

Hard-Working Voice

TRACK ANNOUNCER JOHN DOOLEY HAS BEEN A STEADY PRESENCE AT FAIR GROUNDS SINCE 2004

By DENIS BLAKE



Fair Grounds track announcer John Dooley has been calling races in “The Big Easy” since 2004

OF THE MASSIVE variety of statistics available in racing, one for “number of races called” is not easy to find or calculate. But it’s a sure bet that since 2004, few other track announcers have amassed a total to rival John Dooley. Since that year, Dooley has worked almost year-round, alternating between Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots and Arlington Park for most of that time period until the end of racing at the Chicago-area track in 2021, after which he swapped Horseshoe Indianapolis into his schedule. Even though he is in the announcer’s booth for close to 200 race dates per year, fans and horsemen can count on Dooley to consistently provide accurate and passionate calls, whether it’s the \$1 million Louisiana Derby (G2) or a maiden claiming race on a Tuesday afternoon.

Fair Grounds and the city of New Orleans are both special places for Dooley, even though they are a long way from where he grew up on Long Island listening to Marshall Cassidy call races at Belmont Park, Saratoga Race Course, and Aqueduct.

Dooley’s rise to the top of his profession came relatively quickly, considering there are only so many upper-tier tracks, and job openings are infrequent. Dooley got his first full-time announcing position in 1991 at Thistledown (now JACK Thistledown Racino) in Cleveland, and then in 1997 he took the microphone to inaugurate racing at Lone Star Park near Dallas. Just a few years later,

COURTESY OF JOHN DOOLEY

ALL SIRES LISTS ARE THROUGH DEC. 9

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\$150,000 Louisiana Champions Day Classic

Touchuponstar

Star Guitar-Touch Magic

Breeder: Coteau Grove Farms

Owner: Set-Hut, LLC

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\$100,000 Louisiana Champions Day Sprint Geaux Sugar Half Ours-Fifole



Breeder: Earl Hernandez, Keith

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Owner: Single Malt Stable

Trainer: Keith G. Bourgeois

Jockey: Mitchell Murrill

\$100,000 Louisiana Champions Day Ladies Sprint Six String Star Guitar-Oh Whata Holiday



Breeder: World War IV Racing and

Rebel Tide Racing LLC

Owner: World War IV Racing and

Rebel Tide Racing LLC

Trainer: Allen Landry

Jockey: Ben Curtis

\$100,000 Louisiana Champions Day Juvenile Smoken Wicked Bobby's Wicked One-Street Smoke



Breeder: Tom Curtis & Wayne
Simpson

Owner: Valene Farms LLC

Trainer: Dallas Stewart

Jockey: Colby J. Hernandez

\$100,000 Louisiana Champions Day Lassie Blue Fire Aurelius Maximus-Mystic Blue



Breeder: J. Adcock & Nathan
Granger

Owner: Stonestreet Stables LLC
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Trainer: Steven M. Asmussen

Jockey: Jose L. Ortiz

\$100,000 Louisiana Champions Day Turf Woods N Water Palace-Said and Done



Breeder: Orange Grove
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Trainer: Samuel Breaux

Jockey: Timothy Thornton

\$100,000 Louisiana Champions Day Ladies Turf Highly Wicked Wicked Strong-Highly Confused



Breeder: Earl Hernandez, Keith
Hernandez & John Duvieilh

Owner: Earl Hernandez, Keith
Hernandez & John Duvieilh

Trainer: Sam B. David, Jr.

Jockey: Marcelino Pedroza, Jr

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2024 LEADING SIRES IN ARIZONA



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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2024 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2024 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Lotsa Mischief (11, Into Mischief), Fleming Thoroughbred Farm	Private	66/33	0/0	0/0	(U Can Do U, \$120,938)	\$1,098,671	123	1	0.56	0.66
2	Rocky Bar (98, In Excess)	N/A	19/14	0/0	0/0	(Katar, \$87,358)	\$389,444	208	11	0.73	0.73
3	Ez Effort (09, In Excess), Fleming Thoroughbred Farm	Private	23/11	0/0	0/0	(Collusionist, \$84,838)	\$360,235	101	2	0.51	0.85
4	Uh Oh Bango (07, Top Hit)	N/A	13/7	0/0	0/0	(Mr Navigator, \$81,145)	\$275,594	50	2	0.83	1.04
5	Top Hit (98, Twining)	Died, 2021	8/1	0/0	0/0	(Hit Scene, \$88,550)	\$142,078	132	5	0.71	0.78
6	Bocephus (15, Medaglia d'Oro)	N/A	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Don Juan Bubba, \$60,186)	\$60,186	9	0	0.71	0.82
7	Ez Dreamer (05, In Excess)	Died, 2020	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Tactical Attack, \$24,743)	\$40,563	65	1	0.46	0.77
8	Margie's Wildcat (01, Storm Cat)	N/A	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Hink's Paladin, \$9,610)	\$18,675	152	1	0.57	0.74
9	El Mirage (05, Cee's Tizzy)	N/A	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Cap Greeley, \$7,947)	\$7,947	14	2	0.49	0.51

2024 LEADING SIRES IN ARKANSAS

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2024 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2024 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	The Big Beast (11, Yes It's True), McDowell Farm	\$2,000	110/58	3/3	2/3	(Reef Runner, \$201,065)	\$2,842,567	259	9	0.97	1.12
2	American Freedom (13, Pulpit), Leadem Farm	\$2,500	145/68	1/1	0/1	(No Easy Days, \$153,142)	\$2,838,444	268	2	0.81	1.20
3	Irish War Cry (14, Curlin), Leadem Farm	\$2,500	65/41	1/1	1/1	(Celtic Contender, \$189,805)	\$2,253,248	128	1	1.01	1.10
4	Cinco Charlie (12, Indian Charlie)	N/A	83/37	1/1	1/1	(Dame Cinco, \$150,570)	\$1,722,532	202	4	0.77	0.91
5	Mark Valeski (09, Proud Citizen), Lake Hamilton Equine Center	\$1,500	42/16	2/2	0/2	(Isolate, \$700,000)	\$1,702,945	146	5	1.27	1.09
6	Street Strategy (11, Street Sense), Lake Hamilton Equine Center	\$1,500	40/20	1/2	1/1	(Kantex, \$246,960)	\$1,434,281	91	3	0.98	0.80
7	Laurie's Rocket (09, Bluegrass Cat), Lake Hamilton Equine Center	\$1,000	17/7	1/1	1/1	(Lochmoor, \$293,875)	\$665,564	64	1	0.83	1.05
8	Mo for the Money (13, Uncle Mo)	N/A	29/9	0/0	0/0	(Betty's Cash, \$173,442)	\$510,237	66	1	0.67	1.01
9	Double Irish (11, Tapit)	N/A	34/14	0/0	0/0	(Black Apple, \$84,763)	\$507,899	100	1	0.78	0.92
10	Gentlemen's Bet (09, Half Ours), McDowell Farm	\$1,250	18/9	1/1	1/1	(Bohemian Bo, \$172,986)	\$506,009	43	1	1.16	0.90
11	Zong (05, Unbridled's Song)	N/A	22/10	0/0	0/0	(Blessed Assurance, \$56,540)	\$358,172	109	0	0.62	0.96
12	Texas Chrome (13, Grasshopper), Keene Thoroughbreds	\$1,500	19/7	0/0	0/0	(Mister Monte Carlo, \$61,154)	\$320,958	43	0	0.44	0.69
13	Just a Coincidence (06, Forestry)	Died, 2020	11/5	0/0	0/0	(No Coincidences, \$69,000)	\$290,920	41	0	0.59	0.93
14	Moonshine Mullin (08, Albert the Great)	N/A	15/5	0/0	0/0	(Hess, \$83,318)	\$205,515	62	0	0.41	0.76
15	Brahms (97, Danzig)	N/A	12/4	0/0	0/0	(Brahms Image, \$82,224)	\$198,067	*718	13	1.01	1.09
16	Ordained (08, Pulpit), Starfish Stallions	\$1,500	19/5	0/0	0/0	(Outlaw Run, \$41,778)	\$159,457	88	1	0.41	0.76
17	Cyber Secret (09, Broken Vow)	Died, 2023	7/3	0/0	0/0	(Cybertown, \$103,296)	\$157,202	47	1	0.83	0.67
18	Aikenite (07, Yes It's True)	Died, 2023	10/2	1/2	0/1	(Decoy, \$89,570)	\$147,320	88	1	0.81	1.03
19	Jonesboro (02, Sefapiano)	N/A	8/3	0/0	0/0	(Allo Enry, \$46,004)	\$137,528	105	3	0.73	0.74
20	Coil (08, Point Given)	N/A	6/3	1/1	0/1	(Principe Carlo, \$76,424)	\$136,471	169	2	0.75	1.04

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals; † Indicates a first-crop sire



One of Dooley's favorite events is Louisiana Champions Day, which showcases horses bred in the state such as Free Like a Girl, a winner of more than \$2 million

he became the voice of Arlington Park, where he remained from 2000 until calling the final race at the historic oval 21 years later. Since there was no winter racing at Arlington, the Fair Grounds meet fit perfectly into his schedule, and the fact that Churchill Downs Inc. owned both tracks made it an obvious fit.

"I was so excited my first year there because before 2004 I had never actually visited New Orleans," he said. "The city of New Orleans has been there for over 300 years, and this is the 153rd racing season at the Fair Grounds, so to be a part of it for 20 seasons, I think it's pretty cool."

Dooley loved everything "The Big Easy" had to offer—the history, culture, food, and of course, the horse racing—but he soon experienced one of the drawbacks of a city on the Gulf Coast when Hurricane Katrina devastated the region in August 2005.

"It was my second season there and

THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE PAGE: HODGES PHOTOGRAPHY

2024 LEADING SIRES IN COLORADO

For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2024 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2024 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Numaany (05, A.P. Indy)	N/A	17/7	0/0	0/0	(Emperorfthenorth, \$42,190)	\$149,406	67	2	0.62	0.74
2	Zip Quik (07, City Zip)	N/A	3/3	0/0	0/0	(Quicktrip Van, \$84,850)	\$147,604	73	0	0.30	0.74
3	Save Big Money (03, Storm Cat)	N/A	9/6	0/0	0/0	(I'm a Trumper, \$23,580)	\$95,523	163	3	0.59	0.83
4	Behold de Buy (08, E Dubai)	N/A	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Donnas Final Word, \$21,380)	\$47,265	33	0	0.29	0.61
5	Grand Minstrel (05, Grand Slam)	N/A	3/3	0/0	0/0	(Walkin Talkin Bob, \$15,948)	\$35,956	111	0	0.31	0.57
6	Silver Saint (06, Silver Deputy)	N/A	2/2	0/0	0/0	(Silvers Last Dance, \$14,845)	\$26,529	54	1	0.30	0.39
7	Laughing Charlie (07, Indian Charlie)	N/A	2/0	0/0	0/0	(Ima Happy Dancer, \$2,141)	\$3,524	18	0	0.15	0.20
8	El Roblar (02, War Chant)	N/A	1/0	0/0	0/0	(Robthequeen, \$)	\$	65	1	0.33	0.53

2024 LEADING SIRES IN LOUISIANA

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2024 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2024 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Exaggerator (13, Curlin), Elite Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	174/95	1/3	0/1	(Skippylongstocking, \$1,498,800)	\$5,082,516	*660	10	0.79	1.39
2	Unified (13, Candy Ride), LACER	\$3,500	162/86	1/1	0/1	(Seeking Unity, \$191,890)	\$4,218,989	322	5	0.93	1.19
3	Star Guitar (05, Quiet American), Clear Creek Stud	\$7,500	117/63	8/14	4/8	(Ova Charged, \$489,795)	\$3,773,761	318	18	0.99	0.97
4	Hoppertunity (11, Any Given Saturday), Shady Oaks Stud Farm	\$3,000	115/54	1/1	1/1	(Pachelbel, \$174,054)	\$3,098,491	199	3	0.78	1.26
5	Gormley (14, Malibu Moon)	N/A	150/67	2/3	2/2	(Bron and Brow, \$137,240)	\$2,916,386	308	6	0.79	1.06
6	Carpe Diem (12, Giant's Causeway), LACER	\$3,500	111/54	1/2	0/1	(Kinza, \$180,000)	\$2,343,012	*421	12	0.99	1.52
7	El Deal (12, Munnings)	N/A	63/31	2/7	1/2	(Free Like a Girl, \$1,033,400)	\$2,341,358	102	4	1.13	0.88
8	Coal Front (14, Stay Thirsty), Red River Farms	\$2,000	57/26	4/4	1/4	(Haulin Ice, \$364,550)	\$2,083,398	77	5	1.09	0.95
9	Custom for Carlos (06, More Than Ready), Clear Creek Stud	\$3,000	81/33	0/0	0/0	(Cajun Ninja, \$111,081)	\$1,262,720	403	7	0.67	0.95
10	Half Ours (03, Unbridled's Song)	Died, 2021	76/38	2/2	2/2	(Geaux Sugar, \$111,830)	\$1,257,904	*644	28	0.86	1.04
11	Secret Circle (09, Eddington), Elite Thoroughbreds	\$3,000	36/24	0/0	0/0	(Everyoneloveslinda, \$168,500)	\$1,121,677	116	4	1.11	0.93
12	Mo Tom (13, Uncle Mo)	N/A	39/17	4/4	4/4	(Dixie Farmer, \$145,000)	\$1,031,350	82	5	0.90	1.03
13	Country Day (06, Speightstown), Peach Lane Farms	\$2,500	58/30	0/0	0/0	(Speightful Sis, \$81,603)	\$882,656	202	4	0.85	0.85
14	Clearly Now (10, Horse Greeley), Clear Creek Stud	\$3,000	26/18	2/2	2/2	(Clearly a Test, \$170,850)	\$734,485	58	2	0.79	1.04
15	Daaher (04, Awesome Again)	N/A	35/17	0/0	0/0	(Saint Gabriel, \$131,150)	\$712,745	219	11	1.15	1.05

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals; † Indicates a first-crop sire



One of the biggest thrills at Fair Grounds experienced by Dooley was calling Bricks and Mortar's narrow victory in the 2019 Muniz Memorial Handicap, one of six races in the horse's undefeated campaign that year that culminated in Horse of the Year honors

then suddenly here comes Hurricane Katrina and obviously impacted not only horse racing, but the entire community and so many people," he said. "They moved a shortened race meet to Louisiana Downs that year, so I went there to represent the Fair Grounds.

"Then the following year, Churchill

Downs made all the necessary repairs at Fair Grounds. They put a lot of money into the facility. For the Fair Grounds to get back to racing and get the Louisiana Derby back to where it belongs, that was a part of the rebirth of New Orleans after Katrina."

While the Louisiana Derby is the

biggest race on Fair Grounds' schedule, some of Dooley's most memorable moments were other stakes.

"One race that always sticks out to me is Pyro in the 2008 Risen Star," he said. "He was one of the top contenders for that year's Kentucky Derby, and people were expecting a really big run from him. When they turned for home, he was last and then just absolutely exploded and wound up winning, so that stretch run always stands out to me."

The 2019 Muniz Memorial Handicap (G2T) is another race Dooley will not soon forget, as he called the eventual Horse of the Year's victory at Fair Grounds and then again later that year in the Arlington Million XXXVII Stakes (G1T).

"I can still see Bricks and Mortar's nose dive on the line," he recalled about the narrow victory over longshot Markitoff. "That was an undefeated campaign for him, so it was great that part of it happened at Fair Grounds."

Dooley also enjoys Louisiana Champions Day, which showcases the top horses bred in the state. He's been at Fair Grounds long enough to see generations



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2024 LEADING SIRES IN NEW MEXICO



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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands	2024 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2024 Earnings	2024 Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Marking (12, Bernardini), A & A Ranch	\$7,500	66/35	3/3	2/3	(Payingoffmymarker, \$206,400)	\$2,397,647	120	12	1.24	1.17
2	Attila's Storm (02, Forest Wildcat)	Died, 2021	64/29	1/1	1/1	(Henry On the Run, \$130,510)	\$1,519,553	400	28	0.95	0.78
3	Justin Phillip (08, First Samurai)	N/A	32/16	0/0	0/0	(Just Might, \$181,455)	\$713,445	227	8	0.93	1.01
4	Sway Away (08, Afleet Alex)	N/A	18/9	0/0	0/0	(Let Him Be, \$294,100)	\$666,306	49	2	0.91	0.74
5	We Miss Artie (11, Artie Schiller)	N/A	26/14	0/0	0/0	(Off Ramp, \$129,447)	\$586,569	87	4	1.09	1.23
6	Holy Lute (10, Midnight Lute), Hidden Acres	\$1,000	7/4	1/2	1/1	(Holy Hank, \$283,921)	\$580,204	12	3	1.76	0.65
7	Abstraction (10, Pulpit), Doubletree Farm	\$3,500	32/12	0/0	0/0	(My Special Mistake, \$53,353)	\$476,763	129	1	0.62	0.91
8	Comfort (12, Indian Charlie), Double Tree Farm	\$3,000	23/12	1/1	1/1	(The Smooch, \$138,632)	\$475,022	57	1	0.71	0.68
9	Mr. Trieste (01, Old Trieste)	N/A	10/5	1/1	1/1	(Corrina Corrina, \$342,890)	\$466,698	67	2	0.88	0.74
10	Sporting Chance (15, Tiznow), A & A Ranch	\$5,000	26/12	2/2	2/2	(Tap Rock, \$135,140)	\$435,540	42	2	0.45	1.27
11	Kentucky Wildcat (16, Tapit), Hunter Creek Farms	\$2,500	10/5	1/1	1/1	(Honky Tonk Honey, \$206,050)	\$419,266	22	1	1.04	0.65
12	Diabolical (03, Artax)	Pnsd	10/5	0/0	0/0	(Community Leader, \$270,000)	\$394,201	189	16	0.90	0.94
13	Moro Tap (10, Tapit)	Died, 2023	32/11	1/1	1/1	(Tap the Dot, \$72,284)	\$388,588	*139	2	0.53	0.78
14	Shame On Charlie (04, Indian Charlie)	N/A	27/9	0/0	0/0	(Shame On Whiskey, \$57,683)	\$374,596	76	8	0.94	0.66
15	Laugh Track (09, Distorted Humor)	N/A	35/14	0/0	0/0	(Our Time to Shine, \$49,180)	\$368,464	154	1	0.43	0.94

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals; † Indicates a first-crop sire

of Louisiana-breds on the track.

“Louisiana Champions Day is fantastic, and Fair Grounds does a great job honoring Louisiana-breds,” he said. “We’ve had state-bred stars like Free Like a Girl who went over \$2 million and has just been reigning supreme, and going back to Star Guitar, who is now a top sire.”

DEDICATED TO HIS CRAFT

The racetrack is full of jobs unlike anything you’ll find in a regular office setting, and being a track announcer certainly has some unique characteristics. If you are an accountant, then calling in sick is probably not a big deal; someone can pick up the slack that day or you’ll get caught up the next day. Not so for a track announcer. While most tracks have a contingency plan for a back-up race caller, sometimes those plans don’t work out.

Dooley said there have been days he didn’t feel at his best, but he’s never missed a day at Fair Grounds and could only recall two times where he was a scratch at Arlington. He nearly took a rare sick day this past meet at Horseshoe Indianapolis, but thanks to some help from a colleague he made it through.

“We had a week break here during the meet, so I went over to Europe, and I came back and caught a little bit of a virus.

**“I CAN REMEMBER
 CELEBRATING ONE ST.
 PATRICK’S DAY WITH
 BRIAN HERNANDEZ JR.
 AND HIS WIFE, JAMIE,
 AT PAT O’BRIEN’S
 IN THE FRENCH
 QUARTER. WE WERE
 SAYING TO HIM
 THAT ONE DAY HE’S
 GOING TO WIN A
 KENTUCKY DERBY,
 AND THEN HERE
 COMES MYSTIK DAN...”**

—JOHN DOOLEY

I wanted to take a sick day, but they just had a hard time finding someone to fill in for me,” he said. “So I basically took some medicine and (racing analyst and production manager) Rachel McLaughlin brought me a blanket and some soup, so I made it through the card.”

Rarely missing a day is one thing, but Dooley also must bring passion and accuracy to somewhere in the neighborhood of 1,800 race calls a year. In a

regular job it might be easy enough to slack off now and then, but Dooley strives to do his best in every race.

“I think of the jockeys, trainers, and owners, and as an announcer, you’re aware of the fact that fans are tuning in and they are wagering,” he said. “Every race is important to them, and it’s important to me.”

FOND MEMORIES OF TEXAS AND ILLINOIS, AND NEW ONES IN INDIANA

Even though Dooley only called races at Lone Star Park for a short time, his stint in Texas left a major impression.

“That was a thrill,” he recalled. “Working for Corey Johnsen and Steve Sexton, absolute titans of horse racing, and for them to open a world-class facility like that, which eventually hosted a Breeders’ Cup, was a great experience. And the crowds, I’m talking about in the tens of thousands, not just thousands, in those opening years there. It was so well received by the people around Dallas-Ft. Worth.”

Dooley, as one would expect after spending nearly two decades in Chicago, also has tremendous recollections of Arlington Park.

“Chicago is another city that I absolutely



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2024 LEADING SIRES IN OKLAHOMA

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2024 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2024 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Always Dreaming (14, Bodemeister), River Oaks Farms	\$2,500	143/72	4/5	1/4	(Saudi Crown, \$2,193,900)	\$5,221,101	254	5	1.08	1.40
2	Flat Out (06, Flatter), Mighty Acres	\$3,000	132/67	4/5	2/4	(Reclusive, \$160,426)	\$3,305,907	565	22	1.06	1.06
3	Code West (10, Lemon Drop Kid), WestWin Farms	\$3,000	41/21	2/2	2/2	(Miss Code West, \$220,240)	\$1,062,439	68	2	0.80	0.71
4	Cowtown Cat (04, Distorted Humor), Kirton Farms	\$1,500	36/23	0/0	0/0	(Lofty Cowtown, \$86,354)	\$956,599	281	6	1.10	1.11
5	Caleb's Posse (08, Posse), River Oaks Farms	\$1,000	45/25	0/0	0/0	(Okie Smoke, \$86,781)	\$910,864	*191	4	0.93	0.95
6	Den's Legacy (10, Medaglia d'Oro), Mighty Acres	\$2,000	44/18	0/0	0/0	(Kiss and Tell, \$58,147)	\$600,256	94	3	0.73	0.83
7	Euroears (04, Langfuhr)	N/A	24/15	0/0	0/0	(Low Euro Cat, \$69,827)	\$547,881	220	5	0.75	0.78
8	Magna Graduate (02, Honor Grades)	N/A	25/13	1/2	1/1	(Doudoudouwanadance, \$113,463)	\$492,274	*286	11	0.88	0.94
9	Wilburn (08, Bernardini), River Oaks Farms	\$2,000	29/12	0/0	0/0	(That's Our Vision, \$84,175)	\$453,318	*382	9	0.71	1.01
10	Shakin It Up (10, Midnight Lute)	Died, 2024	32/13	0/0	0/0	(Free Soul, \$89,405)	\$448,139	*187	2	0.66	1.05
11	Escaper (09, Exchange Rate), River Oaks Farms	\$2,000	21/10	0/0	0/0	(Good Swimmer, \$64,383)	\$417,099	59	0	0.48	0.83
12	Da Stoops (03, Distorted Humor), Laura Atkinson	\$1,250	22/10	0/0	0/0	(He's All Ears, \$65,967)	\$310,655	*139	1	0.89	0.99
13	Xixixi (11, Maimonides)	N/A	9/7	0/0	0/0	(Bunny Bonus, \$96,206)	\$289,344	29	0	0.82	0.79
14	Black Bear (10, Midnight Lute)	N/A	8/6	1/1	1/1	(Afternoon Diva, \$76,441)	\$260,047	12	1	1.05	0.99
15	Maimonides (05, Vindication)	N/A	17/7	0/0	0/0	(Brown Town, \$53,940)	\$232,355	*148	1	0.68	1.48

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals; † Indicates a first-crop sire



Dooley was the announcer at the now-shuttered Arlington Park from 2000-21

loved," he said. "I was there when the Cubs won the World Series. I miss the city. I still have a lot of friends back there, and I always root on an Arlington Million winner. I do miss it, but racing moves on."

It was Dooley's relationship with Eric Halstrom, the current vice president and general manager of Horseshoe Indianapolis who formerly held the same position at Fair Grounds, that helped him move on to a new opportunity in Indiana.

"I worked with Eric at the Fair Grounds, so when the position came open from April to November at Horseshoe Indianapolis, which leads right into Fair Grounds, I absolutely jumped at the chance," he said. "It's been

exciting. It's a long race meet so you need to keep the energy level up, but they have a great stakes program with the Indiana Derby and Oaks. We've seen the handle increase from year to year, so I hope to be there in the future."

MORE TO LIFE THAN CALLING RACES

Even when he's not calling racing, Dooley might be following and talking about it on X (formerly Twitter) or watching international racing.

"I love watching international racing from Dubai, Hong Kong, England, and Ireland," he said. "When I went over to Europe, I met with UK

commentator Mike Cattermole and had a couple of pints and we talked about race commentators here and there and around the world."

Dooley did take some time off just before the end of the Horseshoe Indianapolis meet to go back and visit family in New York. He also manages to squeeze in some travel and sporting events into his tight schedule.

"I'm a big World War II history buff, so I've been to London, Berlin, Paris, Prague, Vienna, and Munich, so any chance I get to travel and check out some history, count me in.

"And I love all other sports besides horse racing. Get me to Wrigley Field for a Cubs game or a Saints game in New Orleans. Sports, history, and horse racing are the biggest parts of my life."

While Dooley seems to always be busy and on the move, whether he's at the track or traveling, he does have an appreciation for perhaps the biggest benefit of his job—the human relationships he's made over the years.

"Horse racing has been the most impactful thing in my life," he said. "I'm fortunate to have worked with so many great people."

Luckily for Dooley, New Orleans is the perfect city to enjoy dinner and

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2024 Stud Fee	Rnrs/Wnrs	BT SWnrs/Wns	Rstrct SW/BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2024 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Creative Cause (09, Giant's Causeway), Marjorie Farms	\$6,000	137/69	5/5	2/5	(Runaldo, \$199,295)	\$3,842,905	*609	27	1.08	1.38
2	Competitive Edge (12, Super Saver), Valor Farm	\$5,000	98/49	5/5	1/5	(Shesalittle Edgy, \$164,350)	\$2,697,594	*387	13	1.25	1.14
3	Too Much Bling (03, Rubiano)	Pnsd	64/36	5/6	5/5	(Hush It Honey, \$180,550)	\$2,118,092	405	35	0.94	0.98
4	Mr Speaker (11, Pulpit), Forks of the Paluxy	\$5,000	63/28	4/4	2/4	(Three Technique, \$279,600)	\$1,605,201	*379	12	0.97	1.16
5	Copper Bullet (15, More Than Ready), Marjorie Farms	\$4,000	34/18	2/4	0/2	(Copper Tax, \$263,000)	\$1,025,785	51	2	1.12	1.48
6	Poseidon's Warrior (08, Speightstown), Equine Partners Veterinary Services	\$2,500	40/14	0/0	0/0	(Swing Oil, \$78,463)	\$662,024	*268	5	0.96	1.01
7	My Golden Song (03, Unbridled's Song)	Died, 2022	33/13	1/1	1/1	(Imaluckycharm, \$116,893)	\$556,156	231	19	0.89	0.94
8	Early Flyer (98, Gilded Time)	Pnsd	16/7	0/0	0/0	(Hezakoolkat, \$106,630)	\$274,581	339	19	0.71	0.86
9	Keep Up (07, Unbridled's Song), Eureka Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,000	10/4	0/0	0/0	(Ruby Cantu, \$55,620)	\$201,287	53	0	0.54	1.23
10	Latent Heat (03, Maria's Mon)	N/A	18/4	0/0	0/0	(Just Chillin, \$50,027)	\$186,243	*399	8	0.81	1.02

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals; ¶ Indicates a first-crop sire

drinks with friends.

"There are just so many great places that I have experienced with my race-track family for the last 20 years," he added. "I can remember celebrating one St. Patrick's Day with Brian Hernandez

Jr. and his wife, Jamie, at Pat O'Brien's in the French Quarter. We were saying to him that one day he's going to win a Kentucky Derby, and then here comes Mystik Dan.

"I've gotten to know great riders and

horsemen and made so many friends," he continued. "I think that's so important to have that blend. I love my job and love calling races, but it's the friendships you make. Those are what's going to last a lifetime." **BH**



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