



**Emerald Downs
Presiding Steward
2022 End of Meet Report
October 14, 2022**

Emerald Downs Racing LLC.

With the restrictions lifted from the Covid-19 pandemic, Emerald Downs offered 52 live racing days this year. Opening day was on Sunday, May 15th, followed by two weeks of weekend-only racing Saturdays and Sundays. They returned to the regular three days of live racing running Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, starting Friday, June 3rd. Emerald Downs conducted its annual firework display on Sunday, July 3rd with a special 5:00pm post time. Regular post times for Fridays was 7:00pm, with both Saturdays and Sundays starting at 2:15pm.

Emerald Downs had a new announcer this year as Bill Downes took over the announcing booth after Tom Harris stepped down. Bill Downes had announced at several tracks before coming to Emerald Downs including Indiana Grand, Ellis Park, Beulah Park, Presque Isle Down, River Downs and as a backup at Churchill Downs.

Emerald Downs had the return of several popular promotion days during the season including three days of the Indian relay races in June. Other promotions Emerald Downs had this year were the running of the bulldogs in June, Corgi races in July, Wiener Dogs & Wannabes in August, and a T-Rex race. The corgi races continue to be the most popular of the dog races, with 82 entries requiring eight qualifying trial heats compared to only six last year. The Premio Esmeralda had a two-day promotion/celebration this year over a weekend in July

Emerald Downs and the WHRC had to adjust to the new Federal regulations of HISA (Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority) that went into effect July 1, 2022. A few of the requirements of HISA included all owners and trainer were required to get registered and report all the horses they either owned or trained. The jockeys were also required to register with HISA and show that they had a physical and a concussion baseline done.

Emerald Down/Race Office

To help the horseman and entice new owners and trainers, to Emerald Downs, purses were raised by 20% and \$50,000.00 was added to the Longacres Mile purse compared to last year. Another incentive offered by Emerald Down this year was a \$1,000.00 bonus for all 3-year-old and older horses that ran in any claiming race at least once at any track, including Emerald Downs since January 1, 2021. This one-time incentive was paid in the horse's first start in any claiming race prior to July 1, 2022, and was split with \$750.00 going to the horse owner (to help offset shipping and/or off-season expenses) and \$250.00 to the trainer (to help offset L & I costs). Additionally, all hot walker fees were waived, and Emerald Downs provided initial stall bedding for all horses on the grounds prior to opening day. Participation money for unplaced horses was increased from \$210 to \$300 in any race with eight or more starters.

The 87th running of the Longacres Mile was featured on Championship Sunday on August 14th, along with three other stakes races, the Distaff, the Washington Oaks, and the Muckleshoot Derby. Emerald Downs hosted two of the Quarter Horse Challenge races, the Bank of America Championship Challenge race, and the John Deere Emerald Downs Juvenile Challenge for a total of six races, including the trials, this year compared to four last year.

Emerald Downs ran 52 live race days this year compared to 49 last year. The number of races carded this year was 425 up eight races from 417 last year while running three more racing days. The number of races per day decreased slightly, 8.17 this year from 8.5 last year. The number of starters this year also decreased slightly from 2701 last year compared to 2725 horses this year, with field size per races also dropping slightly this year at 6.41 compared to 6.48 last year. The number of stall application stayed the same at 62 for both years and the number of stalls allotted dropped by 65, from 845 last year to 780 this year. The number of claims increased from 193 last year to 224 this year.

The number of two-year-old races was down by seven with 28 this year and 35 last year. The number of Washington bred races carded decreased by four from nine races last year to five this year.

Emerald Downs added a new race distance to their race card late this this year by and ran four races going 1 mile & 70 yards starting September 2nd.

Emerald Downs did the Emerald Racing Club this year with a new trainer, Jeff Metz, who took over after Sharon Ross retired last year from training. There was a total of 152 owners in the club this year with three horses and they won 3 races. The Emerald Racing Club experienced the joy of winning a race, but they also experienced some of the issues that come with being an owner. They had two claims voided, one because of the HISA post-race inspection from the official veterinarian and one for the claim form not being properly filled out. They also had a horse disqualified for causing interference to another horse during the running of a race.

Jockey Colony

There was a total of 32 jockey licenses issued this year, with about 20 riding here most of the season, the rest shipped in for the Quarter Horse and thoroughbred stake races. Even with the adequate jockey colony there still were six late scratches due to no rider on the race card, three of the six were horses that were first time starters and the remaining three were late on the program in larger fields and no rider was available. There was a total of 37 jockey rulings this year compared to 25 last year. Of the 37 rulings, 19

were for violations of the WHRC rules and 18 were for HISA riding crop strike count violations. The rulings ranged from warnings up to a \$825.00 fine with three horses disqualified from any purse money. The riders really had a difficult time adjusting to the HISA crop count, going from the WHRC three strikes in succession and giving the horse a chance to respond to the HISA rule of a total of six strikes, and only two in succession with a chance to respond.

Mutuel Department and Sportech Totalizer System

Longtime tote manager Tony Lovell retired this year shortly after the season started but had to return for a short period due to employee shortage issues. Rick Brown filled in for Tony and was later made the permanent tote manager.

Emerald Downs Video Department

Another area with staffing issues was the video department. Wes Petree, an Emerald Downs employee in charge of five different departments, had to fill in and work in the video department as needed. The video department is vital to the board of steward in making any decision on inquiries and objections. With all the changes in personnel and having to learn the job duties, the stewards' inquiries and objections occasionally took a little more time to complete.

Emerald Downs Security

Catrina Foulger took over as the lead Emerald Downs security person in the barn area. She and all of Emerald Downs security worked well with the board of stewards and the WHRC Investigators.

Physical Inspection of the grounds Licensing

An inspection of the security fencing was done in late February of this year to see if the damage to the north end of the barn area had been fixed from last year. The fence had been repaired and Emerald Downs staff also placed concrete barriers around that area of fencing.

Licensing

The total number of licenses issued in 2022 was 1,935 compared to 1,847 last year an increase of 88 total licenses. Owner's licenses increased by 86 with 882 issued in 2022 compared to 796 in 2021. This may be due to not having the Emerald Racing Club last year. Trainer's licenses increased by five with 98 in 2022 compared to 93 last year. Grooms' licenses decreased with 206 issued this year compared to 212 in 2021. Pony riders had an increase of 5 with 86 this year compared to 81 in 2021. Exercise riders had a decrease of 5 with 106 this year compared to 111 last year.

WHRC Investigators

Darrell Farwell and Hugh Wales returned as WHRC Investigators again this year and they worked well together as they both bring experience to their jobs from different areas. Hugh comes from the horse racing industry as a former jockey along with working for the WHRC as the clerk of scales and previously for Emerald Downs for two seasons in their security department. Darrell has an extensive background working with the Washington State Patrol as has been invited to be a part of the 2022 Breeders Cup investigators group at Keeneland this fall.

The WHRC Investigators did a total of 66 drug and alcohol tests this year compared to 19 last year, the increase can be attributed to the government lifting some Covid-19 restrictions. There were nine positive tests for alcohol with three repeat offenders and no positives for illegal controlled substances. These results continue to demonstrate the value of the testing program in controlling and keeping the barn area alcohol and drug-free as possible. Additionally, there were a total of 33 separate investigations which involved allegations of Rules of Racing violations on the racetrack grounds, 23 of those were sent to the Stewards for possible action.

WHRC Veterinarians/ Test Barn

Dr. Ron Friedman DVM, WHRC State Veterinarian and Equine Medical Director, along with the WHRC official veterinarians that filled in during the season due to staffing issues, worked well handling the regulatory duties and with the board of stewards. Dr. Collette Bergam DVM, was the main backup to Dr. Friedman along with Dr. Robert Campbell DVM, Dr. Lutz Harfst DVM, Dr. Taryn Hudgens DVM, Dr. Kent Tooman DVM and Dr. Dana Western DVM. Brenda Holmes, the prior full-time Test Barn Secretary worked part-time this year and helped train Kayla Harrell who did well as the new Test Barn Secretary. After July 1, 2022, when the HISA regulatory rule went into effect for all claimed horses to be inspected after being claimed and running, this raised the average of horses going to the test barn. After the HISA rule went into effect there was 152 claims, of which 17 were voided.

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. New WHRC employees Trevor Baze and Alexis Warner worked in the receiving barn this year. Trevor oversaw the identification process in the receiving barn while Alexis was the new receiving barn clerk. Both Alexis and Trevor picked up the duties in their department quickly and did an excellent job in their first year with the WHRC.

Paddock

Robert Sodergren took over the duties in the paddock after Francis (Shorty) Martin didn't come back this year. Robert did a good job at overseeing the saddling of the horses and getting them on the track when designated.

Photo Finish

Long time Photo Finish/Clocker Jody Parmenter continued to do a good job as usual in her position. Jody did have to adjust to the clocking of the races for the new 1-mile & 70-yard races that were run for the first time this year.

Board of Stewards

With HISA rules going into effect the first of July, the workload for the stewards also increased as it did in the Test Barn. The Board of Stewards issued 112 rulings this year compared to 85 last year. Of the 112 rulings this year, 18 were HISA rulings. With any HISA violation the board of steward had to send our conference notice and ruling along with the HISA notice of conference and ruling to them. In addition to

the 37 jockey rulings, there were 11 rulings for unauthorized late scratches, one for smoking in the barn area, one for tampering with a fire protection system, six for disturbing the peace and 12 equine medication violations with one being a contamination positive for Fentanyl which resulted in a loss of purse.

Overall, the 2022 race season went well with an increase to incentives for the horseman, purses increases and with the three additional race days this year I think everyone is looking forward to 2023.

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