

REVIEW

Illinois racing experienced a record breaking year in 1989 when the combined wagering handle reached \$1,193,202,530. This increase can be attributed to the rebuilt Arlington International Racecourse (formerly Arlington Park), summer harness racing's return to Sportsman's Park, and the opening of three off-track wagering facilities.

Despite the apparent success of Illinois racing in 1989, privilege tax to the state decreased by a substantial amount. This decrease was due to the implementation of the third-phase of the reduction in privilege tax. The privilege tax in 1989 was \$28,502,263. This was a decrease of \$6,045,926 from 1988 even though the total handle had increased by 18.6% in 1989.

The racing schedule, which has been unique each year since 1986 due to the Arlington fire, was again altered significantly in 1989. The re-opening of Arlington was delayed from their requested May date until June 28, 1989. This caused Hawthorne and Maywood to run part of their fall meet in May and June. Balmoral ran an abbreviated weekday schedule during 1989, but ran for a longer period during the entire year.

Ogden-Fairmount, Inc. simulcast their evening thoroughbred program to Chicago-area race tracks and the OTB network. Three new off-track wagering locations (better known as OTB parlors) opened in 1989. These OTB parlors were located in Chicago on State Street, North Aurora and Grayville. Revenue from all OTB parlors to both counties and cities was \$4,844,490.

Illinois races are not only being simulcast in Illinois, but to other major racing jurisdictions. Races are also being simulcast to casinos in Las Vegas. The largest handle for a single day in Illinois racing occurred when the Breeders Cup was simulcast from Gulf Stream in Florida to the Illinois network. This produced a handle of \$3,935,337 for the simulcast alone and a total handle of \$5,673,353 for the day from both on-track and simulcast wagering for that program. Out-of-state simulcasting not only generated interest in races of national and international importance, but also increased the pari-mutuel handle by \$21,489,159. This represented a 18.7% increase over 1988.

Revenue to the state for 1989 was \$43,289,387, a decrease of \$3,019,607 from 1988.

LABORATORY

The Board's laboratory reported a substantial increase in the number of post-race urine positives in 1989 compared to previous years due to significant enhancements made in the area of daily routine screening. Post-race testing extraction/TLC was expanded and routine immunological tests (ELISA tests) were added to supplement daily routine testing. The addition of the drug specific, sensitive ELISA tests, and expanded TLC realized the detection and identification of a wide variety of drugs.

The pre-race testing program was expanded to include on site laboratories at Arlington Park and Maywood Park. On site laboratories are currently operational at all Illinois tracks with the exception of Quad City Downs, which has yet to be funded for a pre-race testing program. The Board's laboratory continued the validation of several new immunological tests (PCFIA tests) for testing bloods prior to each race. Four randomly selected races per program were pre-race tested on a total of 813 programs in 1989.

TEST SAMPLES:

	URINE	BLOOD	TOTAL
Post Race Thoroughbred	6,308	6,460	12,768
Post Race Harness	7,519	7,804	15,323
Post race Total	13,827	14,264	28,091
Pre-Race Thoroughbred	0	14,849	14,849
Pre-Race Harness	0	13,639	13,639
Pre-Race Total	0	28,488	28,488
Total Number of Samples	13,827	42,752	56,579

POSITIVES

Post-race Urine Thoroughbred	7
Post-race Urine Harness	35
Total Post-race Urine Positives	42
Pre-race Thoroughbred	10
Pre-race Harness	6
Total Pre-race Positives	16
Total Positives	58
Total Phenylbutazone Blood overages:	171

HUMAN DRUG TESTING

After the Board was enjoined from random drug testing in 1988, it continued random alcohol and "probable cause" drug testing of jockeys, drivers, starters, assistant starters and outriders.

	# TESTS	POSITIVES
Alcohol Testing Thoroughbred	866	2
Alcohol Testing Harness	1,160	1
Drug Testing Thoroughbred	6	4
Drug Testing Harness	0	0

CHARITABLE GRANTS

Historically the Illinois Racing Board awarded racing dates to charitable organizations to conduct racing at Illinois race tracks. In 1987 the General Assembly passed an amendment to the Horse Racing Act which assessed a total of \$750,000 in contributions from

Illinois race tracks 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 1989, 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.