

JULY 2015

Chasing

NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE ASSOCIATION | 400 FAIR HILL DRIVE, ELKTON, MD 21921

NSA's first Jockey Seminar draws large crowd of 31 and high praise

The National Steeplechase Association's first Jockey Seminar on May 24 attracted a large crowd of 31 riders to Fair Hill, Md., and drew high praise from them for the materials presented in the day-long session.

A project of the NSA's Steeplechase Safety Committee, the seminar covered a wide range of topics, and attendance was required for jockeys planning to ride at Saratoga Race Course and strongly recommended for riding at other pari-mutuel tracks this summer.

Dr. Reynolds Cowles, an NSA board member and chair of the Steeplechase Safety Committee, credited Senior Steward Gregg Morris and NSA board member Nick Ellis for pulling together the speakers and presenters. "I believe this seminar surpassed our expectations, and the best was at the end when several riders came up and said, 'Please do this every year!'"

Among the featured speakers were two-time Olympic medalist James Wofford, who reviewed the basics of jumping a fence, and retired leading flat jockey Ramon Dominguez. Also presenting on riding topics were retired riders Paddy Neilson and Charles Lawrence II. NSA Steward Gus Brown, a retired jockey, discussed equipment and stressed the importance of having two helmets available in case one is damaged.

At the afternoon session, NSA Senior Stew-

ards Ross Pearce and Morris discussed stewards' decisions and the relationship between jockeys and stewards. Duncan Patterson, chairman of the Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission and a member of the NSA's Stewards Advisory Committee, explained how appeals from stewards' decisions are handled.

Capping the day's activities was a presentation by Dr. SarahJane Cullen, the Irish Turf Club's research and education officer. She provided a lively presentation on making weight safely, basic nutrition, hydration, and lifestyle.

Champion jockey Willie McCarthy, in a note to the Jockey Seminar's organizers, said he found Dr. Cullen's information most helpful. "Dr. Cullen definitely opened my eyes as to what are essential diet and fitness necessities for a professional jockey in the modern era," he said.

Speaking of the entire program, McCarthy said: "I thought it was very well put together and feel that I amongst numerous other jockeys came away with something beneficial from the day." McCarthy said he and his fellow jockeys welcomed the opportunity to discuss their concerns with stewards and other racing officials.

The day's activities were videotaped by HCP Sports, and Dr. Cowles said the Steeplechase Safety Committee will now evaluate how to best utilize the Jockey Seminar content.



James Wofford, a two-time Olympic medalist and an acclaimed coach of riders, was a featured presenter at the NSA's first Jockey Seminar on May 24 at Fair Hill, Md.

DOUGLAS LEES PHOTO

Saratoga's jump-racing schedule kicks off in July

American Steeplechasing begins its 151st season at historic Saratoga Race Course with a \$65,000 allowance hurdle on Wednesday, July 29, and the \$75,000 Jonathan Kiser Novice Stakes the following afternoon.

Jump racing will kick off the Wednesday and Thursday programs each week of American Thoroughbred racing's premier race

meet. In all, the New York Racing Association has scheduled 12 steeplechase races for this year's Saratoga season, and purses totaling \$970,000 will be offered.

The jumping sport's championship division will be in action the following week with the \$125,000 A. P. Smithwick Memorial (Gr. 1) scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 6. The Smith-

wick's purse has been increased 25% for the 2015 renewal.

The championship division also will be in action in the \$150,000 New York Turf Writers Cup (Gr. 1), the jump-racing highlight of the season. The New York Turf Writers is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 27, during Travers Stakes (Gr. 1) week.

NSA Leader Board

Standings through June 18, 2015

Owners	Starts	Wins	2nd	3rd	Money Won
Irvin S. Naylor	45	5	10	5	\$172,850
Mrs. S. K. Johnston Jr.	18	4	4	0	171,600
Armata Stables	14	6	0	0	101,150
Jacqueline Ohrstrom	5	1	0	0	96,100
Andre Brewster	5	2	1	1	79,500
Michael T. Wharton	2	2	0	0	72,000
Magalen O. Bryant	10	2	2	4	64,800
Kinross Farms	12	3	2	3	63,050
Hudson River Farms	2	1	0	1	50,000

Horses	Starts	Wins	2nd	3rd	Purses
Demonstrative	1	1	0	0	\$90,000
Grinding Speed	2	2	0	0	72,000
Cornhusker (GB)	4	3	0	0	63,000
Syros	2	1	1	0	58,500
Mr. Hot Stuff	2	1	1	0	57,000
Parker's Project	2	1	0	1	50,000
Raven's Choice	2	1	0	1	48,000
Diplomat	2	1	0	0	48,000
Selection Sunday	1	1	0	0	45,000

Trainers (Wins)	Starts	Wins	2nd	3rd	Money Won
Jack Fisher	58	12	10	6	\$388,900
Alicia Murphy	16	6	4	0	161,000
Jonathan Sheppard	26	6	2	5	173,450
Jimmy Day	18	5	4	3	130,400
Richard Valentine	29	4	6	5	216,250
Leslie F. Young	10	4	1	3	59,200
Julie Gomena	20	3	2	2	92,700
Elizabeth Voss	12	3	2	0	83,200
Neil Morris	22	3	4	4	73,700
Katherine Neilson	32	3	7	2	72,300
William Meister	21	3	2	2	59,200

Riders (Wins)	Starts	Wins	2nd	3rd	Money Won
Paddy Young	31	12	3	7	\$388,900
Mark Beecher	17	5	5	1	184,800
Bernard Dalton	32	5	5	6	159,100
Sean McDermott	37	5	6	4	145,900
Jack Doyle	13	5	3	0	216,450
Darren Nagle	44	4	8	11	179,350
Willie McCarthy	35	4	5	6	159,600
Danny Mullins	7	4	2	0	98,700
Gerard Galligan	21	4	7	4	83,250
Mark Watts	17	4	1	1	75,500

Young, Fisher open large leads in 2015 standings

Four-time champion jockey Paddy Young and reigning champion trainer Jack Fisher have opened sizable leads in the National Steeplechase Association's 2015 standings as the jump-racing sport entered its summer season.

Young rose to the top of the list with two victories at each of the spring season's final three meets: Radnor Hunt Races, the High Hope Steeplechase, and the Fair Hill Races. Most recently the champion jockey in 2013, Young also led the jockey standings by earnings.

Going into the summer pari-mutuel schedule, Young had 12 victories from 31 starts, a 38% strike rate. His two Radnor winners came in his only two starts on the program. His closest competitors had five wins.

Second to Young on the earnings list was Jack Doyle, who rode two stakes winners at the Iroquois Steeplechase, including Eclipse champion Demonstrative in the \$150,000 Calvin Houghland Iroquois (Gr. 1), and one stakes winner at Radnor. Doyle will ride in the U.S. through the 2015 season.

Fisher, the champion trainer the past three years, has 12 victories for the current season, double the six wins of Alicia Murphy and Jonathan Sheppard. Fisher also opened a large lead in the earnings standings over Richard Valentine, trainer of Jacqueline Ohrstrom's Demonstrative, the current season's leading earner after his Calvin Houghland victory.

Irv Naylor, the reigning champion owner, stood atop the earnings table with more than \$172,000 in 2015 earnings. Close behind him was Tennessee horsewoman Gil Johnston, who has had success this year with Fisher and other trainers. Her Syros won the \$75,000 Marcellus Frost Novice Stakes at Iroquois on May 9, and Mr. Hot Stuff took the Temple Gwathmey (Gr. 3) at Middleburg Spring.

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