



**Emerald Downs
Presiding Steward
2023 End of Meet Report
November 8, 2023**

Emerald Downs Racing LLC

Emerald Downs offered 52 live racing days this year, the same as last year. Opening day was Kentucky Derby day Saturday, May 6th with a 1:00 pm post time. This was followed by four different post times of racing throughout the season with a 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm post times. All Sunday racing had a 2:00 pm post time, Saturday was also 2:00 pm for seven weeks until July 1st then went to a 5:00 pm post time for the remainder of the race season, all Friday evening racing had a 7:00 pm post time. There were two Mondays of racing, Memorial Day which had a 2:00 pm post time and Monday, July 3rd was Emerald Down annual fireworks display which had a 5:00 pm post time.

Emerald Downs had the return of several popular promotion days during the season including three days of the Indian relay races in June. Two new promotions Emerald Downs had this year were a grandparent race that was well received by the media with clips being broadcast on several TV stations and Turn Back the Clock which featured the 70's era. The T-Rex races were run again this year, along with the several different dog breed races, which included bulldogs in June, Wiener Dogs & Wannabes in August, but the largest attendance was the Corgi races in July which brought in about 8600 people in attendance. The Premio Esmeralda had a two-day promotion/celebration this year over a two-day weekend in late July.

Emerald Downs and the WHRC split the duties of regulating the Federal regulations of HISA (Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority) and HIWU (Horseracing Integrity & Welfare Unit). The WHRC handled the HISA safety regulations all season and the equine testing duties for the first five days of racing until May 22nd, when Emerald Downs hired personnel to handle the HIWU equine sample collection duties for the new HIWU Anti-Doping Medication Control (ADMC) program

regulations. The high number of samples required by HIWU combined with staff shortages in the test barn created challenges for the test barn personnel after HIWU's ADMC program took effect.

Emerald Down/Race Office

With the 52 live race days, the number of races carded this year was 435, up ten races from 425 last year. The number of races per day increased slightly, to 8.36 this year from 8.17 last year. The number of starters this year also increased slightly from 2725 last year compared to 2847 horses this year, with field size per races also increased slightly this year at 6.54 compared to 6.41 last year. With the added number of trainers from Arizona or California running here this year, the number of stall applications increased by 6 with 68 this year compared to 62 last year. and the number of stalls allocated increased by 188, from 780 last year to 968 this year. The number of claims decreased from 224 last year to 200 this year.

The number of two-year-old races was up by two with 30 this year compared to 28 last year. The number of Washington-bred races carded increased by ten with 15 this year compared to only 5 last year.

The 88th running of the Longacres Mile was featured on Championship Sunday on August 13th, along with three other stakes races, the Distaff, Washington Oaks, and Muckleshoot Derby. Emerald Downs hosted two Quarter Horse Challenge races, the Bank of America Championship Challenge race which had two trial races, and the John Deere Emerald Downs Juvenile Challenge for a total of 4 Quarter horse races.

Emerald Downs did the Emerald Racing Club again this year with trainer Jeff Metz training for the Racing Club. There was a total of 139 owners in the club this year down from 152 last year with three horses in the club, Warren's Memorable which started 8 times with 2 win's, 1 second and 3 thirds, Scatalicious had 8 starts with 4 seconds and 4 thirds, and Rekleining only starting 1 time with a fourth-place finish. Rekleining was given away and found a home to Dr. Renee Miller, Equine Assisted therapy and Scatalicious was purchased by 12 people that were in the Emerald Club to race in 2024.

Jockey Colony

There was a total of 45 jockey licenses issued this year compared to 32 last year with one riding only the last day. Most of the new riders also came in from Arizona and California. There was a total of 53 jockey rulings this year compared to 37 last year. Of the 53 rulings, 43 were for violations of the WHRC rules and 10 were for HISA riding crop strike count violation. The rulings ranged from warnings up to a \$750.00 in fines and riding suspensions from one to three days, with one horse being disqualified from any purse money for a strike count HISA rule violation. Of the 55-jockey rulings one rider had nine of them.

Mutuel Department and Sportech Totalizer System

Sportech added and installed a new console system for the stewards to input all the tote board data along with inputting the information into the old system as in the past.

Emerald Downs Video Department

The video department is vital to the board of stewards in making any decision on inquiries and objections in a timely manner and with Emerald Downs video department having several changes in personnel needing time to learn the job and duties the stewards' inquiries and objections occasionally took a little more time to complete with a delay in getting the videos displayed.

Emerald Downs Security

Emerald Downs security personnel were good to work with this year and were very helpful to the WHRC Investigators and the Stewards. Emerald Downs security also had to add a job duty of regulating licensee going in and out of test barn as required by HIWU.

Physical Inspection of the grounds Licensing

An inspection of the security fencing showed Emerald Downs does a good job in maintaining it.

Licensing

The total number of licenses issued in 2023 was down by only 29 with 1,906 compared to 1,935 last year. Owner's licenses were down by 54 with 828 issued in 2023 compared to 882 in 2022. Trainers' licenses decreased by two with 98 in 2022 compared to 96 this year. Grooms' licenses increased by ten with 216 issued this year compared to 206 in 2022. Pony riders had a decrease of 2 with 84 this year compared to 86 in 2022. Exercise riders had an increase of 23 with 129 this year compared to 106 last year.

WHRC Investigators

Darrell Farwell and Hugh Wales worked well together as the WHRC Investigators. They were essential to the Board of Stewards and working with Emerald Downs Security when needed. They both were an asset to Emerald Downs when HIWU took over the equine testing on the 6th of June from the WHRC. The hardest part for the investigators and horsemen was the different strict procedures regulating the test barn area.

The WHRC Investigators did a total of 62 drug and alcohol tests this year compared to 66 last year. There were three positive tests for alcohol with one being a violation for working under the influence. There were three positives for illegal controlled substances, one was a one-year suspension due to a third violation, the other two were 30-day suspension with one of those getting a stay. The stay process is for a one-time violation if they get an evaluation and comply with the evaluation requirements. Additionally, there were a total of 33 separate investigations which involved allegations of Rules of Racing violations on the racetrack grounds, 17 of those were sent to the Stewards for possible action. There were also three jockeys room searches with no violations found.

WHRC Veterinarians/ Test Barn

Dr. Ron Friedman DVM, WHRC State Veterinarian and Equine Medical Director, along with the WHRC official veterinarian Dr. Collette Bergam DVM worked together regulating the equine testing program until May 22, when HIWU took over the equine testing program. Dr. Friedman remained as the WHRC State Veterinarian and Dr. Collette Bergam took over as the official veterinarian for HIWU. Veterinarian assistants were then hired by Emerald Downs to regulate the HIWU testing program. Dr. Lutz Harfst and Dr. Bob Campbell shared the duties of filling in as needed for the WHRC.

WHRC Receiving Barn

The receiving barn is utilized to assemble and organize all participants prior to their race and for the identification process of each horse. Last year's receiving barn clerk Alexis Warner took over the position of Identifier and new WHRC employee Nancy Gibson took over the duties of the Receiving Barn clerk, they both worked well together. Both Nancy and Alexis picked up the duties in their department quickly and did an excellent job this year in their job duties.

Paddock

Robert Sodergren did a good job at overseeing the saddling of the horses in the Paddock and getting them on the track when designated. The paddock procedure seemed to run smoother this year as the horseman seemed to work well with Robert in the saddling process.

Photo Finish

Long time Photo Finish/Clockier Jody Parmenter continued to do a good job as usual in her position. Jody is training several new employees to back up her position as the other ones she trained are no longer with the WHRC.

WHRC Staff

With staff turnover from year to year the WHRC hired two new employees to learn and help back up different positions as needed. Serena Morefield and Aldo Zamora-Pedroza were added to the staff later in the season. Serena is a retired State Patrol employee and has experience with horses including owning a retired racehorse from a previous trainer here at Emerald Downs. Aldo Zamora-Pedroza has been licensed with the WHRC as a jockey agent since 2017. Aldo is attending the University of Arizona Racetrack Program with one year left to attend on the four-year course, Aldo was hired as an intern in mid-June and was trained in several departments. He was able to fill in and perform the duties of the claims clerk, receiving barn clerk when needed, along with being trained as the Paddock Judge, Identifier, Photo finish/digital timer operator and as an assistant steward.

Board of Stewards

The Board of Stewards issued 110 rulings this year compared to 112 last year. Of the 110 rulings this year. There were 53 rulings against jockeys, of which 10 were HISA rulings. In addition to the 53

jockey rulings, there were 5 rulings for unauthorized late scratches, one for tampering with a fire protection system, five for disturbing the peace and three positives for drugs and one alcohol positive while on horseback.

Overall, the 2023 race season went well this year with the horseman and riders adjusting to the new HISA and HIWU regulations. A lot of the licensees that usually go to Arizona had to find another place to race when Turf Paradise does not plan to reopen this fall. Despite all the challenges faced this year, I think everyone will be looking forward to 2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Doll Sr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ken Doll Sr.

Presiding Steward