

See that again

Kiosks enable handicappers, fans and horsemen to review recent races



Races at Keeneland and other tracks are available for viewing at kiosks in the Grandstand.

Matt Anderson

By Ken Snyder

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then the race replays at kiosks around the Keeneland grounds must be worth millions. Right? Seasoned handicappers will tell you they're worth at least a few payoffs. Novices will tell you they can serve as a better introduction to racing than all those past performance numbers in the track program.

The kiosks provide replays of races a horse has run in the past 45 days and often farther back in time. A patron first selects a horse of interest in the Keeneland program. Using touch-screen technology, the patron next selects the track where a past race has been run by that horse, the number of the race in which the horse ran and the horse's post position in that race. Past races at Keeneland and at 21 other racetracks are available at 10 kiosks throughout the Grandstand.

The value for experienced patrons who are serious horseplayers comes when they have questions about what is called "comments regarding race events for this horse," on the right side of a horse's past performance line in the program. For instance, these comments, called "trip lines," might read "broke out awkwardly" or "6w bid, slowly gaining." Did the bad break out of the starting gate keep the horse from early contention in the

race and from ultimately reaching the winner's circle? Did being "6w"—six-wide, or running with five horses to the inside—add so much distance to the horse's trip that it hindered a stretch run that could have otherwise meant victory or a spot "on the board" in second, third or fourth place?

G.D. Hieronymus, Keeneland's director of broadcast services, states the obvious for these situations: "There's nothing like going back and watching that last performance or a couple of races back."

"Race replays enable race patrons to see, rather than read, between the lines with past races," said Hardave Gill, whose company, Post Time Technologies, developed the race replay system used at Keeneland.



G.D. Hieronymus, director of broadcast services at Keeneland

Sales works

Races aren't the only content, however, for Keeneland's kiosks. During horse sales, workout replays can be accessed at the two kiosks in the Sales Pavilion.

"For the two-year-olds in training

sale, for example, a prospective buyer can instantly recall workouts for a certain 'hip number,'" Hieronymus said, referring to the number assigned to horses for catalog reference during a sale. Televisions in a viewing room at the Sales Pavilion already display repeating or looped replays of workouts for groups of horses. The race replay kiosks, however, give a prospective buyer the opportunity to focus on an individual horse.

"You can walk up to the kiosk, type in the hip number, and watch that horse as many times as you'd like without having to wait for a replay of that horse to cycle back around," Hieronymus added.

Popular with horsemen

While initially installed to help handicappers in 2000, race-replay kiosks have found another audience of interested viewers: trainers and jockeys. The kiosk in the Keeneland Racing Office enables trainers looking to claim a horse to view replays of a particular horse coming up to a claiming race (a race in which any entrant can be purchased or claimed out of that race for a predetermined price). According to usage logs maintained by Post Time Technologies, the kiosk in the Racing Office is the second-busiest kiosk at Keeneland.

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"If you go in the Racing Office in the morning, there are trainers recalling the previous days' races because maybe they didn't get to see them or (they are watching) a race of their own horse from a month ago," said Hieronymus. Replay reviews also help a trainer instruct a jockey on how best to ride a horse or detect, for example, whether stamina needs to be an objective in training for a horse who tired during a race.

The benefit for jockeys is in becoming familiar with a mount that they, perhaps, have never seen, much less ridden. A race replay kiosk in the jockeys' quarters at Keeneland affords this opportunity to a rider.



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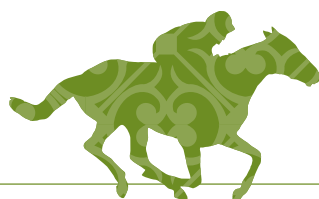
"It might be the first time on a particular horse, and he can go back and look at the way the horse ran," said Hieronymus.

While kiosks are what Hieronymus calls an "added tool" for serious horseplayers, they are also a means to enhance communications to all patrons. Hieronymus points to kiosks as a potential source for all kinds of information much like their counterparts in airports or shopping malls. He sees a time in the near future when kiosks can provide information on group meetings as well as promotional information for the Keeneland Gift Shop, race days or sale dates.

"There's no reason why, in the off season, that a tour group or individual couldn't walk on to the grounds and have a tour of Keeneland on a kiosk—where they are, a typical race day, a sale, or how they can get into horse ownership," Hieronymus said. "Essentially, it would be a tutorial of what's going on at Keeneland." Already, tour groups in non-racing months are treated to a Keeneland race at a kiosk complete with race call by track announcer Kurt Becker.

Tourists, novices, serious handicappers, horse buyers—they all can benefit from the kiosks. "The kiosks, really, are for everyone," said Hieronymus, "whether for serious handicapping or just becoming more familiar with the sport." 🐎

Ken Snyder is a Louisville-based freelance writer whose work has appeared in *Keeneland* magazine, the *Kentucky Derby* magazine and the *Breeders' Cup* magazine.



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