

MEADOWLANDS RE-OPENS WITH REPRIEVE NOT RESOLUTION

The re-opening of the Meadowlands Racetrack on May 7, 2011 is the result of a reprieve not a resolution.

There are still outstanding issues that need to be resolved before the operations of the racetrack can be turned over to Jeff Gural's management.

While he reached an agreement with the labor unions at the end of April, other issues remain on the table.



Jeff Gural was upbeat about the future of the Meadowlands when he visited the track's TV set in March.

[Photo by Lisa Photo Inc.]

"I just want everyone to understand that we were not able to finalize a deal to lease the Meadowlands as I had hoped," Gural said on April 29, 2011.

"We did make progress in fleshing out the issues and expect to continue working," Gural noted. "We will resume our schedule May 7. We are working hard to solve these difficult issues, and I appreciate the governor allowing the track to re-open on schedule."

The Governor's office had set a deadline of May 1 but acknowledged the progress made and offered the additional one-month extension on April 29 under the continuation of the agreement with the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey, which will continue to underwrite any losses at the Meadowlands.

"With significant progress being made toward Governor Christie's goal of establishing a self-sustaining racing industry, the May racing calendar at the Meadowlands Racetrack will proceed as scheduled," Christie spokesman Michael Drewniak said. "New union agreements with con-

cessions have been reached by Jeff Gural, but at this point it is clear that additional time is needed to complete work on the outstanding issues that remain.

"The live standardbred meet will open on May 7 and simulcasting will continue and both will be held until the end of May," the statement said. "The parties will continue discussions next week in an effort to try and resolve the remaining issues."

Among the outstanding issues are the distribution of simulcasting dollars between thoroughbred and standardbred purses and the future of other forms of gaming in New Jersey.

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From the Desk of President Tom Luchento

We would have hoped by the time you read this letter that the issues connected with the future of the Meadowlands Racetrack had been resolved.

Unfortunately, this is not the case.

We have overcome many hurdles these last few months only to find ourselves still negotiating other obstacles before Jeff Gural will be able to sign a lease to take over the management of the Meadowlands. The goal is to have this accomplished by June 1.

Once that does happen, do not think that our mission is complete.

There will be many more trips to Trenton to take the steps that will be necessary to secure our future.

We have many friends in the legislature who understand our issues, and we need make sure that we keep them in decision making positions.

We also need to spread our message to new candidates who might one day hold our fate in their hands.

That is why we must once again ask everyone to support TrotPAC, the political action com-

mittee of the standardbred racing breeding and industry in New Jersey.

If we have learned one thing from our experiences these last few years, it is that we can never rest on our laurels. We can never assume that the state's leadership will understand our needs and recognize our importance to the economy of New Jersey.

We continually need to generate that message in various ways.

But all of this requires funding. This is where your checks, large and small, made out to TrotPAC mean so much.

Do not expect that the "other guy" is taking care of this. All of us must dig into our pockets.

One less latte a week and you can help us with a couple of hundred dollars a year.

Whether racing is your business, your hobby or your passion, be generous.

Please send your donations for TrotPAC to 64 Business Route 33, Manalapan, NJ 07726.

STANDARD BRED BREEDERS & OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

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NJ CLASSIC & MISS NEW JERSEY FINALS SET FOR MAY 28

Big Jim, the Two-Year-Old Pacing Colt of the Year in 2010, is scheduled to make his 2011 debut in the Anthony Abbatiello New Jersey Classic at the Meadowlands.

The \$400,000 New Jersey Classic and its filly companion race, the \$150,000 Thomas D'Altrui Miss New Jersey, will be contested on May 28 with elimination races the prior week.

The two stakes are restricted to New Jersey-sired three-year-old pacers. Both events are sponsored by the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey.



Big Jim, driven by Phil Hudon, included this victory in the Breeders Crown during his championship season at two. Photo by Racehorsephoto.com

Big Jim, a son of Western Ideal, is one of 33 colts and 22 fillies who remain eligible and will highlight the spring stakes schedule at the Meadowlands.

Owner Jim Carr and trainer Friday Dean were on hand when Big Jim made his qualifying debut on April 22 at Florida's Southern Oaks Training Center.

The goal was a 1:54 mile but the colt coasted to a one-length victory in 1:52.3 with a last quarter in 27.4.

"I really didn't want to go that much," driver Phil Hudon said. "One came pretty hard at us around the turn, but he finished up pretty handy. He was pretty impressive really. I thought he would, but he was unbelievable. He does it easy."

It was Big Jim's first official mile since November 6 when he wrapped up his freshman season with a 1:49.1 victory in the \$700,000 Governor's Cup Final at Woodbine, lifting his earnings to \$827,204. It was his sixth victory with one second and two thirds in 10 starts.

Additional stakes victories for the colt included the \$600,000 Breeders Crown, \$137,265 Champlain, \$102,420 Nassagaway and \$48,500 Dream Maker. Other than his trip to Pocono Downs for the Breeders Crown, he made all his starts in Canada.

The schedule this year includes multiple visits to the Meadowlands, including the New Jersey Classic, New Jersey Sire Stakes and Meadowlands Pace.

Shadyshark Hanover by Cam's Card Shark, a \$500,000-earner and runner-up to Big Jim in both the Breeders Crown and Governor's Cup, is scheduled to qualify at the Meadowlands on Thursday, May 5. He is also a New Jersey Classic eligible.

Honky Tonk Woman, the Ross Croghan trained daughter of Western Ideal, also is carded in the qualifiers on May 5. She is a Miss New Jersey eligible and comes off a season in which finished in-the-money in seven of 11 starts and earned more than \$300,000.

HOLD THIS DATE: SBOANJ GOLF OUTING ON JULY 11

The annual mid-summer golf outing to benefit New Jersey horsemen will take place on Monday, July 11, 2011.

The Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey's annual event will once again take place at Gambler Ridge Golf Course in Cream Ridge, NJ. The money raised through the golf tournament supports the New Jersey Standardbred Horsemen's Benevolent Fund.

The day will include a buffet lunch, a round of golf, drawings for prizes and a prime rib dinner for \$135. Dinner only is \$50.

Raffle tickets will be sold for a new premier jogger, courtesy of Allen Eggert of Pennsbury Enterprises.

Sponsorships are still available. For more information, contact the SBOANJ at 732-462-2357 or visit www.sboanj.com.

SBOANJ ANNOUNCES 2011 SCHOLARSHIPS DEADLINE

The deadline is June 15 for applicants wishing to be considered for the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey 2011 college scholarships.

Scholarships, which can range from \$2,500 to \$5,000, are for qualified students who plan to attend a two or four-year college or university, who are the son or daughter of a full-time participant in New Jersey harness racing or are themselves a full-time participant in New Jersey harness racing. Only one candidate per household will be considered, and there is a lifetime cap of \$10,000 per individual.

The applicant must have taken either the SAT or ACT test, be accepted to or attend a college or university and fill out the SBOANJ's Scholarship Award application. Financial need, student involvement in

community work, extracurricular academic activities, evidence of strong character and leadership and interest in the equine industry will all be considered.

All scholarship winners and their families will be invited to a night at the races at the Meadowlands where they will be recognized for their accomplishment in the winner's circle and have a complimentary dinner on a date determined after the selection is completed.

Applications are available on the SBOANJ website – sboanj.com – or at Freehold and the Meadowlands [see Linda Goss], the Backstretch Community Assistance Program offices at the Meadowlands and Showplace Farms [see Dr. Chris Samaha] and the SBOANJ office in Manalapan.

MEADOWLANDS RE-OPENS WITH REPRIEVE NOT RESOLUTION

[REPRIEVE continued from Page 1]

"I really believe we'll get the slots, and it won't be that much longer," SBOANJ President Tom Luchento said. "I understand what the governor is doing in Atlantic City, trying to give them a chance to get themselves right-side up. Whether they succeed or fail in Atlantic City, I'm sure we'll wind up with alternative gaming in North Jersey. I think he just wants to give Atlantic City a chance to reinvent itself."

The matter of revenue from incoming simulcasting signals at the Meadowlands is another major issue on the table. Legislation dictates that the simulcasting dollars go to the breed racing at that time at the Meadowlands.

"What [the thoroughbred industry] wants is all revenue made on wagers placed on thoroughbred races while we would get the revenue bet on harness races," Gural told the *New York Daily News*. "That would be their first choice. Their compromise position would be to take a 65-35 split. Our position is that we are not going to change the law because there are twice as many standardbreds in the state of New Jersey, so the harness industry has twice as much financial impact."

The Monmouth Park horsemen, whose \$1 million a day 50-day Elite Meet in 2010 benefited from assistance from standardbred horsemen, are seeking to distribute \$500,000 daily in 2011.

Standardbred representatives are not prepared to have thoroughbred expectations land on the back of its horsemen.

"We cannot see our purses decline any further," Gural noted. "They [thoroughbred horsemen] haven't adjusted to the reality that there is no longer a \$30 million [annual] subsidy to racing from the Atlantic City casino industry."

The clock is ticking again as negotiations continue to resolve the issues which are holding up a lease agreement, which would insure the continuation of racing at the Meadowlands.

MONMOUTH COUNTY PROCLAIMS TOM LUCHENTO DAY

It was already late in the day when Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association President Tom Luchento was presented a plaque by the Freeholders of Monmouth County at the Hall of Records on April 27, 2011.

It was Thomas F. Luchento Day, according to the presentation [see full text on this page]. Only there was little time to celebrate. Too many meetings, too many calls and too many hot issues have filled Luchento's days and nights as the standardbred racing community braces for more battles to save the Meadowlands Race-track and racing in New Jersey.

One day was not enough. Maybe a month or maybe an annual celebration – Tom accepted the good-natured ribbing.

Still, it was nice to take a few minutes to collect the framed document from Freeholder Lillian Burry, an acknowledgement of Luchento's work and the importance of the racing community to the people of Monmouth County.

— By Carol Hodes



SBOANJ President Tom Luchento [right] accepts the Proclamation of Thomas F. Luchento Day plaque from Monmouth County Freeholder Lillian Burry [left] on April 27, 2011 at the County's Hall of Records in Freehold.

Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders Proclamation Thomas F. Luchento

Whereas, Thomas F. Luchento, President of the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey is a staunch advocate of the entire equine industry; and

Whereas, the horse is the state animal of New Jersey and the horse breeding industry involves tens of thousands of acres of farmland and millions of dollars to support the trainers, caretakers, veterinarians, blacksmiths, feed providers and others who are responsible for the broodmares and stallions; and

Whereas, a vibrant, healthy horse breeding and horse racing industry is vital to our economy as it is reported that equine-related farms represent 20 percent of the agricultural business in New Jersey, with 700 farms, 176,000 acres of land and 13,000 jobs that are devoted to horses; and

Whereas, throughout the years, Thomas F. Luchento has been acknowledged for his service to the equine industry with the 2008 Stanley Dancer Media Award and the 2010 Governor's Trophy as Horseperson of the Year.

Now, therefore, the Board of Chosen Freeholders commend the energy, dedication and personal commitment Thomas F. Luchento exhibited to horse breed, horse racing interests and the entire equine industry, and proclaims this day, April 27, 2011 as "Thomas F. Luchento Day."

Signed by Freeholds Robert D. Clifton, Thomas A. Arone, John P. Curley, Amy A. Mallet and Lillian G. Burry.

MAY/JUNE 2011 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

May 9	Board Meeting	June 13	Board Meeting
May 31	Insurance Meeting	June 28	Insurance Meeting

MISS NEW JERSEY WILL JOIN FESTIVITIES ON MAY 28

Ashleigh Udalovas, 23, will continue the tradition of two-legged Miss New Jerseys meeting the winner of the Miss New Jersey Pace on May 28, 2011 at the Meadowlands Racetrack.



Miss New Jersey Ashleigh Udalovas

Udalovas, who is from Millville, NJ, will present the trophy for the \$150,000 Thomas D'Altrui Miss New Jersey, a stakes for three-year-old pacing fillies who are by New Jersey-based stallions.

Sponsored by the Standard-bred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey, the Miss

New Jersey shares the spotlight on May 28 with the \$400,000 Anthony Abbatiello New Jersey Classic for three-year-old New Jersey-sired pacing colts.

Udalovas, who was crowned in June 2010, competed on a platform of "Read to Succeed: Improving America's Future through Literacy." Her reign comes to an end on June 18, 2011.

She is the founder of the Cumberland County chapter of First Book, an organization that gives books to financially disadvantaged children, and the spokesperson for Literacy Volunteers of New Jersey.

Udalovas aspires to pursue a doctorate degree and a career in educational administration.

During the talent portion of the Miss New Jersey competition, she tap danced to the Pink Panther theme song and expressed a wish to compete on the reality TV show Dancing with the Stars.

FREEHOLD TO HOST FINALS OF DEXTER & LADY SUFFOLK

The winter-spring racing season at Freehold Raceway is drawing to a close on May 21.

There are still two trotting stakes of note on the schedule, the Dexter Cup for three-year-old trotting colts on May 7, 2011 and the filly companion event, the Lady Suffolk on May 6, 2011.

The \$160,850 Dexter Cup drew eight entrants [in alphabetical order]: Buzz Bomb, Gordo Hall, Ice Machine, Justa Jersey Boy, Marcus BI, Muscledaneous, Whitewater Rapids and Winuendo.

Twelve fillies were dropped in the entry box for the Lady Suffolk, resulting in a pair of \$39,825 divisions. The first division, carded as the sixth race, includes [in post position order] Imageofasweet-day, Refuse to Lose, Andorra Gold, Pacific Splash, Cameo Credit and Miss Lee.

The second division, carded as the eighth, features Dance Steps, Pure Barre, Don't Cry Lindy, Katie Done Did It, Balmy Breeze and Sheer Glide.

TROPAC STILL NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

We have made tremendous progress in getting our message out to state legislators but the work continues, and we need your financial support so that we can open new doors and keep old friends.

Please send your donations for TrotPAC to 64 Business Route 33, Manalapan, NJ 07726.

Election laws require occupation and employer information.

Maximum permitted donation is \$7,200 per person.

For all the latest news
Visit sboanj.com

MEADOWLANDS RACETRACK HARNESS RACING RETURNS

Opening Night May 7
Post time 7 p.m.

MAY RACING SCHEDULE:
Thursday – Saturday night
Plus Sunday, May 8 • Post time 1:10 p.m.





It's Spring
in
New Jersey
Time for
Mares & Foals
to
Graze & Gaze

Darlin's Delight minds her 2011 Rocknroll Hanover colt at White Birch Farm. Photo by Vicki Wright



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