



Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit



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Research Foundation
President



Number & Percentage of Foal Crops which Race at Two					
Year	Applicable Foal Crop	# Raced at Two	Percent	2 Yr Old Avg. Starts	2 Yr Old Races as % of all races
1964	14,870	7,799	52%	6.9	11.6
1984	42,894	14,060	33%	4.4	9
1994	38,437	11,838	31%	3.8	7.5
2004	35,600	10,843	30%	3.3	7.3
2009	37,343	11,252	30%	3.2	7.9

Courtesy, The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc.



Number of Starts per Horse per Year Racing Year 2009	
Overall average # starts:	6.23
Avg # total starts for Horses that started in Graded Races:	6.28
Avg # total starts for Horses that started in Stakes Races:	7.10
Avg # total starts for Horses that started in ALW Races:	6.51
Avg # total starts for Horses that started in CLM Races:	6.65
Avg # total starts for Horses that started in ALW or CLM Races:	6.13

Courtesy, The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc.



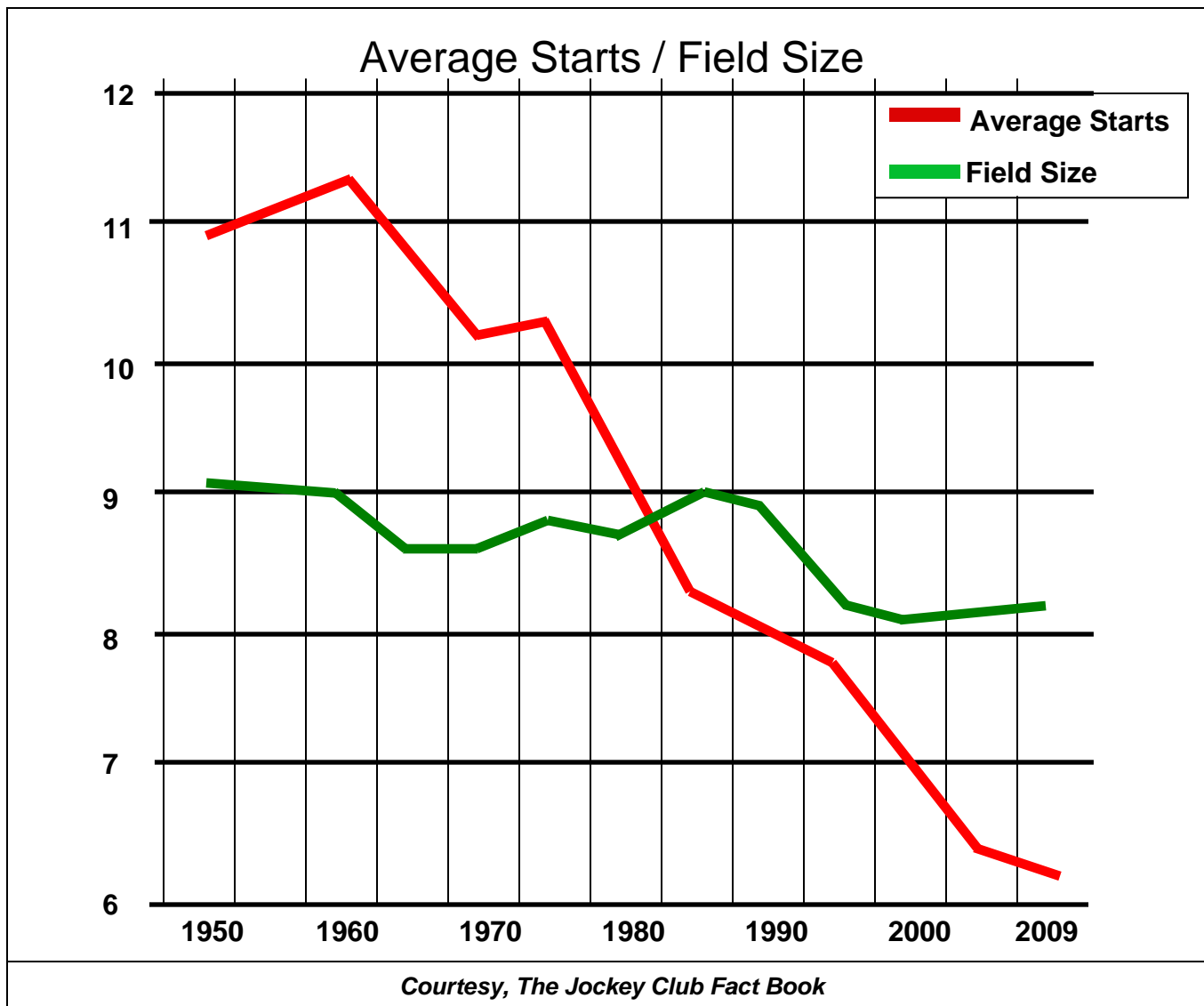
Top 10 Trainers by Earnings			
Starters	Starts	Earnings	Avg Start / Starter
2009			
2,527	9,850	\$95,514,241	3.9
1976			
1,726	9,825	\$18,722,475	5.7

Courtesy, The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc.



Top 10 Trainers by Percentages		
Percent of all Starts	Percent of all Starters	Percent of Total Purses
2009		
2.0	3.5	7.7
1976		
1.8	2.8	5.8

Courtesy, The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc.





Starts Percentages							
No. of Starts	2009	2004	1994	1984	1974	1964	1954
12 + Starts	14.6%	17.8%	29.4%	34.9%	45.4%	48.7%	47.0%
7-11 Starts	33.3%	32.8%	29.3%	26.5%	23.6%	21.4%	21.6%
1-6 Starts	52.1%	49.4%	41.3%	38.6%	31.1%	29.9%	31.4%

Courtesy, The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc.



Starter Statistics in N.A. for Race Year 2009 <i>excludes 2yo's (Overall 60,410)</i>		
Category	Starters	% of Strtrs
16+ Starts	2,011	3.3%
15 Starts	1,060	1.8%
14 Starts	1,450	2.4%
13 Starts	1,867	3.1%
12 Starts	<u>2,437</u>	<u>4.0%</u>
12+ Starts	8,825	14.6%

Courtesy, The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc.





Grayson-Jockey Club RESEARCH TODAY

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SIRES' PROGENY DURABILITY

Among goals of the Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summits was to direct attention to stallions whose progeny exhibits statistically above-average soundness and durability. The Summits, co-funded by Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation and The Jockey Club, generated numerous committees to address certain subjects. Those committees have continued to work within the industry, and the Durability Committee is among them. It was formed in response to the sharp decline in the average number of starts North American horses are making, down from about 11 in 1960 to less than 7 today.

It is understood that the average number of starts can be a function of many elements, some management based, but it is also intuitive to think that the decline reflects a decreasing ruggedness in the overall population of the North American Thoroughbred. The durability statistics that the Committee caused to be produced are seen as helpful clues as to which stallions statistically indicate above-average ability to get horses with soundness and racing durability.

Lists published here in the past fulfilled that promise and created interest, but the Durability Committee sought improvements. The first lists tended to be dominated by older or deceased stallions, many of which could not be said to be in the mainstream of the national breeding picture or likely to have much impact on the breed.

The lists presented herewith seek to counter that skewing by being somewhat exclusive. With the help of The Jockey Club Information Systems, we started with a proven population, the top 200 stallions of 2008 by progeny earnings in that year. The data included all North American-based stallions that made the top 200, including all their Northern Hemisphere earnings (except in Japan). All 2008

earnings are included, although starts, wins, etc., for juveniles of 2008 are excluded so as not to skew figures for career records downward. Even though the stallions on the list earned their way there strictly by 2008 earnings, the other statistics for each of them are lifetime statistics through October 6, 2009.

From that original list of the top 200, we herewith present the top 100 stallions by two separate measures: percentage of foals that get to the races and lifetime average starts per starter. In studying these lists, it might be well to consider the breed averages: About 70% of foals get to the races, and the career records of recent foal crops hover around 18 starts per horse; the latter mark is attained by a minority of the leading sires by progeny earnings.

We suggest that no statistical presentation can serve as a single indicator of success. There are other possibilities that could have influences. Results are affected by a broad range of phenomena, including racing luck, training, nutrition, and track condition, as well as management and motivation of the owner and trainer. Genetic propensities are a key to the success or failure of the race horse, but racing results can only be clues to various qualities rather than straight-line measures.

Insofar as percentage of starters and number of starts, it is clear that market and fashion forces are major factors. A superbly bred horse whose pedigree alone makes him/her worthy of entering the breeding sphere is much less likely to have as lengthy a racing career or as high number of starts as a horse lacking that pedigree fashion. Thus, it is to be expected that the most renowned stallions---sires of classic winners and other graded winners, the very top echelon of earnings---will score lower in the measures we have selected as hints of durability and soundness.

(continued on page 2)



EQUINE INJURY DATABASE

A black line drawing of a horse standing in profile, facing right. The horse is positioned behind the word 'DATABASE' in the main title, with its body partially overlapping the letters.

A Safety Initiative of The Jockey Club



GRAYSON-JOCKEY CLUB RESEARCH TODAY



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2007

Model Rule On Front Toe Grabs

For a number of years, projects funded by Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation have been among developments supporting the conclusion that use of high toe grabs in front on racing Thoroughbreds is associated with increased risk of injury. Dr. Sue Stover of the University of California-Davis has been among the most active and articulate scientists developing and circulating this information.

As is sometimes the case in science, what is fact can seem counter-intuitive. Many horsemen have believed strongly that by using high toe grabs they were doing the best thing for the horse by providing good traction in the hoof's interface with dirt tracks.

However, mounting evidence eventually led the California Horse Racing Board to vote earlier this year to enforce a ban on front toe grabs of more than 4mm.

One of the most compelling presentations on the subject was provided at this year's Racing Commissioners International convention in Jackson Hole, Wyo., by Bill Casner, chairman of the Shoeing and Hoof Care Committee of the Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit organized in Lexington last October. (The Summit was coordinated and underwritten by the Foundation and The Jockey Club and hosted by Keeneland.) Casner, also chairman of the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association and partner in WinStar Farm, made a PowerPoint presentation during the RCI panel on Health and Welfare of Equine Athletes. He and his Summit committee also had addressed the issue with the California Horse Racing Board.

Following Casner's presentation, the RCI convention approved a model rule mirroring the California ban. The RCI is not a regulatory body per se, but a professional association of racing commissioners from various states. In order for the model rule on toe grabs to be implemented, each commission will need to follow-up on the convention's recommendation.

Degree of Wall Deformation

Normal heel compression*



3,000 lbs

Excessive heel compression*



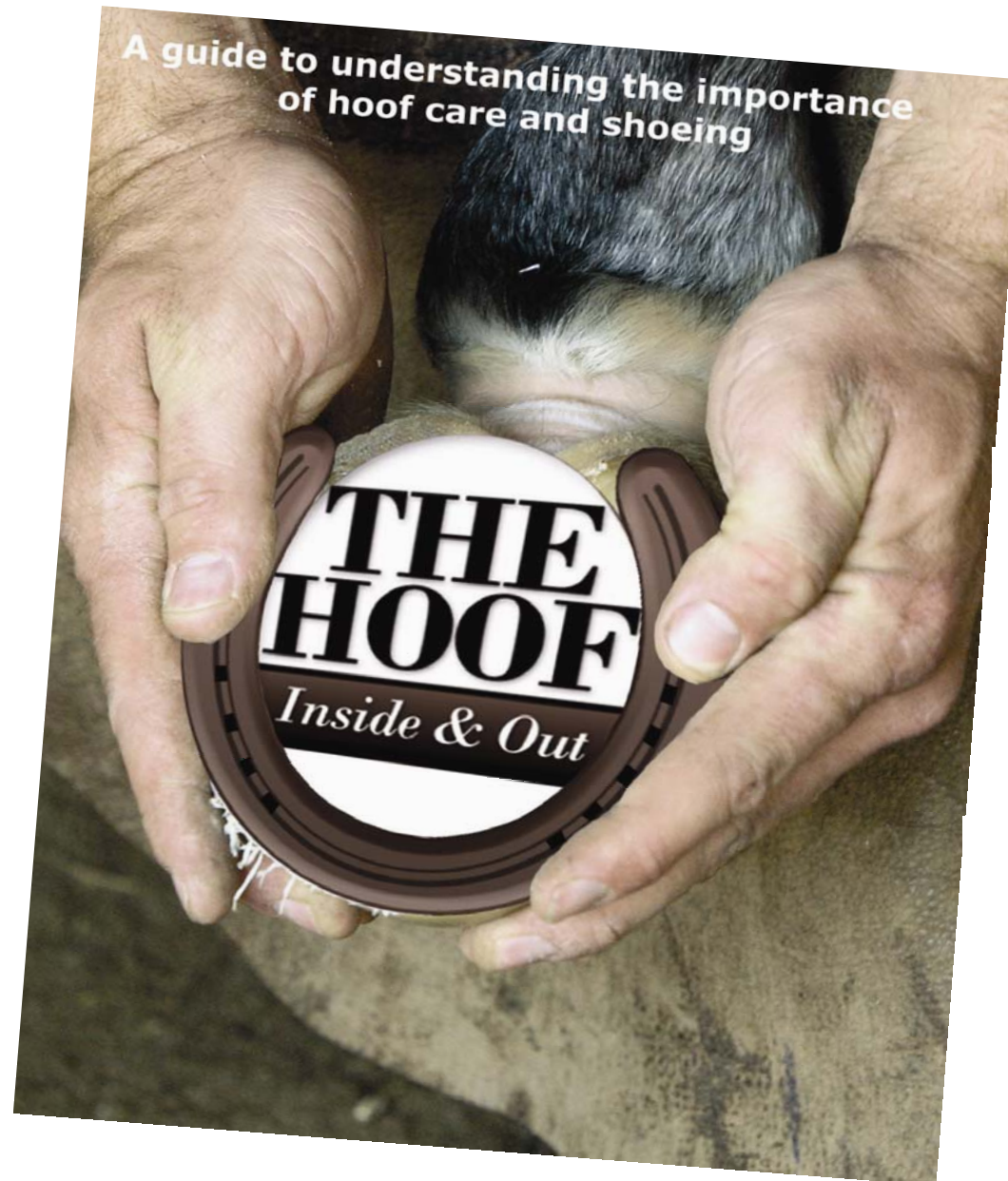
3,000 lbs

Vividly illustrating the difference in heel compression during a stride between a horse with toe grabs (right) and a horse with none, the above shows a point of the stride in which the load level is 3,000 pounds.

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Racing Surfaces
Testing Laboratory
Orono Maine USA





Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit



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UNIFORM NATIONAL TRAINER'S TEST



Welfare & Safety of the Racehorse Summit

WSS Education & Licensing Committee

Compiled by Dr. C. Reid McLellan &
Edited by Catherine McNeeley



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STUDY GUIDE

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