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ELLIS PARK TO CLOSE

Track owner Ron Geary announced Thursday morning that he will close 86-year-old Ellis Park in Florence, Ky, one day before the 44-day summer meet was to begin. Geary has been dealing with a strike by the mutuel workers' union, and is locked in a dispute with horsemen over the division of revenue for advance deposit wagering. Unable to come to an agreement with the Kentucky Horsemen's Benevolent Association over the ADW revenue split, Geary went to court, suing the KHBPA, but the judge ruled against him Wednesday night, and the decision was made to close the track. "Ninety percent of our revenues come from off-track, internet and television broadcast wagering," Geary said in a statement. "The leadership of Kentucky HBPA has an ongoing dispute with these ADWs, and Ellis Park is caught in the crossfire." He added, "It is shocking to think that the KHBPA would choose to close down Ellis Park rather than take advantage of the additional revenue already negotiated with the ADWs for 2008. All the KHBPA is focused on is hurting the ADWs this year so they can negotiate a higher percentage next year. What they are doing is a scorched earth strategy with huge collateral damage to the Tri-State." The KHBA is petitioning the Kentucky Horse Racing Authority to intervene. In a release issued Thursday morning, the KHBA stated, "It is hard to understand the logic behind the decision [to close the track], after all, the lost ADW revenue amounts to approximately \$5,000 a day in purses. If the daily purses at Ellis Park are estimated to be between \$130,000 to \$140,000 per day, why would Ron Geary decide to close down the racetrack based on a 3.8-percent loss in revenue? One can only wonder if the prolonged labor unrest that has polarized the community or the fact that only slightly more than 300 horses are currently stabled at Ellis Park may have influenced his decision much more than a small percentage loss of ADW revenue. It is a tragic situation that must be rectified."

MISTRIAL DECLARED IN TRIAL OF CURLIN OWNERS

Judge William Bertelsman of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky in Covington yesterday declared a mistrial in the case against two lawyers who own a minority share in Horse of the Year Curlin, according to published reports. The jury remained deadlocked after two days of deliberations on the single charge of criminal conspiracy against Shirley Cunningham Jr and William Gallion. Earlier in the week, the jury acquitted a third lawyer in the case, Melbourne Mills Jr. Deemed a flight risk, Gallion and Cunningham remain in jail without bail on the orders of Judge Bertelsman. The two own 20 percent of Curlin. A date for a second trial has yet to be set.

EUROPEAN LAUNCH FOR TRAKUS

Trakus, the innovative video system that displays the virtual position of the runners, in real time, alongside the telecast of a live race, will debut outside of North America for the first time at the 2008 August meeting at Deauville, France Galop announced yesterday. Already in place at Keeneland, Del Mar and Woodbine, Trakus will be up and running when the Deauville meet opens Aug. 2. The launch of Trakus at Deauville requires three months of installation, from mid-April to mid-July. "The French horse racing industry is always advancing," said Thierry Delegue, acting director general of France Galop. "For example, we are the sport that has



trakus.com

made the greatest effort to combat doping and illegal medications. Over the course of the last 50 years, we have introduced video replays, and racing was the first sport to incorporate digital photography. We were at the forefront of innovation by adding artificial surfaces. Installation of the Trakus system is yet more proof of our desire to present new ideas. The entire public, the industry professionals and seasoned bettors, will benefit. For us, Trakus is a strategic tactic to develop a new audience." With as many as 20 runners, following the action can be even more difficult in Europe than in the U.S., but, by displaying icons bearing the numbers of each competitor, a spectator can easily identify his or her horse within the group. **Cont. p2**

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European Launch for Trakus (cont. from p1)

The icons, or chicklets, move in coordination with the horses, and spectators can track the exact position of their horses in real time and at every angle, whether it is on the giant screen, the closed-circuit monitor at the track, on TV at home or via a personal digital assistant (PDA). Trakus also details a horse's speed at various points of call, the average speed and the distance traveled. Eric Brion, CEO of the French racing network Equidia, remarked, "Last year, we did a study on the impressions of our on-track tele-spectators. Many said that the body of the race was hard to watch. Even those who are seasoned bettors had difficulty following a particular horse in a group. Trakus brings us the solution that we are looking for. It is a huge technological leap for horse racing."

CHEVELEY TRIP HEAD FALMOUTH LIST David and Patricia Thompson could have as many as four runners in Wednesday's one-mile G1 UAE Hydra Properties Falmouth S. at Newmarket, which attracted a total of 14 at yesterday's five-day stage. Poised to carry the red, white and blue silks of Cheveley Park Stud in the £200,000 contest are G3 Dahlia S. winner and G2 Windsor Forest S. runner-up **Heaven Sent (GB)** (Pivotal {GB}); **Infallible (GB)** (Pivotal {GB}), the G1 Coronation S. runner-up; **Spacious (GB)** (Nayef), second to Natagora (Fr) in the G1 1000 Guineas; and pace-maker **Hip (GB)** (Pivotal {GB}). The stud's managing director Chris Richardson is keeping a close eye on the weather ahead of the fillies' feature of the July Festival. "You certainly want to have as many chances as possible in a race such as this, but I'm not quite sure at this stage which of our horses will actually run," he said. "If we were to get some rain, it would enhance the likelihood of Infallible lining up. If it were to stay largely dry and the ground remained on the fast side of good, it's more than likely Heaven Sent would take her chance. With Spacious, who didn't quite spark at Ascot, it will depend on how things are." Jim Bolger has entered Michael Ryan's dual Guineas heroine **Finsceal Beo (Ire)** (Mr. Greeley) and his and Ennistown Stud's 1000 Guineas third **Saoirse Abu** (Mr. Greeley). The former was reported to be none the worse for her latest disappointing effort when trailing in Saturday's G1 Pretty Polly S. at The Curragh. Described by the racecourse vet as having finished the race "clinically abnormal," her trainer told the *Racing Post* on Wednesday, "She's fine and not a semblance of a problem has showed up since." Also set to run are the multiple Group 1 winners **Seachange (NZ)** (Cape Cross {Ire}) and **Darjina (Fr)** (Zamindar), while Germany could be represented by Stall Litex's G2 German 1000 Guineas heroine **Briseida (GB)** (Pivotal {GB}).

FTK July Select Yearlings

- 348 filly Indian Creek, Agt.
- 428 colt Hurstland Farm, Agt.
- 521 colt Bedouin Bloodstock, Agt.



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LES ARCS READY FOR CUP Les Arcs (Arch) will run in next Friday's G1 Darley July Cup at Newmarket, owner Willie McKay announced yesterday. Not seen since trailing in last year's G2 Duke of York S., the eight-year-old will bid to repeat his success in the 2006 renewal of the £400,000 contest. "The Darley July Cup is still the plan for Les Arcs," McKay said. "He did a piece of work on Wednesday and it went well. York racecourse allowed us to give him a piece of work during races a few weeks ago and Doncaster racecourse have allowed us to give him a gallop as well. We were going to run him at Newcastle in the G3 Chipchase S., but we bypassed it because of the ground. We're running him at Haydock on Saturday [in a six-furlong conditions race] and then he'll run the following Friday in the Darley July Cup. Darren Williams will ride the horse on Saturday, because John Egan is in America at the moment, but he'll be back to ride him at Newmarket. Les Arcs is actually moving better now than he was after he won the Darley July Cup in 2006. A top young Irish vet, Peter Hynes, is employed at our Martin Grange Stables and he's been looking after things. We also bought a spa which he's been in twice a day and it has helped him."