



COURTESY MAHONING VALLEY RACE COURSE

Hollywood Gaming at Mahoning Valley Race Course opened in late 2014

Sitting on Go in Ohio

Buckeye State horse business improves across the board

BY TOM LaMARRA

FOR THE OHIO HORSE RACING INDUSTRY

Nov. 24, 2014, marked both an end and a beginning.

It was the day of the inaugural live Thoroughbred racing program at Hollywood Gaming at Mahoning Valley Race Course, the last of seven tracks in the state to offer video lottery terminals and live racing simultaneously. And with that, Ohio racing had the final piece of its new circuit in place.

It all came about in 2011 when Gov. John Kasich, as part of an expansion of gambling, fashioned a deal to award VLT licenses to racetracks under the auspices of the Ohio Lottery Corp. Enabling legislation passed in 2012, and soon after that, Scioto Downs, a Columbus harness track, became the first track in the state to open a VLT facility.

In the course of almost three years, much has occurred, including the construction of two new racetracks—Mahoning Valley near Youngstown and Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway. In turn, Beulah Park near Columbus and Raceway Park in Toledo were shuttered.

Ohio has seven tracks, three for Thoroughbreds and four for Standardbreds. It also has four full-scale, non-track casinos located in major markets, three of which also have race-tracks.

The racing industry derives income from a percentage of VLT proceeds at each track, as well as from a small cut of revenue from the non-track casinos.

For fiscal year 2014, which spanned July 2013 through June 2014, only two racetrack gaming facilities were operational for all 12 months: ThistleDown Racino near Cleveland and Scioto Downs near Columbus. Hard Rock Rocksino at Northfield Park near Cleveland and Miami Valley Gaming and Racing just north of Cincinnati were open seven months, while Belterra Park Gaming and Entertainment Center, formerly known as River Downs, was open for two months.

The five operations combined in fiscal 2014 attracted \$5.07 billion in VLT play with a net win of \$437.57 million, accord-

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2014 LEADING SIRES IN CANADA

Go to BloodHorse.com for daily updated sire lists

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2015 Stud Fee Can\$	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2014 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	MILWAUKEE BREW (97, Wild Again), Adena Springs North	\$7,500	137/74	9/11	5/9	(Coltibus Prime, \$380,591)	\$3,964,264	*491	27	1.22	1.58
2	SLIGO BAY (IRE) (98, Sadler's Wells), Adena Springs North	\$7,500	98/45	4/8	0/4	(Lexie Lou, \$1,119,470)	\$3,300,362	*345	11	1.24	1.45
3	SILENT NAME (JPN) (02, Sunday Silence), Adena Springs North	\$7,500	81/41	3/5	3/3	(San Nicola Thunder, \$222,200)	\$2,664,663	*221	10	1.54	1.24
4	OLD FORESTER (01, Forestry), T.C. Westmeath Stud Farm	\$4,000	101/50	3/3	3/3	(Seffeara, \$149,487)	\$2,513,568	258	10	1.49	1.67
5	WHERE'S THE RING (99, Seeking the Gold), Peaceful Valley Farms	\$3,000	104/50	1/1	1/1	(Spadina Road, \$193,550)	\$2,460,883	285	9	1.37	1.41
6	WILKO (02, Awesome Again), Adena Springs North	Private	66/39	3/5	0/3	(Happy My Way, \$371,667)	\$1,921,702	*151	4	1.13	1.18
7	BOLD EXECUTIVE (84, Bold Ruckus)	Died, 2011	70/36	3/4	3/3	(Executive Allure, \$280,841)	\$1,905,685	803	49	1.63	1.30
8	BADGE OF SILVER (00, Silver Deputy), Colebrook Farms Stallion Station	\$5,000	96/49	3/3	0/3	(Silver Max, \$176,335)	\$1,864,237	*285	11	1.22	1.39
9	NIIGON (01, Unbridled)	Died, 2012	50/23	0/0	0/0	(Iroquois Falls, \$150,963)	\$1,609,253	156	7	1.93	1.16
10	GIANT GIZMO (04, Giant's Causeway), Adena Springs North	\$5,000	45/24	1/2	1/1	(Brooklynsway, \$324,308)	\$1,582,788	66	2	1.65	1.56
11	OLMODAVOR (99, A.P. Indy), Dunroven Farm	\$1,250	65/37	1/1	1/1	(Dancing Ashley, \$213,547)	\$1,384,099	*254	10	0.90	1.35
12	NORTH LIGHT (IRE) (01, Danehill), Adena Springs North	Private	76/33	1/1	1/1	(Artic North, \$100,940)	\$1,264,370	*313	8	1.07	1.55
13	IMPERIALISM (01, Langfuhr), Esquirol Farms	\$2,500	85/36	1/2	0/1	(Mr. Baker, \$150,037)	\$1,252,928	191	4	0.80	0.98
14	WANDO (00, Langfuhr)	Died, 2014	46/21	1/1	1/1	(Run to the Bank, \$111,417)	\$880,490	*140	2	1.17	1.14
15	STRUT THE STAGE (98, Theatrical), Sam Son Farm	Private	28/11	1/2	0/1	(Strut the Course, \$325,129)	\$875,185	89	3	1.49	1.24
16	GOTTCHA GOLD (03, Coronado's Quest), Strideawayacres	\$2,500	46/30	0/0	0/0	(Making Havoc, \$134,655)	\$840,287	*81	0	0.92	1.49
17	FINALITY (99, Dehere), Red Rock Farm	\$2,500	65/36	2/3	1/2	(Finality's Charmer, \$101,172)	\$830,151	216	16	0.65	0.76
18	ROSBERG (01, A.P. Indy), Canmor Farms	\$3,000	38/31	5/6	2/5	(Lord Rosberg, \$105,365)	\$829,305	50	7	0.82	0.89
19	PEAKS AND VALLEYS (92, Mt. Livermore)	Died, 2012	28/14	0/0	0/0	(Mauna Kea, \$110,212)	\$721,191	558	35	1.25	1.40
20	BOLD N' FLASHY (89, Bold Ruckus), T.C. Westmeath Stud Farm	\$2,500	26/11	3/4	2/3	(Paso Doble, \$185,255)	\$695,543	328	17	1.32	1.23
21	SAFFIR (02, Unbridled), Spring Farm	Private	24/9	1/1	1/1	(Galina Point, \$178,123)	\$657,034	51	2	1.61	1.22
22	SECOND IN COMMAND (00, Silver Deputy), Road's End Farm	\$2,000	40/22	3/3	0/3	(Goldstryke Glory, \$68,544)	\$576,138	64	5	0.78	0.77
23	GILDED TIME (90, Timeless Moment)	N/A	50/29	2/2	0/2	(Sheer Joy, \$54,256)	\$565,832	*1250	55	1.33	1.57
24	DOUBLE HONOR (95, Gone West), Esquirol Farms	\$2,500	61/26	1/1	1/1	(Double Secret, \$81,698)	\$551,190	*593	21	1.04	1.16
25	SMOOTH BID (02, Rubiano), Fieldstone Farms	Private	19/12	0/0	0/0	(Another Bid, \$86,994)	\$547,739	29	0	1.13	0.95
26	CAPE CANAVERAL (96, Mr. Prospector), Highfield Stock Farm	\$3,000	48/25	3/6	1/3	(Capitalism, \$84,214)	\$495,383	398	25	1.04	1.23
27	CAUSE TO BELIEVE (03, Maria's Mon), Road's End Farm	\$2,500	51/23	3/3	2/3	(Wonder World, \$41,775)	\$484,281	80	6	0.55	0.88
28	LEONNATUS ANTEAS (04, Stormy Atlantic), Colebrook Farms Stallion Station	\$3,500	18/9	1/1	0/1	(Cristina's Halo, \$162,253)	\$477,618	39	1	1.15	1.06
29	BEST OF THE BESTS (IRE) (97, Machiavellian), Peaceful Valley Farms	\$2,000	26/15	0/0	0/0	(Amico Mio, \$99,502)	\$469,853	291	3	0.78	0.96
30	QUEST (99, Seeking the Gold), Dunroven Farm	\$1,000	26/11	1/1	0/1	(Greengrassofyoming, \$165,590)	\$459,441	93	3	0.83	1.37
31	SKIMMING (96, Nureyev), Pacific Stud	\$4,000	40/18	2/3	1/2	(Dawselina, \$77,663)	\$438,420	323	17	0.74	1.02
32	FORMAL GOLD (93, Black Tie Affair), Esquirol Farms	\$1,500	49/19	3/5	0/3	(Tabled With Gold, \$66,182)	\$422,586	496	22	1.06	1.29
33	TEMPERED APPEAL (97, Valid Appeal)	Died, 2011	23/14	3/5	0/3	(Tempered Sapphire, \$115,518)	\$399,962	98	13	0.72	0.71
34	STEPHANOTIS (93, Regal Classic), Canmor Farms	\$1,700	34/16	1/1	1/1	(Irish Lyric, \$70,477)	\$385,514	290	15	0.69	0.85
35	EINSTEIN (BRZ) (02, Spend a Buck), Adena Springs North	\$5,000	40/13	0/0	0/0	(Passing the Grade, \$49,682)	\$365,408	*82	0	0.66	1.01

2014 LEADING SIRES IN ILLINOIS

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2015 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2014 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	CHEROKEE RAP (01, Cherokee Run)	Died, 2012	41/30	0/0	0/0	(Our Domain, \$82,093)	\$716,479	68	5	1.03	1.10
2	ROAD RULER (02, Unbridled's Song), JB Stables	\$2,000	34/25	0/0	0/0	(Canette, \$69,185)	\$634,776	61	0	1.00	0.84
3	ALLUVIAL (02, Forestry)	N/A	39/16	0/0	0/0	(Royal Alluvial, \$47,595)	\$423,159	123	0	0.51	0.91
4	INDY SNOW (GB) (01, A.P. Indy), Hondo Ranch	Private	17/10	0/0	0/0	(Sacred Range, \$52,260)	\$413,022	36	1	1.24	0.83
5	CASHEL CASTLE (99, Silver Ghost), Hill 'N Dale Farm	\$1,000	20/10	0/0	0/0	(Puntsville, \$47,000)	\$304,424	89	1	0.87	0.98
6	STRAIGHT LINE (02, Boundary)	N/A	17/9	0/0	0/0	(Aim to Tease, \$44,540)	\$219,106	39	0	0.59	1.24
7	DENOUNCER (90, Tsunami Stew)	Died	12/5	0/0	0/0	(Bank Account, \$86,390)	\$188,640	83	2	0.88	0.90
8	POWERFUL GOER (94, Easy Goer)	N/A	3/3	0/0	0/0	(Swarm, \$109,339)	\$180,455	58	1	0.70	0.95
9	BATTLE STAR (02, Seeking the Gold), Hondo Ranch	Private	8/5	0/0	0/0	(Distant Mesa, \$63,425)	\$158,926	23	0	0.90	1.30
10	COUNTRY BE GOLD (97, Summer Squall), Cutsinger's Stallion Station	Private	15/6	0/0	0/0	(Right Squall, \$66,704)	\$140,053	56	0	0.58	1.16

2014 LEADING SIRES IN MICHIGAN

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2015 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2014 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	UNBRIDLED ENERGY (02, Unbridled's Song), Hubel Farms	Private	93/44	2/2	1/2	(Sagebrush Queen, \$176,920)	\$1,539,688	*217	6	0.91	1.19
2	EQUALITY (99, Mt. Livermore), Dickinson Farms	Private	38/25	2/2	2/2	(Comelywithanangel, \$67,120)	\$512,279	151	9	0.67	0.79
3	MEADOW PRAYER (95, Meadowlake)	Died	25/12	4/5	4/4	(Al's Prayer, \$63,525)	\$432,306	148	15	0.99	0.76
4	ELUSIVE HOUR (00, Elusive Quality), Campbell Stable	\$1,000	16/12	1/1	1/1	(Scarlet Hour, \$47,800)	\$274,534	68	5	0.79	0.71
5	FIRE BLITZ (99, Storm Cat)	Died, 2012	26/12	0/0	0/0	(Obsessionsoptimist, \$36,382)	\$272,518	56	3	0.59	0.71

Special Note For Sire Lists:

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in North America (stallions exported prior to the 2010 breeding season are excluded), and have runners in North America. All available statistics listed for the Northern Hemisphere through December 31, 2014. As supplied to *The Blood-Horse* by The Jockey Club Information Systems, Inc., earnings exclude monies from Japan and Hong Kong. Current year stakes winners include all N.H.-foaled stakes winners worldwide and any S.H.-foaled horses that won a N.H. stakes. *Foal counts include Southern Hemisphere. Cumulative stakes winners includes all countries. (A ♯ indicates a sire represented by his first crop to race.)

*AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX and COMPARABLE INDEX: Lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned in relation to the average earnings of all runners in the same years; average earnings of all runners in any year is represented by an index of 1.00. COMPARABLE INDEX indicates the average earnings of progeny produced from mares bred to one sire, when these same mares were bred to other sires. Only 32% of all sires have a lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX higher than their mares' COMPARABLE INDEX.

SIX OF CANADA'S TOP 12 STALLIONS



MILWAUKEE BREW

Wild Again – Ask Anita, by Wolf Power

SLIGO BAY (Ire)

Sadler's Wells – Angelic Song, by Halo

SILENT NAME (Jpn)

Sunday Silence – Danzigaway, by Danehill

GIANT GIZMO

Giant's Causeway – Golden Antigua, by Hansel

NORTH LIGHT (Ire)

Danehill – Sought Out (Ire), by Rainbow Quest

SINGING SAINT

El Prado – Relaxing Rhythm, by Easy Goer

WILKO

*Awesome Again – Native Roots (Ire),
by Indian Ridge (Ire)*

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2014 LEADING SIRE IN OHIO

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2015 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2014 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	COWTOWN CAT (04, Distorted Humor), Mapleton Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,500	63/31	2/5	0/2	(Calgary Cat, \$315,000)	\$1,403,378	105	2	1.14	1.28
2	MOBIL (00, Langfuhr), Mapleton Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,500	46/17	0/0	0/0	(Pugsley, \$115,993)	\$915,913	*152	5	1.34	1.40
3	WESTERN PRIDE (98, Way West), R.C. Cline Thoroughbred Farm	\$1,500	28/14	0/0	0/0	(River Rocks, \$252,000)	\$608,706	98	1	0.65	0.94
4	KENTUCKY DANE (00, Danehill)	N/A	11/8	3/4	3/3	(Jac's Fact, \$139,360)	\$419,990	18	3	1.01	0.51
5	LUNARPAL (02, Successful Appeal), Mapleton Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,000	37/12	0/0	0/0	(Mars Curiosity, \$47,209)	\$355,455	100	2	0.81	1.01
6	KILLENAULE (02, Fusaichi Pegasus)	N/A	39/16	0/0	0/0	(Donacher, \$43,450)	\$333,538	79	0	0.51	0.88
7	MERCER MILL (94, Forty Niner), Fair Winds Farm	Private	16/5	1/3	1/1	(Mound, \$163,390)	\$311,639	216	16	0.69	0.91
8	MR. MABEE (01, Storm Cat), Poplar Creek Horse Center	\$1,500	28/16	0/0	0/0	(Hot Wind, \$75,002)	\$305,449	48	0	0.62	0.89
9	TROPICAL STORM (00, Storm Cat), Raimonde Farms	\$1,500	16/11	0/0	0/0	(My Storm Trooper, \$53,480)	\$290,757	*91	0	0.67	0.78
10	PACIFIC WAVES (93, Seattle Slew), Raimonde Farms	\$1,000	12/5	1/2	1/1	(Plain Ol' Willard, \$141,800)	\$224,993	76	4	0.76	0.91

(continued from page 42)

ing to Ohio Lottery statistics. Of the tracks' commissions, which totaled \$289.53 million, 9%-10.5% went to purses and breed development programs. The purse percentage for each track is derived via negotiations with horsemen's groups.

For the first six months of fiscal 2015 (July through December), VLT play totaled \$4.08 billion, net win \$362.71 million, and track commissions \$239.99 million. The last two facilities—Mahoning Valley and Dayton Raceway—came online with gaming in the fall of 2014.

So clearly, the racetrack gaming operations are on pace to establish a fiscal-year record. How the business performs in subsequent fiscal years, given non-track casino competition, remains to be seen, but thus far the numbers have been consistent from month to month.

Noticeable Results

Growth in the breeding business was noticeable soon after Kasisch issued his racetrack VLT plan in 2011 despite a legal challenge. That year the number of Thoroughbred mares bred in Ohio hit rock bottom at 124, but increased to 174 in 2012 and 243 in 2013, according to The Jockey Club statistics.

On the Standardbred side, there was rapid growth. According to the United States Trotting Association, 1,650 mares were bred in 2012, about four times the number several years before, and many stallions have relocated to Ohio from other harness racing states.

Purses last year for 90 racing programs at Scioto Downs totaled \$15.85 million, up from \$10 million for 75 programs in 2013. Only five years ago at Scioto Downs, purses totaled \$2.69 million for 57 days of racing.

Preliminary figures indicate the number of Thoroughbred mares bred in 2014 that will foal in Ohio could approach or clear 300, the highest number in eight years. And the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund is expected to top \$5 million this year because of contributions from horsemen's purses and non-track casino revenue.

Ohio State Racing Commission chairman Robert Schmitz, who has been involved in the racetrack VLT process from the outset, said the progress is noticeable but more time is needed to assess the level at which the industry will capitalize on the benefit of additional funding.

"It's too early to tell," Schmitz said. "We have to watch and see what happens. When you compare the two, the Thoroughbred side is lagging, but there aren't as many Thoroughbreds as there are Standardbreds in Ohio. Overall, the Thoroughbred program is developing, particularly in regard to purses. People are finding out about the program, but there is a bit of a lag."

"A lot more guys are shipping in from West Virginia and Pennsylvania than did several years ago, and we're seeing some that are seeking to relocate here," said Dave Basler, executive director of the Ohio Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association. "I think we'll see even more operations do the same."

Grade 1 Stakes Winner by 2014 Eclipse Sire STATELY VICTOR



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“By contract with Rock Ohio Gaming (at ThistleDown) and Penn National Gaming (at Mahoning Valley), we have established a year-round circuit in the northeastern part of the state for the next 10 years. That will benefit horsemen and breeders by providing racing opportunities at a higher level than we have in the past. In the southern part of the state, it will be sort of a Kentucky-Ohio circuit for some of the guys.”

As Schmitz noted, purses at Ohio racetracks already have increased—some to record levels, in part because they had dropped substantially in the 10 years before racetrack VLTs became operational.

In 2011, the last year before the VLT buildup began, Ohio purses were among the lowest in the country—a little more than \$14 million for 321 racing days at three tracks. ThistleDown purses averaged \$49,770 per program, followed by River Downs at \$45,982 and Beulah Park at \$38,785, according to The Jockey Club Information Systems.

In 2014 Belterra Park paid \$8.31 million in purses, including \$2.72 million for Ohio-breds, over 100 racing programs for an average of \$83,136 per day. ThistleDown last year paid total purses of \$14.09 million, with \$3.34 million set aside for Ohio-breds, over 121 racing programs for a daily average of \$116,525.

Meanwhile, at Mahoning Valley, where the inaugural meet spanned 21 racing days at the end of last year, purses totaled \$1.79 million for an average of \$85,625, more than double the figure at Beulah Park three years earlier.

Maximizing the Product

Basler said the Ohio HBPA worked with racetrack management to maximize their schedules and hopefully increase pari-mutuel handle in the simulcast marketplace. For instance, Mahoning Valley races Mondays through Wednesdays, along with Saturdays, each week, and this year ThistleDown will replace Sunday racing with Monday racing to go along with Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

Wagering on Ohio racing began to slide about 10 years ago as the quality of the product declined, so stakeholders are in a rebuilding mode. Basler said horsemen have regular conversations with track management on ways to increase wagering on the live product, but growth has been slow.

The creation of circuits in Ohio was strongly urged by the OSRC, which wants as few overlaps in racing dates as possible.

Thus, ThistleDown, which in the 1990s raced more than 180 programs per year, is down to 100 to accommodate another 100 programs at Mahoning Valley, which is located about an hour away.

“We had some resistance, mainly from guys that had raced at ThistleDown for nine months a year for many years,” Basler said. “They would have liked more dates at ThistleDown, but in reality the statute doesn’t really allow for that. There would have been an overlap in dates, and that wouldn’t have been in the best inter-

est of the tracks or horsemen.

“It’s a better option to run year-round (in a circuit) with no overlap. Also, the five-day racing week has worn out its welcome in this country, so we settled on four days per week.”

Belterra Park, owned by Pinnacle Entertainment, successfully opened on time for gaming and racing in May 2014, but in an unexpected development, the VLT play was far below projections and lagged well behind the numbers at the other racetrack gaming facilities each month.

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- Never off the board, incl. **Grade 1 Malibu S.** to G1SWs **TWIRLING CANDY & SMILING TIGER**, besting G1SW **NOBLE’S PROMISE**
- **\$1.15 Million** Keeneland September Yearling
- Full brother to **HALF OURS** (G2, **105 Beyer**), same great **UNBRIDLED’S SONG/STORM CAT** cross as **BUDDHA** (G1), **MAGNIFICENT SONG** (G1), **NOBLE TUNE** (G2), **NOONMARK** (G3), etc.
- Immediate family of Eclipse Champion **SHARED BELIEF** (G1)
- First outstanding foals arrive in 2015

FLAGSHIP

(El Prado – Swift and Classy, by Clever Trick)

- **\$1 Million** Keeneland September Yearling
- By 2YO Champion & Leading U.S. Sire **EL PRADO**, sire of Leading Sires **KITTEN’S JOY** (G1, **114 Beyer**) & **MEDAGLIA D’ORO** (G1, **120 Beyer**)
- Half-brother to four Stakes Horses, incl. G3SW **RYDILLUC** (\$481,990) & NCR SW **GOLD WONDER**
- O/o SW **SWIFT AND CLASSY** from immediate family of Leading Sires **ROMAN RULER** (G1, **111 Beyer**) and **EL CORREDOR** (G1, **119 Beyer**)
- First outstanding foals are 2-year-olds in 2015

2015 Fees \$1,500 LFSN

Byerpatch Farm

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2014 LEADING SIRE IN INDIANA

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2015 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2014 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	
1	STRONG CONTENDER (03, Maria's Mon), R Star Stallions	\$3,000	47/24	3/8	1/3	(Grand Contender, \$404,750)	\$1,343,922	*138	6	1.07	1.13
2	CITY WEEKEND (02, Carson City), Equine Vet. Hospital of Northern Indiana	\$2,000	42/25	2/2	2/2	(Lena Love, \$94,751)	\$870,255	79	3	0.75	0.99
3	STRONG HOPE (00, Grand Slam), Midwest Equine & Veterinary Hospital	\$1,800	47/23	0/0	0/0	(Hattaash, \$60,793)	\$647,383	304	5	0.96	1.71
4	DOMESTIC DISPUTE (00, Unbridled's Song), Indiana Stallion Station	\$2,000	42/18	0/0	0/0	(Love That Kelly, \$99,183)	\$614,722	*315	4	0.89	1.20
5	DESERT WARRIOR (00, Deputy Minister), Haffner Farm	\$1,000	44/20	0/0	0/0	(Double Desert, \$56,752)	\$562,703	*256	0	0.86	0.99
6	ELITE SQUADRON (04, Officer), Swifty Farms	\$2,500	25/16	0/0	0/0	(Sciacca, \$66,171)	\$499,478	44	0	0.66	1.12
7	PASS RUSH (99, Crown Ambassador), Swifty Farms	\$2,500	29/14	1/1	0/1	(Passed Due, \$75,487)	\$492,533	58	5	1.27	1.06
8	CHIEF SEATTLE (97, Seattle Slew)	Died, 2011	38/18	0/0	0/0	(One More Chief, \$89,920)	\$471,447	*430	12	1.13	1.30
9	DEPUTY STORM (01, Forestry), R Star Stallions	\$1,500	27/11	0/0	0/0	(Legal Punch, \$53,460)	\$388,921	68	2	1.03	1.29
10	VIBANK (03, Silver Deputy), Hidden Springs	\$1,000	26/11	0/0	0/0	(Virreina, \$97,311)	\$383,550	83	0	0.93	1.31



CADY PHOTOGRAPHY

Racing at Belterra Park, formerly River Downs, near Cincinnati

The net win at Northfield Park, a harness track that offers year-round racing, continues to outpace the other facilities with a monthly low of \$14.61 million and a monthly high of \$16.65 million in fiscal 2015 despite competition from two other casinos, including ThistleDown. At Belterra Park, which competes with a downtown Cincinnati casino, Miami Valley, and three Indiana casinos, one of which is owned by Pinnacle, the net win in fiscal 2015 has yet to top \$5 million in one month.

The situation led to a purse overpayment of more than \$3 million last year at Belterra Park. In addition, the track still has no VLT contract with the Ohio HBPA; the deadline for a deal was more than two months ago.

Basler said the Ohio HBPA is still negotiating with Belterra Park on a VLT purse percentage and other contract matters. And because of the 2014 overpayment, purses haven't been set for 2015.

"It wasn't a gift—it has to be repaid," Basler said of the overpayment. "We addressed this situation by contract with Mahoning Valley and ThistleDown by the horsemen taking control of the purse accounts. The idea is to have no overpayments going forward, and we will seek a similar arrangement with Belterra Park."

Belterra Park was approved for 93 days of racing this year. An added benefit for the Ohio breeding program, horsemen, and bettors will be the addition of turf racing; the course at River Downs was reconfigured and replanted, and needed time to take root during the 2014 racing season.

Striking a Balance

The Ohio Thoroughbred breeding program has two classifications: Ohio-registered and Ohio-accredited. An Ohio-registered foal must be foaled in the state and the mare must be in Ohio by Aug. 15 of the previous year, but can be sired by an out-of-state stallion. An Ohio-accredited foal must be foaled in the state and be the produce of an Ohio-based stallion.

The Ohio-registered program has far outpaced the Ohio-accredited program, in large part because of the state's proximity to Kentucky and its larger stallion pool. Even though Ohio has offered stakes restricted to accredited foals, the fields generally have been short for about a decade.

Schmitz has a background in Standardbred racing, which places the emphasis on in-state stallions. He said he'd like to see an increase in quality stallions to boost interest in the Ohio-accredited program.

According to The Jockey Club, 36 Thoroughbred stallions were registered in Ohio in 2013, up slightly from 29 two years earlier but well below 110 in 2003, the last year the number topped 100.

"There are very few Ohio stallions," Schmitz said. "I've asked why the Thoroughbred people don't get together and bring a quality stallion to the state. The answer I get is there are better stallions in Kentucky to breed to at a reasonable price. But that

R STAR STALLIONS

STRONG CONTENDER – \$3,000 LFSN

Maria's Mon – Copenhagen, by Dynaformer
Proven sire ~ A Multiple Graded Stakes Sire with
over \$1.3 Million in 2014 / over \$4.3 Million Lifetime

DEPUTY STORM – \$1,500 LFSN

Forestry – Deputy Jane West, by Silver Deputy
A Leading Indiana Juvenile Sire in 2014

SANGAREE – \$1,500 LFSN

Awesome Again – Mari's Sheba, by Mari's Book
Grade 1 Half-Brother to Grade 1 Sire CONGAREE

WHAT NOW – \$1,500 LFSN

Distorted Humor – Tizamazing, by Cee's Tizzy
Half to OXBOW, o/o full sister to TIZNOW

DRINKWITHTHEDEVIL – \$1,000 LFSN

Smart Strike – Approve, by Deputy Minister
A Leading Sire with 21% Stakes Performers

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doesn't improve the quality of the Ohio-accredited system.

"If the program is to succeed over the years, you have to improve the quality of the broodmare band and the quality of Ohio stallions. Otherwise, the vast majority of money generated for the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund will go to horses sired by out-of-state sires. I'm just saying we need to get the program more in balance."

There has been some movement in that regard. Kim Williams, who owns and operates Fair Winds Farm with his wife, Lori, worked with Oracle Bloodstock to bring the Candy Ride stallion Kettle Corn to Ohio. Kettle Corn earned \$853,361 in his career, with a grade II win and two second-place finishes behind Game On Dude in grade I events.

Kettle Corn stands at Fair Winds for a fee of \$2,500 this year. The farm also stands Toyota Blue Grass Stakes (gr. I) winner Stately Victor for \$3,000 and 21-year-old Mercer Mill, a multiple award-winning Ohio stallion who now has a private fee.

"Kettle Corn has been well received," said Kim Williams, who established the farm in 1979. "Because our mare pool in Ohio had gotten so thin, people are having trouble understanding the accredited program, but they're starting to catch on. Stately Victor had a hiccup last year; he was bred to two mares in Kentucky, so he wasn't eligible (for the accredited program) in 2014. He still bred 12 mares here last year, but it probably would have been 20 to 30.



Fair Winds Farm's Lori and Kim Williams with Mercer Mill

"We never had people come here to look at stallions, but last fall we had people coming here all the time. I'm extremely optimistic about the program. I think it's going to change dramatically, and that you'll see better stallions. I'm bullish on it."

Another operation taking advantage of the revitalized Ohio breeding program is Poplar Creek Horse Center, owned and operated by Robin Murphy. The farm and training facility has 13 Thoroughbred stallions for 2015, including Louie Villain

(by A.P. Indy), Mixmaster (by Medaglia d'Oro), Vertiformer (by Dynaformer), and Tidal Volume (by Tapit), the latter of whom Murphy rehabilitated and raced before retiring him for stud duty this year.

Murphy, who has a full-service farm, said in 2012 three mares foaled at Poplar Creek. In 2013 the number rose to 25, and last year it was 58. The number of people committing mares to stallions also increased dramatically.

"Normally at this time of the year, I have three or four signed contracts," Mur-

NOBLE'S PROMISE

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Indiana
Stallion Stakes

ASSIGNED SECOND HIGHEST WEIGHT ON HIS EXPERIMENTAL FREE HANDICAP

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- Winner of the \$500,000 Dixiana Breeders' Futurity-G1, 3rd \$2,000,000 Grey Goose Breeders' Cup Juvenile-G1, 2nd \$750,000 CashCall Futurity-G1
- Won Churchill's Aristides S.-G3, 6F, 1:08 $\frac{3}{8}$, 103 Beyer
- Graded Performer every year from 2 to 5 earning \$1,182,776
- From the **CARSON CITY** sire line of **CITY ZIP**, 2014 Leading Sire of G1SWs
- Female family of the incredible Darby Dan matriarch **SOARING**



2015 FEE: \$2,500 LIVE FOAL
DUE NOVEMBER 1, 2015



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2014 LEADING SIRE IN IOWA

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2015 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2014 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	ADDED EDGE (00, Smart Strike)	N/A	52/30	2/2	2/2	(Ragged Edge, \$56,799)	\$731,601	132	7	0.82	0.83
2	SHORE BREEZE (98, Danzig), Iowa State University Horse Farm	\$1,000	59/23	0/0	0/0	(Creative Art, \$106,712)	\$668,330	165	1	0.82	0.75
3	HEART OF THE STORM (04, Storm Cat), McClintock Equine Station	Private	29/21	0/0	0/0	(Out of Patience, \$62,617)	\$535,056	40	0	0.71	0.87
4	WOKE UP DREAMIN (00, Holy Bull), Madison County Thoroughbreds	\$2,000	23/10	0/0	0/0	(Uh Oh Hereshcomes, \$89,170)	\$458,532	122	6	0.77	0.94
5	STORM AND A HALF (97, Storm Cat), Rockin River Ranch, Inc.	\$2,000	40/17	1/1	1/1	(Thar She Blows, \$55,685)	\$451,953	426	20	0.80	0.95
6	WILD GOLD (90, Wild Again)	N/A	19/10	0/0	0/0	(Jackie Blu, \$54,975)	\$242,946	241	4	0.77	0.85
7	BRAVO BULL (97, Holy Bull)	Died, 2012	14/5	0/0	0/0	(Brava Genius, \$40,982)	\$172,255	58	3	0.61	0.68
8	COLORFUL TOUR (99, Tour d'Or)	N/A	12/4	0/0	0/0	(Star Tour, \$47,366)	\$169,479	20	0	0.70	1.02
9	WINTER GLITTER (97, A.P. Indy)	N/A	19/6	0/0	0/0	(Lively's Last Ride, \$18,840)	\$115,873	108	0	0.48	0.84
10	FLIGHT WEST (03, Gone West), Green Mountain Farm	\$1,000	7/4	0/0	0/0	(Jewels Galore, \$17,311)	\$71,758	17	0	0.29	0.75



It PAYS to NOMINATE

There is still time to nominate your 2013 foals to the ITBOA Iowa Stallion Stakes Races

Easy one time payment makes your foal eligible for TWO races, one as a 2 yo and one as a 3 yo.

2014 Stallion Futurity had a purse of \$96,000!!!

If you have a foal born in 2013 by one of the following stallions, you are eligible to nominate, regardless of what state they were foaled in:

Added Edge	Elite Squadron	Lewis Michael	Save Big Money
Aeneas	Evansville Slew	Line of David	Shadow Hawk
Affirmatif	EZ Dreamer	Lucky Lionel	Silver Poet
Air Commander	Fappie's Notebook	Magic Cat	Southwestern Heat
Bob and John	Five Star Day	Magna Graduate	Spring at Last
Bricktown Cat	Flight West	Margie's Wildcat	Star Cat
Bulldogger	Gold Schleiger	Marsh Side	Storm Account
Bustin Stones	Governor Vasquez	Matt's Broken Vow	Street Hero
Canaveral	Grand Minstrel	Mine for Gold	Student Council
Cat Dreams	Greeley's Conquest	Mr. Nightlinger	Sun King
Category Five	Hold Me Back	Nascar Guy	Tactical Cat
City Weekend	Humming	Native Ruler	Ten Centuries
Cougar Cat	Impeachment	Northern Spur	The Cliff's Edge
Cowboy Cal	Imperialism	Oliver's Twist	The Daddy
De Guerin	Irish Road	Partner's Hero	The Visualiser
Demidoff	J Be K	Pass Rush	Toccat
Desert Key	Jafmil	Pure Prize	Top Hit
Devil His Due	Jazzman's Prospect	Ra Ra Superstar	Twice as Bad
Diabolical	Joey Franco	Read the Footnotes	Two Step Salsa
Discreet Cat	Kennedy	Rimrod	War Chant
Distorted Reality	King of Scat	Rock the Rock	Wild Gold
Don't Get Mad	Kings Blood	Rocky Bar	Winter Glitter
Dr Large	Kipling	Run Away and Hide	Woke Up Dreamin
Drinkwiththedevil	Kirkendahl	Rushin to Altar	Zanjero
Einstein	Kitalpha	Rutledge Humor	

LATE DEADLINE IS MARCH 1st

Late nominations also due for IOWA Bred foals of 2013

2015 Prairie Meadows: April 18th - Aug 8th



IOWA THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS AND OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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Nomination forms and more info at www.iowathoroughbred.com

phy said. "So far this year, 60 people have signed contracts for stallions. It's a huge jump. I knew having a stallion by Tapit would help. I think the better stallions have helped bring in some people from other states."

Like Williams, Murphy began to get visitors to look at stallions last fall, and telephone calls with inquiries about stallions and selecting mates for mares have tripled since last January.

Though few argue with having a deadline each year for mares to be in the state, some in the Thoroughbred industry believe a date later than Aug. 15, perhaps right after the November breeding stock sales, could encourage more people to board mares in Ohio.

Murphy said the August date can be problematic because mares, most of which foal in March and April, may still have babies by their sides, making transport to Ohio difficult.

"With that date we could lose people with a lot of the better mares," said Murphy, who has spoken with the OSRC Thoroughbred Advisory Committee about the issue. "The program in Ohio is important to me, but at the same time getting good mares to my stallions is important to me. It's already hard to get the best mares to breed to your stallions because many people are looking at it commercially (to sell foals)."

The Ohio program, with a large influx of cash for stakes purses, bonuses, and awards, will experience growing pains and no doubt some revisions. But the numbers suggest good progress for a Thoroughbred industry in which growth and change are often slow.

"The Standardbred program is completely different; the quality increased substantially with an influx of stallions," Schmitz said. "I didn't see that happen as quickly as I thought it would with the Thoroughbreds, but when people find out what's happening in Ohio, the program will grow." **BH**