



HOLLYWOOD
Casino
AT PENN NATIONAL RACE COURSE

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Rispoli and Ness Top Penn National Standings for First Time

Grantville, PA (Monday, December 31, 2012) – Up-and-coming rider Matthew Rispoli and the country's leading conditioner Jamie Ness topped the 2012 jockey and trainer standings, respectively, at Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course.

Rispoli, a 22-year-old native of Long Branch, NJ, burst onto the Penn National scene in 2011, finishing third among all riders with 103 victories. With a full campaign under his belt, Rispoli racked up 158 wins this year, 25 more than Dana Whitney, who had claimed the Penn National jockey title in 2010 and 2011.

"It doesn't feel any different to be the leading rider," said Rispoli, who credits his father John, his uncle Joe, his agent Tom Pointer, Hall of Famer Chris McCarron, and Franklin Goree Smith at the Elloree Training Center for getting him to this point in his career. "I just ride horses and that's what I love to do."

Rispoli began riding in 2009 on the Maryland and Pennsylvania circuits, but injuries sustained in a car accident sidelined him for a year and a half. 2011 was his first full year as a professional jockey.

Ness, 38, led all trainers at Penn National with 83 victories in 2012, 14 more than Stephanie Beattie, who was the track's leading trainer in 2011.

"The bigger purses this year at Penn National were a big reason that we concentrated on the races there," said Ness, who was born in Heron, SD. "It feels good to be the leading trainer at Penn National and in the country."

Not only did Ness top the Penn National yearly rankings, but for the first time he led all North American trainers in wins, with 396 through December 30. Steve Asmussen currently ranks second in the country with 284 victories this year.

Midwest Thoroughbreds, Inc., one of Ness' major clients, topped the Penn National owner standings with 83 wins.

Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course is a Penn National Gaming property that offers guests the most exciting and unique entertainment experience in Central Pennsylvania. The venue features more than 2,475 slot machines, 60 gaming tables, and a 16-table Poker room. Live thoroughbred and simulcast horse racing is offered year-round. An array of dining options are available including the award-winning Final Cut Steakhouse, winner of three consecutive Wine Spectator Awards of Excellence; Mountainview Dining, a 500-seat restaurant overlooking the one-mile racetrack; SkyBox Sports Bar, and the popular 350-seat Epic Buffet.

Penn National Race Course, located minutes from Hershey and Harrisburg, PA., opened on August 30, 1972, and has presented top-class live thoroughbred racing for more than 40 years. The original track was taken down in 2006 and the new Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course, a fully-integrated gaming and racing facility, opened on February 12, 2008.

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