

Strong start for Scioto Downs

Despite rainy and cold weather on opening night, Scioto Downs started its 50th anniversary season with strong increases in betting over last year's figures.

"Last Friday, our opening night, we were up almost 30 percent in live on-track betting," says Stacy Cahill, general manager of racing operations. "If you include the simulcasting, we were up almost 40 percent in total handle on opening night."

On Saturday night the total bet by patrons increased almost 25 percent over the same night in 2007.

"On Sunday, when we have simulcasting but no live racing, our betting total was three times as much this year as last year," says Cahill.

Scioto Downs resumes racing on Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m. when the track pays tribute to two legends in Ohio harness racing. The Floating Dream series for pacers honors a great mare active in the 1950s and the B.F. Coaltown series for trotters is named after a champion racehorse and stallion. There are three races on Wednesday as part of the Floating Dream series and two races in the B.F. Coaltown series.

This Saturday Scioto Downs has a special 5:30 p.m. post time to allow patrons to come early and watch and bet on the Preakness Stakes.