



**Emerald Downs
Presiding Steward
2019 End of Meet Report
November 8, 2019**

Emerald Downs Racing LLC.

Emerald Downs offered 67 live racing days this year, with opening day on Saturday, April 20th, which was followed by two weeks of weekend racing before going to the regular three days of live racing on Friday, May 10th. The only holiday racing offered was on Memorial Day and Emerald Downs conducted its annual firework display on Wednesday July 3rd. Emerald Downs changed Saturday's post times starting June 15th to 5:00 p.m. for the remainder of the racing season.

Emerald Downs was hit with inclement weather that effected training for the first time in several years. Starting from the first day of training the track was closed for eight days from February 4th thru the 11th because the track was frozen or there was heavy snow during training hours. The training track also was closed Sunday, September 15th because of heavy rain overnight. On Friday, September 6th Emerald Downs lost three races due to an issue with the track lights. This also caused Emerald Downs management to move back training hours the following day, as well as starting the races at 4:25 pm so the race card could finish before it got to dark.

Emerald Downs had several popular promotion days during the season including the Indian relay races in June. Some of the other promotions Emerald Downs brought were the zebra, ostrich and camel races in May, three different days of dog races that consisted of beagles & bulldogs in June, wiener dogs & wannabes in July and the popular corgi dog races in August. The corgi races continue to be the most popular of the dog races and had the largest attendance in addition to the largest number of participants, requiring six qualifying trial heats compared to only four last year.

Longacres Mile Day was renamed this year to Championship Sunday featuring the Longacres Mile along with the Washington Oaks, the Muckleshoot Derby, and the Emerald Distaff. Emerald also added a Cross Country Pick 5 that consisted of five races starting with the \$125,000.00 Groupie Doll at Ellis Park, the

\$100,000.00 The Galway on the turf at Saratoga, the \$100,000.00 Ellis Park Derby, and finished with the \$50,000.00 Emerald Distaff and the \$200,000.00 Longacres Mile. Emerald Downs offered the Gottstein Futurity along with two overnight stake races to close out the final day of racing.

Emerald Downs / Race Office

The number of races carded this year dropped by 11 races but 3 of those were lost to the cancellation due to the light issues on September 6th. This resulted in 547 races being run compared with 558 races last year. The number of starters decreased from 3,928 horses last year to 3,737 horses this year. Emerald Downs reported 3,738 starters, however one horse was declared a non-starter by the board of stewards due to an equipment issue leaving the starting gate and Emerald Downs paid the participation fee as a starter. The field size declined slightly from 7.04 last year to 6.83 this year. Stall applications declined by one from 76 last year to 75 this year, and the number of stalls allotted dropped from 1160 last to 1070 to this year (90 less).

The number of two year old races stayed the same as last year with 44 races both years. The number of Washington bred races carded increased from 3 races carded last year to 8 this year. Emerald Downs hosted the Quarter Horse Bank of America Emerald Challenge Championship for the ninth year. The Championship had two trials prior to running the finals and was carded as the feature race with the 870 Distance Challenge and the Juvenile Challenge run the same day

The Emerald Racing Club returned for the sixth year. Its membership was down slightly this year with only 189 memberships sold of the original 200 memberships offered. The racing club is still an asset to the industry by bringing participants to live racing. The club had a total of five horses with Mike Puhich training Are Rated, Redrock Trail and Smoothee Lee and trainer Sharon Ross training, Bob's All In and She's an Eagle. The Racing Club only had two wins this year, one with Bob's All In and the other win was with Redrock Trail.

Jockey Colony

The jockey colony was adequate all season with a total of 47 licensed jockeys and apprentice jockeys compared to 57 last year. There were 4 apprentices including Jayden Christopherson who rode her first and only mount on closing day. Other apprentice jockeys had limited impact as Vladimir Jensen only rode two races, apprentice Jose Leon left in early June, and Lorenzo Rivera started riding the middle of July but was injured shortly after. Of the 43 remaining jockeys licensed there was between 12 and 16 that rode consistently with the remaining coming in for stake races or quarter horse races. Four new jockeys that joined the colony this year were Ryan Barber, Heribert Martinez, Jorge Carreno who left mid-season and Franklin Ceballos who also got injured during the meet. Gary Wales returned for his second year from Florida and ended up being the leading rider.

There were a total of 35 jockey rulings issued this year with one more to be issued the start of next seasons live racing, compared to last year's 23. Of these rulings, 17 rulings were issued assessing fines ranging from \$50 to \$500 for careless riding infractions. Four two-day suspensions were issued for careless riding due to a disqualification. Four rulings were issued holding the rider blameless in a disqualification, one for failing to fulfill riding engagements and three for conduct.

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 issues. The stewards continue to work on getting efficient at using the new tote console and software that was installed last year. Eric Berry, director and manager of the Mutuel department and simulcasting, consistently sets post times for the races which helps all the WHRC departments to keep the races running as scheduled.

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.

Emerald Downs did install new high definition monitors this year for the stewards to view but it did take some time to adjust to because of a 2 to 3 second delay while watching the live feed. The steward that would be watching the video monitors was able to hear the starting gate opening before the monitor would show it. This did not have any effect on the review of the videos when inquiries or objection were under review.

Emerald Downs Security

Emerald Downs security department had several new employees this year who 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 and Marlene Spencer 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 drop in the number of licenses issued in 2019 with 2,609 compared to 2,699 licenses issued last year, down by a total of 90. Two areas that showed a decrease again for the industry were owners licenses that were down by 47 with 1232 issued in 2019 compared to 1279 in 2018 and trainer's licenses were down by 11 with 138 in 2019 compared to 149 in 2018. The only license category with an increase was grooms licenses which increased with 213 issued this year compared to 199 in 2018.

WHRC Investigators

The WHRC investigators Darrell Farwell and Josh Williams worked well with the board of stewards. When asked to do an investigation it was done quickly so the conference could be held in a timely manner. Both investigators were well liked by the employees and horseman.

The WHRC Investigators did 47 separate investigations which involved allegations of rules of racing violations. Of those, 24 cases were for criminal history of which 9 were eventually referred to the Stewards for possible action.

The WHRC Investigators also did a total of 125 drug and alcohol tests this year compared to 82 last year. There were 68 tests performed for the random testing program for licensees on horseback. Of the total number of tests there were 9 positive, 3 for alcohol and 6 were for 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 DVM, 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. Collette Bergam again was very helpful after her return from the Class C tracks. Veterinarians Dr. Taryn Hudgens, Dr. Amy Eilbeck, Dr. Bob Campbell, and Dr. Lutz Harfst all filled in as the backup veterinarian at various times and handled the duties well and the board of stewards found them all easy to work with.

There were a total of 461 samples tested this year out of running 547 live races due to budget concerns requiring going back to the targeted testing program. Even with doing the target testing this year there were fifteen equine positives reported by Truesdail Laboratories compared to only eight last year.

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 were 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.

Photo Finish

Photo finish operator Jody Parmenter continued to provide quality work in producing the order of finish and the photo finish images in a timely manner for the stewards. The photo finish computer and software was upgraded on May 29. There were two days that the timer didn't communicate with the TV department monitors, so the race times were manually entered. Emerald Downs is responsible for the timing system and the problem was corrected quickly each time. Jody also trained Kim Wales how to operate the Photo finish/timer system so she could be available as a backup for this position.

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. D.W. Donny Smith was hired as an assistant steward when Vince Funk replaced Gary Baze as a steward. Donny was also required to fill in when needed as a steward as along with other positions such as Identifier, Receiving barn clerk, Paddock Judge and Clerk of Scales/film analyst. After retiring in 2016, Marlene Spencer continues to help the agency by filling in as needed as registration clerk, photo finish operator, claims clerk and in the receiving barn. 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 139 rulings at Emerald Downs as of October 2, 2019. There were sixteen equine medication violations this year compared to eight last year at Emerald Downs with penalties ranging from warnings to fines of up to \$400.00. Two rulings included a loss of purse and one violation resulted in a seven-day suspension.

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. In 2019 a Twitter account was set up where late changes, etc. were sent out to followers. This did not gather any momentum, but we will continue its use in 2020 in hopes that more interested parties begin following the feed.

Overall, the 2019 race season went well and ended on a positive note and we are looking forward to 2020.

Sincerely,

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

Ken Doll Sr.

Presiding Steward