

# REVIEW

1988 is the fifth year since 1979 that wagering on horse racing exceeded one billion dollars in monies wagered. This year's handle represents another increase in the steady climb out of the devastation created by the Arlington Park fire. The combined wagering total for the year ending December 31st is \$1,005,631,974, an increase of approximately 4.3% over 1987.

The racing schedule that generated this handle was again unique and consisted of 1,074 programs, a decrease of some 5.9%. As in 1986 the Board had to allot racing dates without the benefit of the availability of Arlington Park. The problem of making the best use of the Hawthorne Race Course and Sportsman's Park facilities for summer racing was addressed successfully. The schedule allowed Sportsman's Park to be open and run its strong harness stakes program on the weekends between July 23rd and Labor Day while a thoroughbred meeting was being conducted next door at Hawthorne. Although Arlington Park did not conduct a race meeting, unlike 1986, Arlington Park was open to conduct intertrack wagering on the race meetings conducted at other race tracks.

Results of the 1986 legislative action aimed at bolstering the racing industry were clearly evident in 1988. While the wrecker's ball was demolishing Aurora Downs race track, shuttered since 1981, construction cranes were lifting the steel being used for the rebuilding of Arlington Park. Besides the ongoing construction on the new grandstand and clubhouse at Arlington, the tents in use since the end of 1987 race meeting gave way to Arlington's "Trackside", a magnificent new intertrack wagering facility on the race track grounds.

In addition to the new "Trackside" at Arlington Park, three new intertrack location facilities (better known as off track betting parlors) opened in 1988 in Chicago, Springfield and Waukegan. Thus before the year ended the opportunity to attend the races and wager was available at seven race tracks and at five off track locations.

Construction on three more off track parlors was begun with openings slated for the spring of 1989. These new facilities will be located in Chicago's Loop (North State Street), Grayville and North Aurora.

The increased opportunity to wager on races of national and international importance afforded to our fans was greeted with much enthusiasm and interest. This year wagering on races simulcast from out-of-state generated \$17,561,687 in pari-mutuel handle. Noteworthy to this handle is the Arlington Million which was simulcast in Illinois from Woodbine Race Track near Toronto, Canada. Illinois' international race was showcased internationally thanks to the gracious hospitality of the Government of Canada and the Ontario Jockey Club.

Revenue to the State for the calendar year was

\$46,268,192, a decrease of \$10,828,702 from the previous year. This decrease was a direct result of the implementation of the second phase of the tax reduction which became effective on January 1, 1988. The Cook County race tracks' graduated tax scale was replaced by a flat 2% tax.

## LABORATORY

The Board's laboratory continued the development and verification of new, sensitive immunoassay tests for a variety of drugs of abuse. The pre-race testing program, with its flagship laboratory located at Sportsman's Park, was expanded to include laboratories at Fairmount Park and Balmoral Park. At year's end pre-race testing was being performed on 33% to 40% of the horses racing at Chicago area and Collinsville race tracks. In April of this year the laboratory reported its first pre-race positive for the drug Acepromazine and the horse was scratched. This positive was the genesis of 25 reported post race urine positives for the promazine derivative. Methods development on tests for new drugs continues and, by the end of 1988, the pre-race laboratories had the capability of screening for a broad number of performance altering agents within the 2 hour time constraint of the security barns.

## TEST SAMPLES:

	URINE	BLOOD	TOTAL
Post Race Thoroughbred	5,756	5,922	11,678
Post Race Harness	9,211	9,753	18,964
Post Race Total	14,967	15,675	30,642
Pre-Race Thoroughbred	-0-	11,375	11,375
Pre-Race Harness	-0-	9,969	9,969
Pre-Race Total	-0-	21,344	21,344
Total Number of Samples	14,967	37,019	51,986

## POSITIVES:

Pre-Race Blood:	2 (1 Lasix, 1 Acepromazine)
Post Race Harness:	7 Urine (6 Caffeine, 1 Dipyrone Metabolite)
Post Race Thoroughbred:	24 Urine (24 Hydroxyethyl Promazine)
Total Pre-Race Blood Positives:	2
Total Post Race Urine Positives:	31
Phenylbutazone Blood Overages:	67 (over 2.8 mcg/ml)

Thoroughbred:	27
Harness:	40

The Board implemented its human substance abuse program in January of 1988. The substance abuse rule

allows for random and "for cause" alcohol and drug testing of jockeys, drivers, starters, assistant starters and outriders. Prior to the program's January 25, 1988 implementation date, the Board was enjoined from random drug testing of jockeys, starters and outriders. Random drug tests were performed on harness drivers from January to April, when the drivers joined the pending litigation and the Board ceased random drug testing. Although random alcohol testing continues, the Board's drug testing program has been suspended pending the outcome of the lawsuit.

**HUMAN DRUG TESTING:**

	# TESTS	POSITIVES
Alcohol Testing Thoroughbred	1,298	2
Alcohol Testing Harness	850	6
Drug Testing Thoroughbred	0	0
Drug Testing Harness	105	2

**CHARITABLE GRANTS**

Historically the Illinois Racing Board awarded racing dates to charitable organizations to conduct racing at

Illinois racetracks. In 1987 the General Assembly passed an amendment to the Horse Racing Act which assessed a total of \$750,000 in contributions from Illinois Racetracks to be distributed to charitable organizations by the Illinois Racing Board. Under the statute the Board is to allocate \$250,000 of these funds to non-profit organizations whose purpose is to provide education, prevention, counseling and treatment to persons living or working in the racing community who suffer from diseases of addiction. The remaining \$500,000 is to be allocated to charitable organizations giving consideration to the impact of its activities on the racing industry; its other sources of revenue; its character, reputation, experience and financial integrity.

In November 1988, the Board held a special hearing to award these grants. Twelve awards were made to charitable organizations with the largest going to the Racing Industry Charitable Foundation, a group well known for its vital work on the backstretch of Illinois tracks.