



QHRAI.....Q & A w/ PRESIDENT TOM MOSLEY

The following is a question and answer session with Tom Mosley, the president of the Quarter Horse Racing Association of Indiana for the past two years. Tom gives us an inside look and answers some questions surrounding the recent success of Quarter Horse racing in Indiana. The information he shares gives us a positive outlook for the horse industry. The recent economic conditions may have discouraged many from getting involved in the race industry, but in Indiana, now be the best time to consider just that. If you have contemplated owning a racing Quarter Horse, read on to see if the questions you have are answered by someone “in the know.”

Q: There was a lot of buzz nationally about the Quarter Horse racing program in Indiana in 2009. What has caused all the excitement?

A: MONEY and opportunity!! Quarter Horse racing grew faster in Indiana in 2009 than anywhere in the world. We offered some of the highest open purses in the country and our state bred program exploded, featuring six \$75,000 added stakes for Indiana Breds along with \$20,400 maiden races.

Q: The trend nationally has shown a decline in starters, field sizes, breeders, foal crops etc.. Has Indiana experienced the same decreases?

A: Absolutely not, actually the opposite has been happening in Indiana, at least on the Quarter Horse side of things. Since pari-mutual horse racing first started in Indiana the Quarter Horse program has shown constant, steady growth in nearly every single area that can be measured, including the years prior to the racinos. And in 2009 which is the first full year of racing with the racinos in place, I'm not sure how to describe our growth other than “EXPLODING”, the number of owners doubled, number of trainers doubled, breeders of starters doubled, the number of starters doubled. The Quarter Horse program has also had one of the highest average starters per race in the country since we started racing, averaging right around 9 horses per race, take away trials and scratches we nearly have a full field every race.

Q: Has the economy had a negative impact on the horse racing industry?

A: The short answer is yes, primarily because it has caused the Average Gross Revenue at the racinos to be lower than our projections were and that is where we derive our purse money. The fact is however that the racinos came on line just about the same time that the economy became unstable, so we were able to have huge purse increases at a perfect time to not only protect our industry, but to allow it to grow.

Q: Where are the horses and horsemen coming from to cause the growth in Quarter Horse racing?

A: Everywhere, we have had several top Thoroughbred owners, breeders, and trainers substantially diversify their programs, most of our existing owners and breeders have expanded their programs as well. One of our leading owners this year was Bobby Cox from Texas, he is one of the leading breeders and owners in the Country, we had owners from California, Florida and Canada. Literally from all over North America.

Q: Are the purse levels the primary reason Indiana is attracting so many quality horses and horsemen?

A: I think that is a big factor, but the fact is they run 2 million dollar stake races elsewhere, and have big overnight purses in Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico etc. Indiana has a lot to offer, we have 2 new tracks, in Indiana Downs and Hoosier Park, track management and

the race office staff have worked closely with the QHRAI to provide a great environment for the horses and horsemen. The QHRAI has also worked closely with the Indiana Horse Racing Commission to provide one of the fairest playing fields in horse racing. We want to be known as a state with tough test barns, fair rules and a safe place to race for the horses and horsemen.

Q: Everything we have talked about so far has been all rainbows and roses, are there areas of concern or that need improvement?

A: Of course, nothing is perfect. The QHRAI has been planning for the racinos to come on line for many years and we have had a specific plan in place to lead us into the future, this has caused us to make a smooth transition. Most of the areas that we need to work on have to do with infrastructure, we need more stalls for Quarter Horses at the track, we need more boarding facilities that are geared for race horse lay ups, as well as mare and foal care. We need to get more people to the track to watch the races, this is an area that the entire horse racing industry is struggling with. We need to work on creating a more public market for our racing and breeding stock, most likely through a race sale, right now most purchases are private and that's a tough way for beginners to get in and for sellers to set prices.

Q: Would you say the Quarter Horse racing industry in Indiana is stable?

A: I would have to say yes, every single statistic is up, and this is in a bad economy. I think like anything else there will be ups and downs and unforeseen challenges, but Quarter Horse racing in Indiana is here to stay.

Q: As far as horse related investments go do you think getting involved in the Quarter Horse racing industry would be a good investment?

A: I'm certainly no financial consultant, but my answer would be a resounding YES. The costs to get in are the same or lower than getting started in cutting, barrel futurities, or high level pleasure horses, the training bills are the same or lower. We only race against 9 other horses and there are low or no entry fees. Indiana has some of the highest Quarter Horse purses in the world, and the future only looks brighter.

Q: What changes if any will there be in 2010?

A: There are a lot of big improvements for 2010, they won't be officially approved by the IHRC until January, but we don't foresee any obstacles. The purses on the Indiana bred stake races will be raised from \$75,000 to \$100,000; there has been an addition of 2 \$100,000 Indiana Sired stake races: we are planning an increase in the number of races of about 25%. Jon Schuster, the general manager of Indiana Downs introduced “Quarter Horse Day” for July 3rd, this will be a full day of Quarter Horse races, which will include several huge stake races. We expect to see an over all increase in the overnight purses, and the addition of a 3yr old derby at Indiana Downs.

If you have more questions or would like more information about Quarter Horse Racing in Indiana, please contact QHRAI.