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DUCHOSSOIS CLOSES ARLINGTON

UNTIL 1996 Arlington International Racecourse owner Dick Duchossois informed Illinois Racing Board Chairman Gary Starkman in writing Tuesday that he will shut down his state-of-the-art track in 1995 because the Illinois General Assembly failed to act on his legislative package.

Duchossois said he is prepared to race in 1996 if the General Assembly responds favorably to his requests at its spring session. Duchossois' primary objective is to obtain a riverboat casino for a man-made lake to be constructed on his property, enabling him to compete with the Elgin riverboat that began taking bets 12 miles from Arlington in early October. When the Racing Board drafted the 1995 Illinois Thoroughbred and Harness schedules in September, Arlington was awarded its customary meeting with May 12-Oct. 8 dates. However, in response to Duchossois' pleas that he could not profitably operate after the Elgin casino opened, the Board made the entire 1995 schedule provisional, subject to final approval Dec. 13. Now the Board must revise the entire schedule.

When the General Assembly convened in late Nov. for a short veto-session, Duchossois submitted his wish-list in the form of a proposal. But the lawmakers adjourned Dec. 1 without even discussing it.

"The Arlington legislative plan was for the entire racing and breeding industry in Illinois," Duchossois said in his letter to Starkman. "In essence, it sought to double purses for all racing, both Standardbred and Thoroughbred, at all tracks in Illinois. The means of pumping this lifeblood of racing into the industry was a proposed racing-industry casino operation at Arlington. After considering every other option, we thought the revenue from a racing-industry riverboat casino was the only way to generate sufficient purse money. A racing-industry casino was only a means to an end, and never an end in itself. During the veto session and since, no alternative plan, program, solution or realistic possibility has been proposed from any other quarter. It is said that the issue will be addressed in the spring, which is too late to organize a five-month season beginning in the spring. The reality is that when the General Assembly ran out of time, so did Arlington."

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Saturday, Calder:

W.L. McKNIGHT H.-GII, \$150,000, 3yo/up, 1 1/2mT

Daniel Borislow's hard-hitting five-year-old gelding **Dinner in Rio** (State Dinner), who won a \$12,500 claimer at Golden Gate Fields in June, 1993, has risen up the ranks to take three stakes this year, including the GIII Seneca H. over the Saratoga turf in August. He enters the W.L. McKnight off an 11th-place effort in the GII Red Smith at Aqueduct Nov. 19. Other probable starters include \$1,455,336-earner **Kissin Kris** (Kris S.), third in the GII Hawthorne Gold Cup H. in his last, as well as **Pescagani** (Caveat), **Star Of Manila** (Manila), **Spectacular Tide** (Tsunami Slew), **Turk Passer** (Turkoman), **Country Coy** (Country Pine), **Flying American** (Flying Pidgeon), **Zakattack** (Wayward Ace) and possibly **Futurist** (Caro {IRE}).

Sunday, Calder:

WHAT A PLEASURE S.-GIII, \$100,000, 2yo, 1 1/16m

James Lewis Jr.'s **Mecke** (Maudlin), winner of a turf allowance at Calder Nov. 5, will be back on the main track for the What a Pleasure. The Florida-bred won the seven-furlong Affirmed S. at the Miami track in September. Trainer Leo Azpurua Jr. conditions the fast-developing colt **Rush Dancer** (Woodman). A June foal, Rush Dancer broke his maiden by 12 lengths at Calder in Oct., then took a 1 1/16-mile allowance in his last outing. "He is a big horse," said Azpurua. "I've learned that the rider has to get aggressive with him from the start and he has to be ridden every inch of the way. If he loses momentum at any point, who knows how long it takes to get him going again. I have big hopes for him this winter. I've got room on my wall at home for a Florida Derby winner's picture."

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DUCHOSSOIS CLOSES ARLINGTON UNTIL

1996, CONTINUED Christine Jenks, president of the Chicago division of the HBPA, said her organization was unwilling to support Duchossois' proposal, mainly because it contained no provision for a 50-50 split between tracks and horsemen on all bets at all locations. Under the present statute, the tracks receive a disproportionate share of the money wagered at inter-track locations and at the Illinois off-track betting parlors owned and operated by the tracks. "Mr. Duchossois has put forth no proposal to restructure revenues," said Jenks. "We have negotiated with Sportsman's Park and Hawthorne Race Course, and they are in agreement with a 50-50 split. Under his proposal, there also is no 50-50 split on a casino at the track--the state contributes to the purse account and not him. We don't think that proposal has a realistic chance of passage."

Duchossois expressed an unwillingness to lease his \$200 million track. "With professional management, if we can't make it, how can anyone else?" he asked. "Will I let somebody make shambles of it? No, my pride would not allow me to do that."

Duchossois also said he has no plans to transplant the Arlington Million or any of his other premier races to other tracks. In 1988, when his track was dark while it was being rebuilt from the fire in the summer of 1985, he moved the Million to Woodbine.

JAPANESE ENTER EPSOM DERBY PICTURE

Officials at Epsom have expressed their delight following the entry of four Japanese-based yearling colts for the 1996 Vodafone Derby. The entries, concerning sons of American sires **Manila** and **Red Ransom** and the Japanese-based stallions **Nice Dancer** and **Tamamo Kurosu**, were all made on behalf of owner Shigeyuki Okada. Michael Webster, director of United Racecourse, owners of Epsom, said, "This is the first time in history that we have had entries from Japanese-based horses. I'm delighted at the development." Today marks the initial yearling closing date for the 1996 Vodafone Derby. There is a second entry option April 10, 1996, at a cost of £8,000.

FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC MIXED SALE

CONCLUDES A weanling chestnut filly by Star de Naskra--Sweet Maid (Proud Clarion) topped Monday's second and final session of the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December Mixed Sale in Timonium, Maryland. Consigned to the sale by Litz Bloodstock Services, agent, the chestnut filly was purchased for \$33,000 by Wayne Harrison. During the sale's two sessions, 346 horses were sold for a total of \$1,621,900 and an average of \$4,688, down 9.5 percent from last year's average of \$5,181. There were 57 horses reported as not sold.



SOUTHERN C.A.L.I.F.O.R.N.I.A. REPORT

Today, Hollywood Park:

THE J.O. TOBIN S., \$55,000a, 3yo, 7f

Strodes Creek (Halo) is scheduled to make his first start since finishing 3rd in the June 11 Belmont S. The Charlie Whittingham-trainee, who has never finished out of the money in 6 career starts, will be ridden by Eddie Delahoussaye, who guided him to a 2nd-place finish in the Kentucky Derby. Strodes Creek drilled five furlongs in :59 handily at Hollywood Saturday in preparation for his return. His main competition is expected to come from **I'ma Game Master** (Jaklin Klugman), a California-bred speed horse trying for his 4th straight victory.



M.I.D.W.E.S.T REPORT

Local News, Thistledown:

The Thistledown Jockey's Colony will be spreading some holiday cheer this season as they visit Rainbow Babies and Childrens Hospital Thursday, December 8. Each child will receive a toy, a pair of authentic jockey goggles and have his photo taken with a jockey. In addition, the riders will be donating over \$750 worth of toys, movies and games to the hospital. "It's always a very rewarding experience," said jockey spokesman Scott Saito. "It feels good when you're given the opportunity to give something back." This will mark the second visit this year by the Thistledown riders.

FRESHMAN SIRE REPORTS:

MALAGRA, 1986, Majestic Light--Regal Gal (Viceregal)

Stands at Clear Creek Stud in Folsom, LA
1994 Stud Fee: \$2,500 Live Foal
Race Record: GIII, 13-6-4-0, \$233,357.

2YO'S	RUNNERS	WINNERS (SW)	Earnings
30	13	7 (1)	\$257,917

THORN DANCE, 1986, Northern Dancer--Barb's Bold (Bold Forbes)

Stands at Jonabell Farm in Lexington, KY
1994 Stud Fee: \$2,500 Live Foal
Race Record: MSP-Eng, 6-2-1-1, \$34,062.

2YO'S	RUNNERS	WINNERS (SW)	Earnings
14	6	4 (1)	\$102,235



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ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

9th-CRC, \$23,500, 3/up, a1 1/16mT, 1:46 1/5, gd.

JADE FORTUNE (c, 3, Fortunate Prospect--Born Beauty, by Caucasus) Lifetime Record: 20-5-6-3, \$101,730. O-Queensland Farm. B-Farnsworth Farm, Cohen & Abramson (FL). T-Robert J. Richards Jr. *MSP.

7th-CRC, \$20,900, 3yo/up, f/m, a1 1/16T, 1:47 4/5, gd.

ENDLESS HOPE (f, 4, Rexson's Hope--Trickston, by Hold Your Tricks) Lifetime Record: 15-5-3-5, \$75,275. O-B. Delany & Judy Joseph. B-Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Kirchhoff (FL). T-Judy Joseph.

8th-PHA, \$19,840, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:10 4/5, sy. FLAGNLINDA (f, 3, Shimatoree--Reigning T.V., by Rainy Lake) Lifetime Record: 19-3-3-3, \$51,952. O/B-William J. Hartwell & Frances M. Hartwell (PA). T-Robert W. Camac. *1/2 to Private Showing (SW, \$188,236, by Buck Private).

5th-CRC, \$17,500, 2yo, a1 1/16T, 1:47 2/5, gd. MARCIE'S ENSIGN (c, 2, Blue Ensign--Runaway Marcie, by Diplomat Way) Lifetime Record: 13-2-1-2, \$40,851. O-Cobble View Stable. B-Stanley Ersoff (FL). T-Luis Olivares. *1/2 to Runaway Casting (SP, \$121,968, by Maribeau) and Always Running (SW-Mex, GSP-N.A., by Great Prospector).

8th-LRL, \$15,000, 3yo/up, f/m, 7f, 1:27, my. DANCE WITH LUCK (f, 3, Dancing Count--Still Our Frisky, by Distinctpartner) Lifetime Record: 24-5-5-2, \$36,194. O-Hampshire Racing Partnership. B-Dr. Stewart James (MD). T-Dale Capuano.

7th-LRL, \$15,000, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:12 1/5, my. (DH)--MIGHTY RED (c, 4, Mighty Appealing--Today's Woman, by Impressive) Lifetime Record: 11-2-5-1, \$31,945. O-I. Cohen. B-Sabra Enterprises (FLA). T-Dean Gaudet. *Full to Mixed Appeal (GII, \$567,654).

(DH)--ACE'S ORPHAN (g, 3, Alden's Ace--Advance Funding, by Dead Ahead) Lifetime Record: 13-2-4-2, \$38,815. O-Arnold A. Heft. B-Brenda Godfrey (MD). T-John J. Robb. *MSP.

9th-LRL, \$15,000, 3yo/up, 1 1/4m, 2:07 1/5, my. LUCKY SARGEANT (c, 4, Oh Say--Maggie's Luck, by Barbizon) Lifetime Record: 29-3-3-2, \$31,319. O-Lewis Hamilton Richardson. B-David P. Reynolds (MD). T-Dale Capuano.

MAIDEN WINNERS:

Israelite, c, 2, Broad Brush--Bushmaid (SW, \$101,992), by Bushido. SUF, 12-5, 6f, 1:11:14 3/5. B-Mrs. Susan B. Fisher (Ky). *\$11,000 yrl '93 KEESEP.

+ **Berimbau, f, 2, Carson City--Fairy Circle, by Halo.** CRC, 12-6, 5 1/2f, 1:06 3/5. B-Dr & Mrs R Smiser West & Mr & Mrs M Miller (Ky). *\$27,000 yrl '93 KEESEP. **16th winner for freshman sire.

Prospector Diamond, f, 2, Crafty Prospector--Anne's Money Honey (MSW, \$153,733), by Great Above. CRC, 12-6, 6f, 1:14 4/5. B-David F. Kegley (Fl). *\$48,000 2yo 1994 OBSFEB.

Raney Raney, f, 2, It's Freezing--Our Paige, by Grand Revival. FGX, 12-5, 1 1/16m, 1:50 1/5. B-Mueller Thomas (Ky). *1/2 to Mr. Peregrine (Silver Hawk), SW, \$107,157.

Go Big T Go, f, 2, Lejoli--Livi's Big T. (SW, \$105,392), by Cojak. TDN, 12-5, 6f, 1:14 3/5. B-D.J. Livi (Oh).

Lil's Cup of Soup, f, 3, Stalwart--Minestrone, by Minnesota Mac. CRC, 12-5, 6f, 1:13 1/5. B-Born to Win Thoroughbred Farm, Inc (Fl). *\$21,000 yrl '92 OBSAUG. **1/2 to Prima Roma (Princely Pleasure), SW, \$124,143.

A # will distinguish first-time stakes-winners, a @ will indicate first-time graded stakes-winners and a + will denote winners who are first-time starters.

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