



Tel. 631.853.1000 www.suffolkotb.com April / May 2008

20¢ Makes the Difference

SROTB Director of Wagering Operations Paul Edelstein used his thumb and index finger to indicate the smallest of margins. He was referring to Frank Auriemma's finishing total point score of \$101.50 which was just 20 cents more than the second highest score in Suffolk OTB's March Handicap Challenge. That 20 cents made the difference in earning the Plainview resident an all expense paid entry into the *Coast Casino's One Million Dollar Horse Player World Series* in January 2009 at the Orleans Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, courtesy of Suffolk OTB.

At the Racing Forum on March 8th, Mr. Auriemma bet six races at Aqueduct and six at Gulfstream edging out 107 other entrants to take home a winning purse of \$10,800.

No newcomer to the handicap contest, Auriemma finished second in a SROTB 2005 qualifying contest and substituted for the first place winner when he couldn't attend. While he now considers Belmont his favorite track, he recalls his father taking him to his first race at Jamaica, 'the people's racetrack', before it was torn down in 1959. If he had to pick his favorite bet? ... the 10¢ Superfecta.

The two remaining '08 Handicap Challenges will be run in June & October. For questions about those upcoming contests please call SROTB Customer Service at 631. 853. 1000 or visit our website at www.suffolkotb.com.



Paul Edelstein, SROTB Director of Wagering Operations and Services shown presenting the Handicap Challenge trophy to Frank Auriemma

It's Derby Time

The longest continuously held sporting event in the U.S., the 134th Kentucky Derby runs on May 3rd. It's of course followed by the Preakness on May 17th and the Belmont Stakes on June 7th.

Suffolk OTB once again expects to have extra staff on hand at our branches to assist the experienced, novice and once-a-year bettors with their betting choices and to add to the excitement of the day.

This year's Derby is still wide open with too many preparation races yet to be run before determining who'll gain admission into the elite field of contenders. War Pass is questionable; Pyro has remained in the mix; Georgie Boy is hanging in and after the Lands End, Adriano's name is popping up. What ever horse you choose as your favorite ... here's wishing you good luck with your picks!

In 2007 Suffolk OTB generated over \$2.4 million in non-tax revenue for Suffolk County.
Suffolk OTB makes all Suffolk residents winners!

April 2008



From the President's desk

All through the process of the recent NYRA events as well as in light of the recent announcement by New York City OTB, and the changes in the Governor's office, Suffolk OTB remains resolute about working toward realizing the best results for New York horseracing and you, our patrons.

Toward that end, SROTB recently hosted a meeting at our Racing Forum of the Presidents and/or representatives of all six New York State OTB regions.

The all-day meeting gave us an opportunity to create a model whereby we can accomplish what we feel are important goals shared by all the OTB regions. It is my sincere hope that the members of our State government will afford us the opportunity to share our collective insight and expertise with them and then move forward for the benefit of us all.

SROTB will continue to work diligently on your behalf to make sure you're able to enjoy all that horse racing can be.

Jeffrey A. Casale
President/CEO

Bound for Retirement

She wowed her New York audience and the racing world in her final quarter mile fight to the wire win against Preakness winner Curlin in the 2007 Belmont Stakes. Sadly, Rags to Riches has re-injured a pastern fracture and she'll retire to broodmare at Ashton Stud in Kentucky.

The filly retires with a record of 5 wins from 7 starts and earnings of \$1.3 million. Showing her huge fan base, Rags to Riches was even the winner in the Female Athlete category of the 2007 Teen Choice Awards.

Breeders' Cup Revamp

If last year's changes to the Breeders' Cup which introduced a Friday race day weren't enough to shake up its 24 year old tradition, this year brings even more and somewhat controversial programming. While the number of races has grown from the original seven in 1984 to this year's fourteen, the repackaged competition now moves all filly and mare races to the first day of the event making for a "Filly Friday".

Slated for October 24th and 25th at Santa Anita's Oak Tree, the five Friday BC races, including the newly renamed Ladies Classic, will be supplemented by additional filly and mare only races to complete a full race card. BC management says as an added draw it's expected that there'll be marketing programs coordinating the "ladies day" with women's health issues and charitable programs as well. This leaves the nine Saturday races solely to the boys.

A BC marketing spokesman said their intent was to create two separate but equal championship race days, but opponents counter that it relegates the females to a low rated Friday race day.

Maybe moving the Classic to a Saturday/Sunday format should be the next change to consider.

What a Horse Tip!

A 71 year old waitress in Texas was a little taken aback by a tip she received from one of her regular customers; it was a horse - not a tip on a horse but a real horse, and a thoroughbred horse at that!

The customer, an owner of 50 thoroughbreds, was ready to let go of a 5 year old gelding named *Mailman Express* who had won \$15,000 on the track but was unable to race any longer. Considering the number of thoroughbreds whose retirements turn out to be less than they should be, the donor, who chooses to remain anonymous, was happy to be able to find an alternative future for *Mailman*. The waitress who already owns two horses was tentative, however, about how she would care for a horse that was accustomed to special treatment. She hopes to be able to make a gift of *Mailman* to the stable where her other horses are currently boarded in return for being able to ride him.

What's this waitress's advice about how to earn a good tip? "Stay focused," she counseled "and whatever the client needs is what you do, rather than thinking about grabbing the money." Wonder how she'll itemize this tip on her next income tax return.

The Daily Racing Form, The New York Times, www.bloodhorse.com and www.wikipedia.com were sources for material contained in this newsletter

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