

HARNESS TRACKS OF AMERICA

Edited by: Jen Foley  
jen@harnesstracks.com

# Promotions at HTA Tracks



WEEK OF JANUARY 28, 2008

---

## PRAIRIE MEADOWS PROVIDES FOR COMMUNITY



Over the noon hour on Thursday, January 31, Prairie Meadows recognized 194 community betterment projects from 2007 fiscal year budget. The event will take place at the organization's events and conference center in Altoona.

This year's recipients received more than \$1.98 million to foster programs in education, human services, economic development, and the arts. The luncheon marked the eleventh consecutive year in which Prairie Meadows has been able to support non-profit projects in its community. Since 1995, Prairie Meadows has given more than \$362 million to promote education, economic development, agriculture, jobs and tourism.

"Prairie Meadows, itself, is structured as a non-profit," says Prairie Meadows President & CEO Gary Palmer, "which means that every dollar our organization earns over and above operating and capital expenses goes back into the community. We feel fortunate that Prairie Meadows has been able to help the people of our community for these many years."

## COLLEGE WORLD SERIES OF POKER AT THE ROCK

College students throughout New England will have the opportunity to show off their Texas Hold 'Em skills and vie for the \$15,000 Grand Prize in a special poker tournament created just for them at Rockingham Park on February 7th through 10th. The tournament kicks off on Wednesday, February 7th with satellite games of \$25, \$40, and \$70 to be held through Saturday, February 9th. The top four finishers from each of the \$70 satellites, the best two players from each of the \$40 satellites, and the top player from the \$25 satellites will win a seat in the main tournament on February 10th. Players may also buy their way in to Sunday's main tournament for \$150 with 8,000 starting chips.



The Grand Prize for winning the main tournament is \$15,000, based upon a minimum of 300 players participating. Additionally, ten percent of the players, or the top 30 finishers, will receive cash prizes.

The satellites on Feb. 7th through 8th start at 3 p.m. and the satellites on the weekend start at 11 a.m. The main tournament on Feb. 10th begins at 2 p.m. During the New England College World Series of Poker, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting local charities, the regular schedule in the poker room at Rockingham Park will also be in effect.

# WOODBINE & POCONO : NEW PADDOCKS BUILDING



A new paddock building and retention barn for Standard-bred racing are scheduled to rise there over the course of the next several months, and the Woodbine Entertainment Group's Director of Capital Development Projects, Mark Nickle, says they'll incorporate all of the best features of the

previous facilities, and all of the best ideas gleaned from paddocks around the continent. The result will be a state-of-the-art building that will not only enhance the existing facility and mesh with the planned construction of the 25-acre entertainment complex, Woodbine Live!, but will also offer outstanding amenities for horses and horsemen.

Construction crews have broken ground, leveled the site, and poured two-thirds of the footings for the new two-story paddock, which will feature a total of 160 stalls (the current building has 130), testing facilities for both Thoroughbreds and Standardbreds, offices for track veterinarians, emergency medical technicians, and track maintenance personnel, and a new broadcast studio with a prime track side view. In addition, Nickle says there are plans for a new second-floor kitchen/cafeteria, seating 60 to 75 people, which will also offer panoramic sight lines of the racing action below.

Baldassarra Architects Inc. of Toronto, which has been involved in the design of this project since the winter of 2006, have made sure that comfort and convenience for the daily users of the new facility have been made priorities, Nickle says. The location of the doors, for example, have been carefully planned so as to avoid any "wind tunnel" effect through the building, and deck liners will be employed to cover the ceiling beams, a detail which will not only improve the paddock's aesthetic appeal, but also make it more difficult for birds to roost overhead.

Environmental concerns have not been forgotten. A new drainage system will shift storm water from the parking lots, to the infield lagoons, and that water will be recycled for use in the water trucks essential for track conditioning. "We're thinking green as much as possible," Nickle says. The target completion date is September 1, 2008.



Breaking ground on the new paddock at Woodbine.  
Photo courtesy of Michael Burns Photography.

A new approximately \$3.5 million indoor paddock will be ready for the 2009 harness racing season at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs, it was announced by Robert Soper, president and CEO of the facility. The state-of-the-art paddock will accommodate a 14-race card and will be

heated and air-conditioned. The one-story 52,670 square-foot structure also will house the race secretary's staff, program department and horsemen's bookkeeper.

Work on the paddock project will begin shortly after the conclusion of the 2008 harness racing season that will run from April 1 through September 13. This year's meet has a total of 95 race dates. The new paddock is expected to be ready sometime in March of 2009.



Indoor paddock coming to Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs in 2009.

