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Hoosier Park Continues Improvements For Racing

by Rose Flood



Change is difficult to avoid. No matter how abhorred it is, it's bound to affect your life in one way or another. One specific and tremendous change that has people in the harness racing industry abuzz, is Caesar's acquisition of Centaur Gaming, which most are assuming would greatly affect the way the racing season operates. While some are unsure of what to expect when Hoosier Park's meet begins on March 30, Vice President and General Manager of Racing Rick Moore says that things are sticking to the status quo for now—that is, other than some exciting new additions.

The acquisition has yet to take place, so there's no way of knowing how the transaction will impact how Hoosier Park conducts its business. That being said, the attitude being held by Moore is while we can't see the future, the track is still moving full speed ahead and focused on having another tremendous meet. "We want to make sure we're coming off of Breeders Crown to provide an outstanding race meet for racing fans around the country; best facilities, best customer service and best options."

There are many great projects that are either just wrapping up or are starting soon. In about the fourth quarter of the year, the new track maintenance building will be complete. Moore describes the building as a "first class structure" and it will be the home for equipment and back-side team members. There is new flooring in the stalls of the paddock and a crew is hard at work in the final stages of placing a metal roof on the paddock. The 83 room dormitories are undergoing an almost complete renovation. The Top of the Park was renovated for the Breeders Crown last fall and that will once again be available for use. This year will also bring renovations for the announcer's room, the judges' room and the photo finish room, all of which will have floor to ceiling glass as well as other amenities. More for the racing fans, there will be a new menu for the Home-stretch Steakhouse revealed at the beginning of the meet. The concert schedule will also be announced soon. "Hoosier

Park is so lucky for our upper management, Chairman and CEO Rod Ratcliff and President and COO Jim Brown, because they've dedicated so many resources."

There currently isn't much information about the sale, because there are still some approval processes that need to take place and Moore isn't sure exactly where it stands as far as the transaction is concerned. "From where I stand, it seems to be proceeding accordingly. It will happen when it's going to happen." Moore wanted to take a moment to mention that Caesar's executives seem to embrace the commitment to racing that Hoosier Park and Indiana Grand hold, so Moore looks forward to harness racing being a central part of what is set to occur at Hoosier Park.

The main thing that Moore wanted Hoosier Park's customers and fans to know is that even coming off the success of the Breeders Crown, Hoosier Park will continue to be proactive. "We want people to be assured that we are not looking backward but we are looking forward and we want to make horse racing—harness racing in particular—the best it can be here at Hoosier Park." He wants to build on the success of not only the Breeders Crown, but of the Indiana-sired champs from this past year like Horse of the Year Hannelore Hanover and Breeders Crown victors Beckhams Z Tam and Fiftydollar-

bill. This also includes Indiana-sired horses that did not participate in the Breeders Crown, but had impressive seasons like Churita. "The whole industry is on an upward trajectory and we want to make sure we keep going in that direction, so rest assured we will not look back or rest on our laurels but we will be working hard to make sure that racing here at Hoosier Park continues to get better and better as we move forward."

So even though we may not know exactly what lies ahead, it's safe to say that Rick Moore feels confident in the future of Hoosier Park harness racing, not only for the upcoming season, but many to come.



Rick Moore