



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Delaware
Thoroughbred
Racing
Commission

Report of
Activities for
2023 Racing
Season



Dear Governor Carney and racing fans:

It is an honor to report the activities of the Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission for 2023.

Delaware Park entered its 86th season of live racing in 2023. The live racing schedule included 85 days of live racing, a decrease from 88 days in 2022. Delaware Park was forced to cancel six days of racing due to weather related incidents. Three of those days were due to extremely poor air quality, unprecedented forest fires in Canada produced unhealthy air quality for horses and all Delawareans, for the safety of all participants training and racing alike were modified or cancelled during this time. Rain and flooding causing poor track conditions lead to the cancelation of three other days. As a result of these cancelations, the racing meet was extended, and the canceled days were added to the end of the racing calendar.

The \$500,000 **Gr.2 Delaware Handicap**, the signature event of the summer meet, was held on July 08, 2023. "IDIOMATIC" was crowned winner in an impressive effort, after stumbling badly at the start "IDIOMATIC" recovered to win by a head over a field of six starters. "IDIOMATIC" went on to have an outstanding year finishing 1st in her next three starts, the **Gr.1 Personal Ensign Stakes** (Saratoga), the **Gr. 1 Juddmonte Spinster Stakes** (Keeneland) and the **Gr.1 Longines Breeders' Cup Distaff** (Santa Anita). "IDIOMATIC" was ridden by jockey Florent Geroux and trained by Brad Cox. DelCap featured 10 races for the day, and total handle was \$3,082,091 a slight increase from 2022 (\$2,699,621) It should be noted that the 2022 DelCap day consisted of 8 races.

The Delaware Handicap continues to be a major summer focus for fillies and mares on their way to national championships.

The \$300,000 **Gr.3 Delaware Oaks** drew a competitive field of fillies. "FOGGY NIGHT" trained by Robert Reid, Jr. and ridden by jockey Paco Lopez, proved best winning by a length over a field of 8 runners. Oaks Day at Delaware Park featured 9 races for the day and total handle saw an increase for 2023 totaling \$3,318,338 from (\$3,095,605) in 2022 which featured 8 races for the day.

The Commission entered into an agreement with the Horseracing Integrity & Safety Act (HISA) and Horseracing Integrity & Welfare Unit (HIWU) for the 2023 live racing meet. HISA was created to implement a national uniform set of integrity and safety rules to the industry. HIWU is the new enforcement agency for Anti-Doping and Medication Control (ADMC). Under the agreement the Commission no longer has control over drug testing or investigations related to any ADMC violation. Additionally, all revenues once gained by the commission from a violation of the HISA Crop rule or any rule in HISA 2200-2293 series, or any ADMC violation now goes to HISA directly.

The information in this report will give you an overview of the various activities and programs that the Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission oversees. As always, the ultimate goal is to provide the best efforts in regulating this great industry.

Sincerely,


Sarah Crane
Executive Director

THOROUGHBRED RACING COMMISSION MISSION STATEMENT

The Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission regulates and oversees the sport of Thoroughbred Racing in the State.

The Commission's main objectives are to protect and ensure that the health, welfare, and safety of horses and jockeys are held to the highest standards. To eliminate fraudulent activity that would undermine the public trust, bringing violators of commission rules, regulations, and Delaware law to justice; to protect, preserve and promote agriculture and horse racing by preventing and eliminating corrupt practices; ensure fairness in licensing and patron decisions; and ensure that the state and betting public receive fair percentages of the wagering dollar by overseeing audits.

2023 DELAWARE THOROUGHBRED RACING COMMISSION

W. Duncan Patterson, **Chairman**

Edward J. Stegemeier, **Secretary-Commissioner**

Debra M. Killeen, **Commissioner** – *Served until July 2023*

Richard A. Levine, Esquire, **Commissioner**

* * *

Sarah A. Crane, **Executive Director**

Adria Martinelli, **Commission Counsel**

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

Michael T. Scuse

2023 COMMISSION COMMITTEES

W. Duncan Patterson

ARCI Drug Testing Standards and Practices Committee, Chairman

Ex-Officio Chair, ARCI

Mid Atlantic Best Practices Committee

Horseracing Integrity & Welfare Unit – Adjudication Panel Member

Edward J. Stegemeier

Delaware Jockeys Health and Welfare Benefit Board, Chair

Delaware Commissions Equine Forensics Drug Testing Committee, Chair

ARCI Jockey Health and Safety Committee Member

Sarah A. Crane

Mid Atlantic Best Practices Committee, Member

Safety Committee, Member

Organization of Racing Investigators, Member

National Racing Compact Board, Member

2023 THOROUGHBRED RACING COMMISSION STAFF

* William Troilo – **Chief State Steward**

* Robert Colton – **Association State Steward**

* Joelyn Rigione – **Association State Steward**

* Eric Coatrieux – **Association State Steward / Safety Steward**

** Denotes certification through Racing Officials Accreditation Program (ROAP)*

Annie Renzetti VMD, **Chief Commission Veterinarian**

Virginia Gilliam DVM, **Associate Commission Veterinarian**

Robert Calley DVM, **Associate Commission Veterinarian**

Alternate Associate Comm. Veterinarians:

Sarah Jay DVM

Richard Brown VMD

DELAWARE THOROUGHBRED RACING COMMISSION ONLINE

In accordance with an initiative on the part of the Delaware Department of Agriculture, the Commission’s transparency was increased to improve data available to the public.

Those initiatives included the posting of the Stewards’ Daily Reports, Veterinarian Scratch Reports, and all Administrative Rulings on disciplinary actions. Also, the navigation pane titled “Trainer’s Shed Row” displays important industry updates and worthwhile links.

A full array of racing related information and links can be accessed by visiting URL:

<http://dda.delaware.gov/thoroughbred/index.shtml>

DTRC BUDGET FY 2023

Personnel	\$ 1,073,200.00
Travel	\$ 25,000.00
Contractual	\$ 200,400.00
Supplies	\$ 20,100.00
Capital	\$ 86,800.00
Fingerprinting	\$ 110,000.00
Equine Drug Testing	\$ 275,000.00
Research and Development	\$75,000.00
Total	\$ 1,865,500.00

All funding for the DTRC comes from the Appropriated Special Fund (ASF) derived from licensing fees and fines.

Cost of regulation (Administration, Stewards, and Veterinarians Salaries, benefits, plus 100% costs of equine drug testing are borne by the Delaware Racing Association – Delaware Park)

No general fund money is used in the operation of the Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission.

2023 DELAWARE PARK SEASON OVERVIEW

For the 86th season of live racing, race days were decreased slightly from 88 days in 2022 to a total of 85 scheduled live racing days for 2023. Delaware Park was forced to cancel six (6) day of racing, this was due to a weather-related incident that deemed racing unsafe for all participants. These days were added back to the end of the racing meet. Delaware Park concluded live racing on November 4th in correlation with the highly popular Breeders Cup Races held at Santa Anita racetrack in Arcadia, California.

In 2023 Delaware Park paid out a total of \$18,477,000.00 in purse money for the 85-day meet. A decrease of (\$2,776,000.00) from the previous 87-day meet in 2022.



The Delaware Oaks Grade III 2023

In 2023 a total of 185 horses were claimed at Delaware Park in comparison to 170 claims for 2022. A total of \$2,284,750.00 was spent on horses purchased via claiming races. The Average claiming price, \$12,350, a slight increase from (\$12,138) average price in 2022. HISA (Horse Racing Integrity Act) mandated a new claiming rule, which mandates all claimed horses are to report to a designated claim barn for one-hour post-race for commission veterinarian examination. Under this rule, a total of 24 claims were declared void for failed post-race examinations.

There were 680 total races run with a total of 4,640 starters, giving Delaware Park an average field size of 6.82 starters per race. This is down somewhat from the 2022 that had 2 additional days of live racing which averaged a field size of 6.83.



2023 DTRC REVENUE

**Reported as of December 2023 ~ pending late payments, applications.*

Calendar Year	Licenses Issued	Licensing Fees	Fines Collected	Total Revenue
2023	4144	\$181,425.00	\$ 24,653.21	\$ 206,078.21
2022	4255	\$196,087.00	\$ 46,710.90	\$ 242,797.90
2021	4316	\$196,217.00	\$ 53,246.03	\$ 249,463.03
2020	3961	\$174,215.00	\$ 27,800.00	\$ 202,015.00

2023 EQUINE FORENSIC DRUG TESTING

The Horseracing Integrity & Welfare Unit, also known as HIWU, is the independent agency that enforces the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority’s (HISA) Anti-Doping and Medication Control (ADMC) Program. Drug testing in all forms is now under the direction and control of HIWU. The DTRC collects blood and urine samples at the direction of HIWU and no longer has a role in investigating potential violations or prosecuting any medication violations. The DTRC has been notified that HIWU will make testing data public record during the first quarter of 2024 once their annual report is released.



2023 DELAWARE RACING HANDLE INFORMATION

Information provided by Delaware Park Race Track and Slots, Simulcast *As of October 31, 2023

	2020 65 Days Live Racing	2021 77 Days Live Racing	2022 87 Days Live Racing	2023 85 Days Live Racing
Live (On Track)	\$ 2,874,221.50	\$ 3,648,090.00	\$ 3,235,780.00	\$ 3,069,053.00
Simulcast Export	\$ 90,084,474.52	\$ 114,430,200.28	\$ 139,092,522.00	\$ 149,263,070.00
Simulcast Import	\$ 14,960,980.00	\$18,109,100.20	\$ 16,843,811.00	\$15,118,202.00
Total Wagering	\$ 107,919,676.02	\$ 136,187,390.48	\$ 159,172,113.00	\$167,450,325.00

2023 Average Handle Per Race \$224,017 per race handle was up 10.2% from 2022.

2023 DELAWARE CERTIFIED THOROUGHBRED PROGRAM (DCTP)

Year	# Of Starters	# Of Starts	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	25% Certifier Bonus	25% Owner Bonus	Total Bonus Paid for Year
*2023	336	893	133	127	123	----	-----	\$ 789,482.50	\$636,607.50	\$ 1,426,090.00
2022	366	1052	141	161	157	----	-----	\$ 1,056,618.75	\$ 867,368.75	\$ 1,953,987.50
2021	318	947	116	154	127	----	----	\$ 791,886.25	\$ 675,368.25	\$ 1,467,272.50
2020	297	800	105	93	114	105	111	\$ 704,127.50	\$ 604,127.50	\$ 1,308,255.00

Information provided by the Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association (DTHA)
 *As reported November 2023

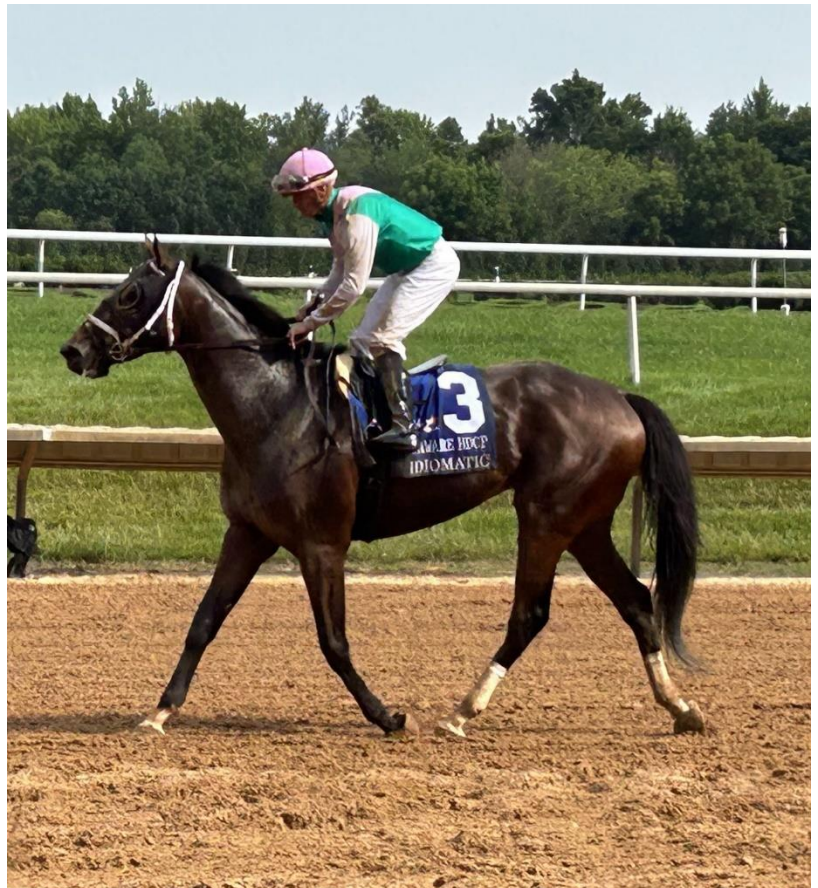
DELAWARE CERTIFIED APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR WEANLINGS AND YEARLINGS

2023 DCTP Applications – 250 - *As of November 1, 2023, pending late mail.*

2022 DCTP Applications – 382

2021 DCTP Applications – 388

2020 DCTP Applications – 335



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Equibase Company

Delaware Park Race Track and Slots

Delaware Certified Thoroughbred Program

(DCTP) Delaware Horsemen's Association

(DTHA)

Photos by DTRC and the DTHA



The Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission Looks Forward to Continued Success In 2024

End of Report