the timing system stopped communicating with the sensors 10 minutes before the 1st race. Wes Petree head of the video department was called to help resolve this issue and while working on the timer the photo finish camera was disabled and no image was available. Luckily there were not any close finishes that needed the aid of the photo finish camera and the timing was done by hand. With the combined work of Jody Parmenter, Emerald Downs staff and the WHRC, adjustments were made to the software to correct and resolve the problem but whenever issues occurred it was generally because of the time of day and the position of the sun.

Staff

The WHRC staff at Emerald Downs continues to utilize their experience while regulating horse racing with upmost professionalism. The majority of the employees have been with the commission for many years and are willing to perform the duties of different positions as needed to ensure that the regulatory duties at Emerald Downs continues and the integrity of horseracing is upheld. All three new employees, Yvonne Doll, Mutuel Inspector/Claims Clerk, Kathy Connell, backup in the receiving barn and Josh Williams WHRC Investigator picked up the duties of their positions quickly and were well received by the horseman and WHRC staff. After retiring in 2016, Marlene Spencer came back again this year to fill in as needed. Vince Funk again aided the WHRC by filling in at different positions including receiving barn clerk, photo finish, paddock judge, clerk of scales, film analyst, steward, and test barn secretary. Paddock judge Pat McDowell continued working well with the horseman. The WHRC staff works hard to ensure that all participants in horse racing are following the rules of racing while being treated fairly and respectfully to make certain that the integrity of horseracing is sustained.

Board of Stewards

The board of stewards issued a total of 117 rulings at Emerald Downs as of September 25, 2018. There were eight medication violations this year compared to ten last year at Emerald Downs with penalties ranging from \$200.00 to \$750.00 in fines. There was 10 violations with rulings ranging from \$50.00

\$500.00 in fines, two for smoking in the shed row, eight for tampering with a smoke alarm with two of those being repeat offenders.

The stewards continued to work towards making decisions that encourage public transparency by providing a daily report to the association for its website that lists scratches, late rider changes, claims, the reasoning behind the decision on any objection or inquiry that occurred, as well as all photo finish images used for placing. Backup steward Vince Funk filled in as needed as an assistant to the stewards.

Overall, the 2018 race season went well and ended on a positive note and we are looking forward to 2019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Doll Sr." in a cursive style.

Ken Doll Sr.
Presiding Steward