



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
THE OFFICE OF RACING COMMISSIONER
LANSING

CHRISTINE C. WHITE
COMMISSIONER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 18, 2008

Contact: Liana Bennett, 517-335-1144
or bennettL@michigan.gov

Thoroughbred Horse Racing Returns to Metro-Detroit

Thoroughbred horse racing returned to Metro-Detroit today after a ten-year hiatus from the area. Pinnacle Race Course held its first day of lives races with the first post time at 2:30 p.m. The Racing Commissioner Christine C. White was on hand for the opening.

Racing Commissioner White said, "The Office of Racing Commissioner is thrilled with the beginning of a new era of thoroughbred racing in metro-Detroit. We are sure to make new friends and fans, and experience plenty of excitement."

The Office of Racing Commissioner (ORC) is the official state agency charged with maintaining the integrity of both live and simulcast-racing and wagering through safety and fairness regulations. The agency licenses all participants including horsemen and track employees. The ORC stewards, or judges, also oversee each live race. It is the responsibility of the ORC and its veterinarians to guard the health and safety of all horses on the track.

Ladbroke (once named Detroit Race Course) was located in Livonia and closed in 1998. Great Lakes Downs, in Muskegon, was an existing harness race track and in 1999 changed over to become the State's sole thoroughbred track. In November of 2007, Great Lakes Downs ceased operations leaving the State without a thoroughbred track.

Horse racing is an important contributor to the State's economy in both rural and urban areas. It is a labor intensive industry that provides jobs on and off the tracks for trainers, drivers, jockeys, blacksmiths, grooms, veterinarians, racing officials, pari-mutuel clerks, guards, admission clerks, concessions workers, and numerous other personnel.

The industry generated income for the State through taxes including personal income, property, Michigan Business Tax and the wagering tax unique to the horse racing industry. In 2007, over \$8.4 million was passed to the state by the simulcast wagering tax.

The Office of Racing Commissioner is the official state agency charged with regulating, promoting and serving the horse racing industry in Michigan. During 2008, Michigan horse racing is celebrating its 75th Anniversary of pari-mutuel horse racing in our State. For more information about upcoming events, the six pari-mutuel horse race tracks, racing schedules and Michigan horse racing, visit www.michigan.gov/horseracing.

Michigan Horse Racing - Winning for 75 Years
###