

# THE ROAD AHEAD

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025 | ISSUE 4 | VOLUME 6



# THE BREEDERS CUP

## PAST, PRESENT, AND THE PROMISE OF 2025

Every year, the world of Thoroughbred racing gathers for a spectacle unlike any other: the Breeders' Cup World Championships.

More than just a horse race, it's the culmination of a year's worth of triumphs, rivalries, and dreams. Since its inception in 1984, this two-day festival has grown into one of the richest and most prestigious events in sports, offering over \$30 million in purses and attracting elite horses, trainers, and jockeys from across the globe.

The concept was born from the vision of Kentucky breeder John R. Gaines, who imagined a season-ending championship that would unite the best of North American racing. What began as a single-day event with seven races has evolved into a 14-race extravaganza, hosted at iconic venues such as Churchill Downs, Santa Anita Park, and Keeneland. In 2025, the Breeders' Cup will take place on October 31 and November 1 at Del Mar Racetrack in California, where the surf meets the turf.

Beyond the prize money and prestige, the Breeders' Cup is where legends are made. American Pharoah's 2015 victory in the Classic sealed his place in history as the first horse to win the Grand Slam: the Triple Crown plus the Breeders' Cup Classic. Zenyatta, the impressive mare with a heart of gold, became the first female to win the Classic in 2009, thrilling fans with her hair-raising come-from-behind style.

The event also celebrates diversity and international flair. Horses from Europe, South America, and Asia regularly compete, bringing global attention to North American racing and enriching the competition with varied styles and strategies.

The Breeders' Cup is a place where tradition meets innovation, where the roar of the crowd echoes through time, and where every race has the potential to produce the next legend.

It all begins with the races, each one with a high-stakes clash where contenders rise; reputations are forged, and greatness is put to the test. These aren't just competitions; they're defining moments where talent, strategy, and heart collide. These are the contenders to watch, names with the potential to shape history, electrify the crowd, and leave an enduring impression on the turf.

### JUVENILE TURF SPRINT

Aspect Island (GB)  
 Brussels (GB)  
 Cy Fair  
 Havana Anna (GB)  
 Intricate Spirit  
 Lennilu  
 Mission Central (IRE)  
 Obliteration  
 Outfielder  
 Royal Testament  
 Schwarzenegger  
 True Love (IRE)  
 Military Code (GB)  
 Later Than Planned (IRE)  
 Should've  
 Bobrovsky  
 Rogue Legend (GB)  
 Bacio  
 Switch In Love (JPN)  
 Sassy C W  
 Skipping Stars  
 Chasing Freedom

### JUVENILE FILLIES

Bottle Of Rouge  
 Explora  
 Iron Orchard  
 La Ville Lumiere  
 La Wally  
 Meaning  
 Percy's Bar  
 Super Corredora  
 Tommy Jo

### JUVENILE FILLIES TURF

Balantina (IRE)  
 Beautify (IRE)  
 Brave Deb  
 Final Accord

Ground Support  
 Imaginationthelady  
 Infinite Sky  
 Pacific Mission (GB)  
 Precise (IRE)  
 Queen Of Hawaii (IRE)  
 Switch In Love (JPN)  
 Time To Dream  
 True Love (IRE)  
 Ultimate Love

### JUVENILE

Blackout Time  
 Brant  
 Civil Liberty  
 Comport  
 Desert Gate  
 Intrepido  
 Litmus Test  
 Mr. A.P.  
 Ted Noffey

### JUVENILE TURF

Ardisia (IRE)  
 Argos  
 Bottas  
 Brussels (GB)  
 Gstaad (GB)  
 Heere's Johnny  
 Hey Nay Nay (IRE)  
 Humidity (GB)  
 Let's Be Frank  
 North Coast (IRE)  
 Outfielder  
 Stark Contrast  
 Street Beast  
 Turf Star  
 Gordon Pass  
 Third Beer  
 Proton  
 Caro Buono (FR)

### FILLY & MARE SPRINT

Fee Blanche (JPN)  
 Haulin Ice  
 Hope Road  
 Kopion  
 Majestic Oops  
 Praying  
 Richi (CHI)  
 Splendora  
 Sweet Azteca  
 Tamara  
 Vahva  
 Zeitlos

### TURF SPRINT

Ag Bullet  
 Arizona Blaze (GB)  
 Bear River  
 Bring Theband Home  
 Bucanero Fuerte (GB)  
 Governor Sam  
 Invincible Papa (AUS)  
 Khadeem (IRE)  
 Motorious (GB)  
 Reef Runner  
 She's Quality (IRE)  
 Shisospicy  
 Puro Magic (JPN)  
 Yellow Card  
 Nobals  
 No Nay Hudson (IRE)  
 Joe Shiesty  
 Incanto (IRE)

### SPRINT

American Stage  
 Banishing  
 Bentornato  
 Dr. Venkman  
 Imagination

Kopion  
Lovesick Blues  
Mad House  
Mullikin  
Nakatomi  
Patriot Spirit  
Puro Magic (JPN)  
Straight No Chaser  
Tamara  
Big City Lights  
Whatchatakinabout  
Valiant Force

#### **DISTAFF**

Alice Verite (JPN)  
Argine (JPN)  
Clicquot  
Dorth Vader  
Dry Powder  
Gin Gin  
Gun Song  
Majestic Oops  
Nitrogen  
Regaled  
Sarawak Rim (ARG)  
Scottish Lassie  
Scylla  
Seismic Beauty

#### **TURF**

Amiloc (GB)  
El Cordobes (IRE)  
Ethical Diamond (IRE)  
Gold Phoenix (IRE)  
Goliath (GER)  
Hill Road  
Minnie Hawk (IRE)  
Rashabar (IRE)  
Rebel Red (GB)  
Rebel's Romance (IRE)  
Redistricting (GB)  
Silawi (IRE)  
Tawny Port  
Wimbledon Hawkeye (GB)

#### **CLASSIC**

Antiquarian  
Baeza  
Contrary Thinking  
Fierceness  
Forever Young (JPN)  
Journalism  
Locked  
Mindframe  
Nevada Beach  
Sierra Leone  
Sovereignty

#### **MILE**

Almendares (GB)  
Argine (JPN)  
Bucanero Fuerte (GB)  
Formidable Man  
Gran Oriente (CHI)  
Johannes  
Jonquil (GB)  
Notable Speech (GB)  
One Stripe (SAF)  
Program Trading (GB)  
Qirat (GB)  
Rethorical  
Sahlan (IRE)  
The Lion In Winter (IRE)

#### **DIRT MILE**

Chancer Mcpatrick  
Citizen Bull  
Dr. Venkman  
Dry Powder  
Full Serrano (ARG)  
Goal Oriented  
Mystik Dan  
Nysos  
Patriot Spirit  
Touch Of Destiny (URU)  
Tumbarumba  
White Abarrio  
Will Take It

#### **FILLY & MARE TURF**

Be Your Best (IRE)  
Bedtime Story (IRE)  
Bellezza (IRE)  
Cinderella's Dream (GB)  
Diamond Rain (GB)  
Gezora (FR)  
Gimme A Nother (SAF)  
La Kika (PER)  
Minnie Hawk (IRE)  
Mission Of Joy  
See The Fire (GB)  
She Feels Pretty  
Stellify  
Village Voice (GB)  
Alice Verite (JPN)  
Atsila (IRE)  
Cathedral (GB)  
Way To Be Marie

# THE RACE THAT STOPS A NATION



Every November, something remarkable happens in Australia. **For three minutes, the country pauses;** offices fall silent, schools tune in, and millions of eyes turn to Flemington Racecourse. It's the Melbourne Cup, a horse race so iconic it's earned the nickname "the race that stops a nation."

First run in 1861, the Melbourne Cup has evolved from a local sporting event to a worldwide experience. Its inaugural winner, Archer, famously trekked over 500 miles from New South Wales to compete, and win. That tale alone captures the spirit of the Cup: grit, determination, and a touch of legend.

Held on the first Tuesday in November, this year's Melbourne Cup will take place on November 4. But it's more than just a test of speed and stamina; it's a cultural celebration. In Victoria, it's a public holiday. Across the country, people gather for sweepstakes, dress in their finest, and revel in the excitement, whether they're seasoned punters or simply there for the fashion and festivities.

The Cup has seen its share of unforgettable champions. Makybe Diva made history with three consecutive wins from 2003 to 2005. Kingston Rule set the fastest time in 1990. And Carbine, who carried a staggering 66 kilograms to victory in 1890, remains a legend of endurance.

Yet the Melbourne Cup isn't just about the horses; it's about community. Each year, the trophy goes on tour, visiting schools, hospitals, and towns across Australia and New Zealand. It's a reminder that this race belongs to everyone, not just the elite or the experts.

With a prize pool now exceeding \$8 million AUD, the Melbourne Cup draws top talent from around the world. Still, its heart is still unmistakably Australian. It's a celebration of tradition, resilience, and shared joy. Whether you're cheering from the stands or watching from home, November 4 will be a moment where history, sport, and national pride come together.



# THE RACE THAT ENDS A SEASON AND BEGINS A LEGACY

**Every fall, the Hollywood Derby offers a final spotlight for three-year-old thoroughbreds to prove their talent on the turf.**

This year, the tradition continues on November 29, when Del Mar Racetrack will once again host this Grade 1 event that blends history, prestige, and a dash of California flair, making it one of the most anticipated races of the season.

Initially run at Hollywood Park in 1938, the Derby has matured over the decades, shifting formats and venues while keeping its reputation as a proving ground for future champions. When Hollywood Park closed in 2013, the race found a new home at Del Mar, a seaside track known for its charm and competitive spirit. Today, the Hollywood Derby is run over 1½ miles on turf, drawing top trainers and horses eager to end the year on a high note.

What makes this race special isn't just its Grade I status; it's the stories it tells. In 2014, California Chrome, fresh off his Kentucky Derby and Preakness wins, stunned fans by winning the Hollywood Derby in his first-ever turf start. That victory cemented his versatility and star power, reminding everyone that great horses can shine on any surface.

Beyond the stats and finishes, the Hollywood Derby is a celebration of transition. It marks the end of the three-year-old season, often shaping year-end honors and future breeding value. For many horses, it's a steppingstone to international turf competitions or a launchpad into older divisions.

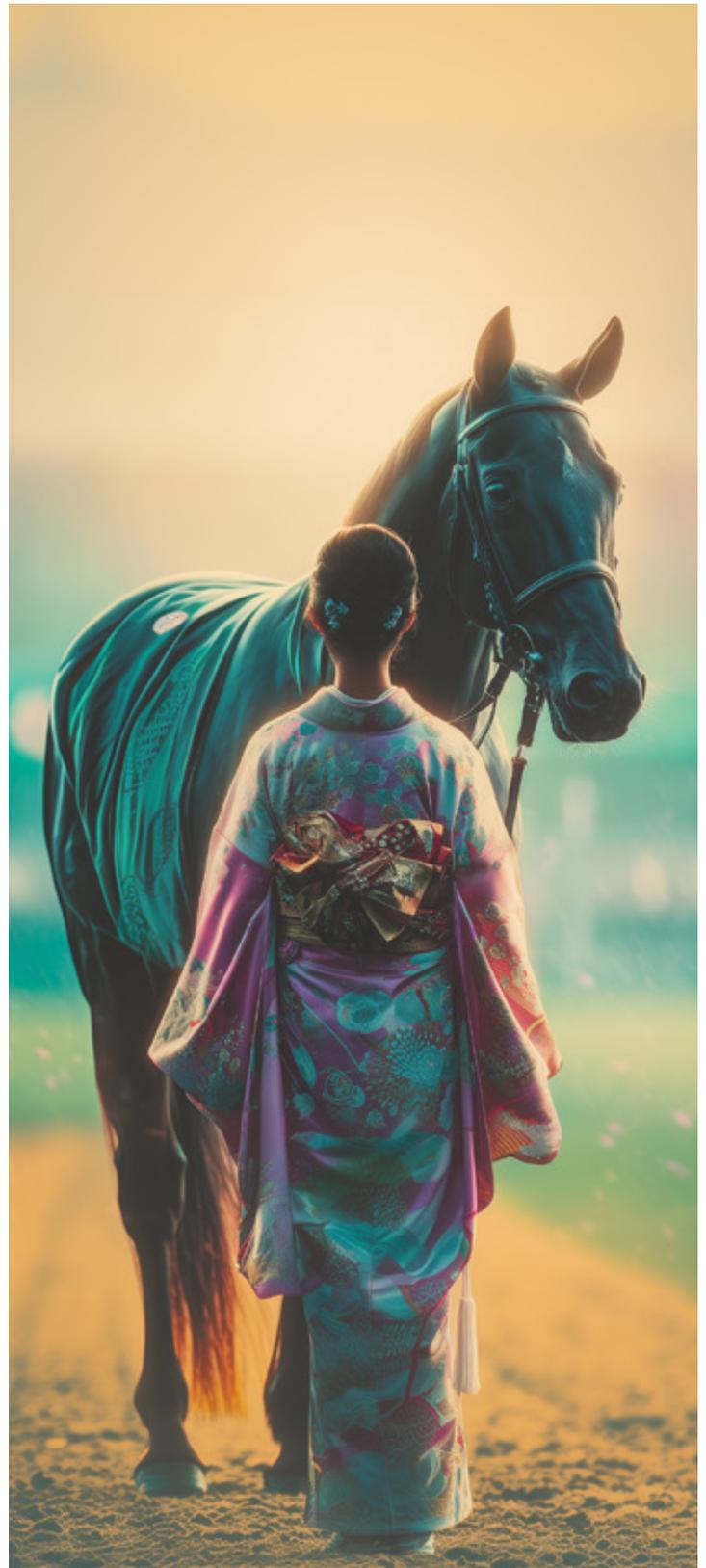
At Del Mar, the race feels personal. The ocean breeze, the passionate crowd, and the thrill of watching young talent take on a classic challenge; it all adds up to an unforgettable experience. The Hollywood Derby isn't just a race; it's a rite of passage, where rising stars meet legacy, and turf dreams come to life.

# THE CROWN JEWEL OF JAPANESE RACING

Once a year, Tokyo Racecourse transforms into the epicenter of international horse racing for one of the sport's most exhilarating performances, the Japan Cup. This year, the excitement returns on **November 30**, when elite thoroughbreds and top jockeys will gather to compete in a race that blends speed and sportsmanship at the highest level.

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Since its debut in 1981, the Japan Cup has turned into a global showcase, born from a bold vision to elevate Japanese racing by inviting world-class competitors to challenge local champions.



That inaugural race was won by Mairzy Doates, a U.S.-trained mare, setting the tone for decades of international brilliance. Today, the race is a Grade 1 turf event run over 2,400 meters (about 1.49 miles), with a prize pool exceeding ¥1 billion, making it one of the richest turf races on the planet.

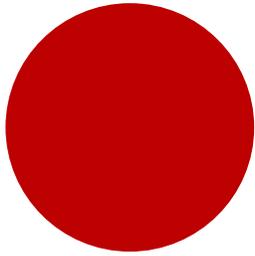
But the Japan Cup is more than just numbers and reputation. It's a celebration of excellence and progress.

Horses like Gentildonna and Almond Eye have become household names, each winning the Cup twice and capturing the hearts of fans with their grace and courage. Deep Impact's 2006 victory is still one of the most cherished moments in Japanese racing history, while international stars like Horlicks, Singspiel, and Falbrav have added their own unforgettable chapters.

The race is also famous for its dramatic uphill homestretch, where racers rampage and photo finishes keep fans on the edge of their seats. Legendary jockey Yutaka Take has claimed the Cup five times, a testament to his enduring skill and connection with the crowd.

**Beyond the track, the Japan Cup symbolizes Japan's rise as a powerhouse in global racing. It's a moment of pride, unity, and international goodwill, where cultures mingle and champions are crowned.**

With over 100,000 spectators filling the stands and millions more watching from home, the Japan Cup isn't just a race. It's a story of ambition, tradition, and the relentless pursuit of greatness, set to unfold once again on November 30.



# THE GRAND FINALE OF JAPANESE RACING

Every December, as the racing season winds down, Japan gathers for one final, stirring showdown, the Arima Kinen. **This year, the tradition continues on December 28**, when Nakayama Racecourse will once again host one of the most anticipated events in Japanese horse racing.

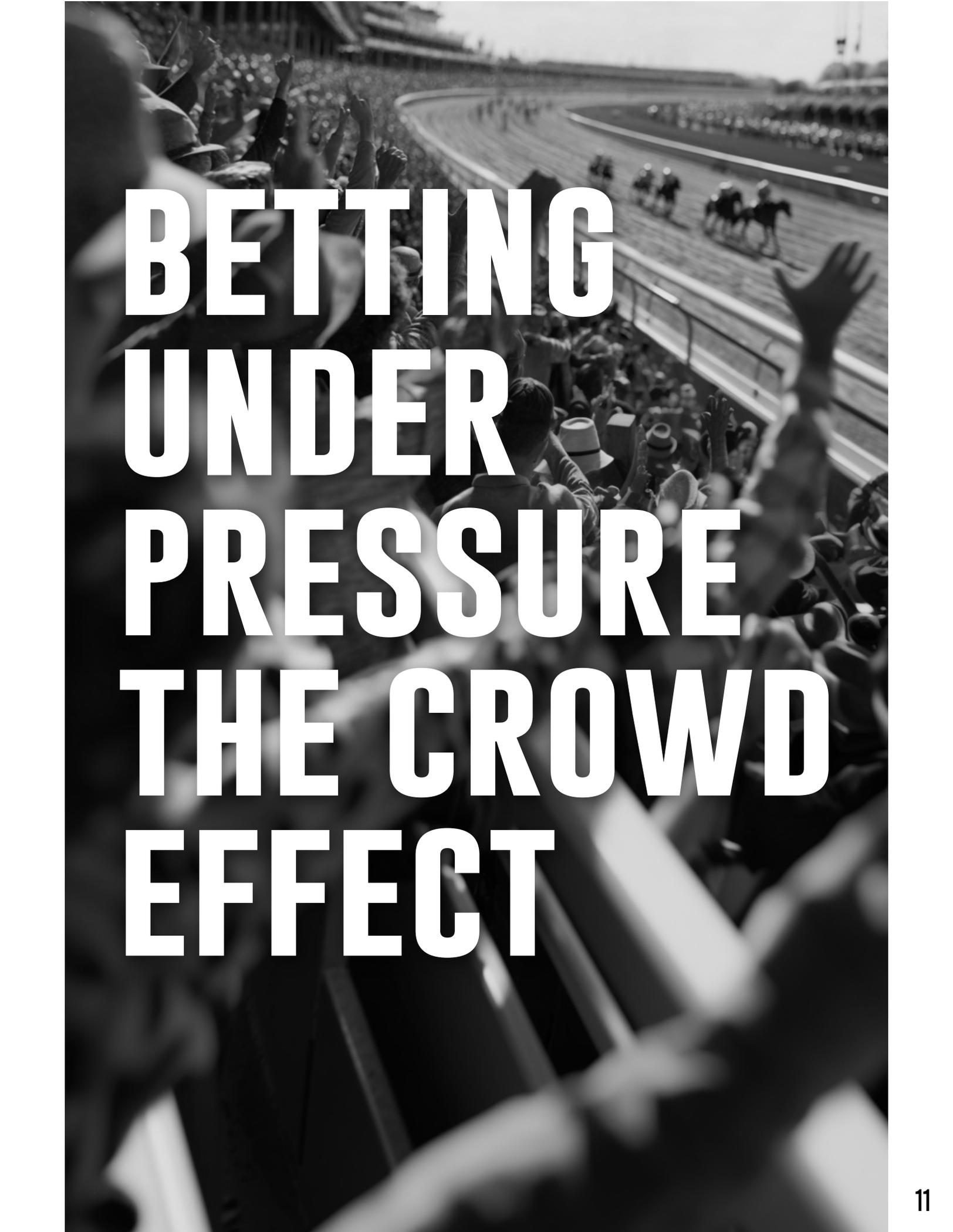
More than just a Grade 1 turf race, the Arima Kinen is a national celebration, a showcase of the sport's biggest stars, and a rare moment where fans get to shape the field themselves.

First run in 1956 as the Nakayama Grand Prix, the race was later renamed to honor its founder, Yoriyasu Arima, whose vision was to create a year-end spectacle that brought together the best horses, and the people who love them. What makes the Arima Kinen truly unique is its fan-voting system. Unlike most races, where entries are decided by rankings and qualifications, most of the field is chosen by the public vote. It's racing democracy in action, giving fans a powerful voice in the sport they cherish.

Run over 2,500 meters (about 1.55 miles) on turf; the Arima Kinen is open to three-year-olds and older, often featuring champions from earlier in the year. Legendary horses like Deep Impact, Orfevre, and Kitasan Black have all claimed victory here, each adding a dramatic chapter to the race's rich history. One of the most unforgettable moments came in 1993, when Tokai Teio returned from a year-long injury to win, an emotional triumph that still resonates with fans today.

Beyond the track, the Arima Kinen is a cultural event. It's often referenced in anime and pop culture, and it draws massive crowds and betting volumes that rival even the Japan Cup. For many, it's more than a race, it's a ritual, a way to reflect on the year in racing and to celebrate the horses that captured their hearts.

With its blend of elite competition and fan-driven excitement, the Arima Kinen stands as a symbol of Japan's deep connection to horse racing. It's not just about who wins; it's about who to cheer for, and the stories that carry into the new year.



**BETTING  
UNDER  
PRESSURE  
THE CROWD  
EFFECT**

Betting extends beyond calculations and the pursuit of winnings; it is inherently a social activity. Whether taking place at a racetrack, through a mobile app, or in casual conversations among peers, wagering decisions are often shaped by more than just data. They are influenced by surrounding individuals, the atmosphere of the moment, and a desire to take part in something shared.

Key to this behavior is **social influence**, the subtle, often unconscious tendency to adjust thoughts and actions based on others. In the context of betting, this may involve accepting advice from acquaintances, aligning with group strategies, or adopting tips shared within online communities. **Peer pressure can intensify this effect, encouraging conformity, discouraging opposition, and reinforcing the urge to gain approval by following the crowd.**

Behavioral psychology indicates that individuals are more inclined to take risks when others around them are doing the same. This phenomenon, known as “risk contagion,” is particularly noticeable in high-energy environments such as casinos, racetracks, or sports bars. In these settings, collective excitement can override personal caution.

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Observing a friend's big win or following a widely endorsed tipster may encourage increased betting activity, often driven by a desire to belong or a fear of missing out.

Community dynamics play a significant role as well. Betting groups, whether in-person or virtual, can foster a sense of connection and shared enthusiasm. When these communities are constructive and well-informed, they can support better decision-making, celebrate collective success, and promote responsible gambling. However, in environments marked by toxicity or excessive competitiveness, the same dynamics can lead to impulsive behavior, emotional distress, and financial risk.

Influences extend beyond immediate social circles. Cultural norms, media representations, and endorsements by public figures all contribute to how betting is perceived. In societies where gambling is glamorized or framed as a rite of passage, individuals may feel compelled to go along, often without a full understanding of the potential consequences.

Ultimately, betting is not solely a financial act; it is a social one. **Recognizing the impact of social dynamics and fostering positive, informed communities can help ensure that betting stays both enjoyable and mindful.** The goal is to strike a balance that honors the excitement of the experience while safeguarding the well-being of those who take part.

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# THE CENT THAT SPARKED A MOVEMENT

In the fast-paced world of horse racing, where every second counts and every dollar matters, a quiet revolution is reshaping the way bettors are treated, and it starts with something as small as a penny.

For decades, a practice known as “breakage” meant that when a winning wager was calculated, the payout was rounded down to the nearest dime or nickel. So, if your bet should have paid \$5.98, you’d only see \$5.90 in your account. Those leftover cents didn’t vanish; they were kept by the track or the state. And while each instance seemed minor, the cumulative effect was massive: millions of dollars quietly diverted from bettors every year.

Penny breakage is a reform that’s turning heads and winning hearts across the racing community. By paying out winnings to the exact penny, it restores fairness and transparency to the wagering process. It’s a bettor-first policy that reflects the digital age, where most bets are placed electronically, and rounding is no longer necessary. More importantly, it sends a clear message: horse racing values its fans and respects every cent they’ve earned.



Washington was one of the first states to embrace penny breakage, proving that even smaller racing jurisdictions could implement the change smoothly. Kentucky followed suit, becoming the first major racing state to adopt the policy across all tracks. **The impact was immediate, and meaningful; bettors received an estimated \$7 million more annually. In the 2025 Kentucky Derby, for example, the winning horse Sovereignty paid \$17.96 to win, \$7.50 to place, and \$5.58 to show.** Under the old system, those payouts would have been rounded down, shortchanging bettors by precious cents that now stay in their pockets.

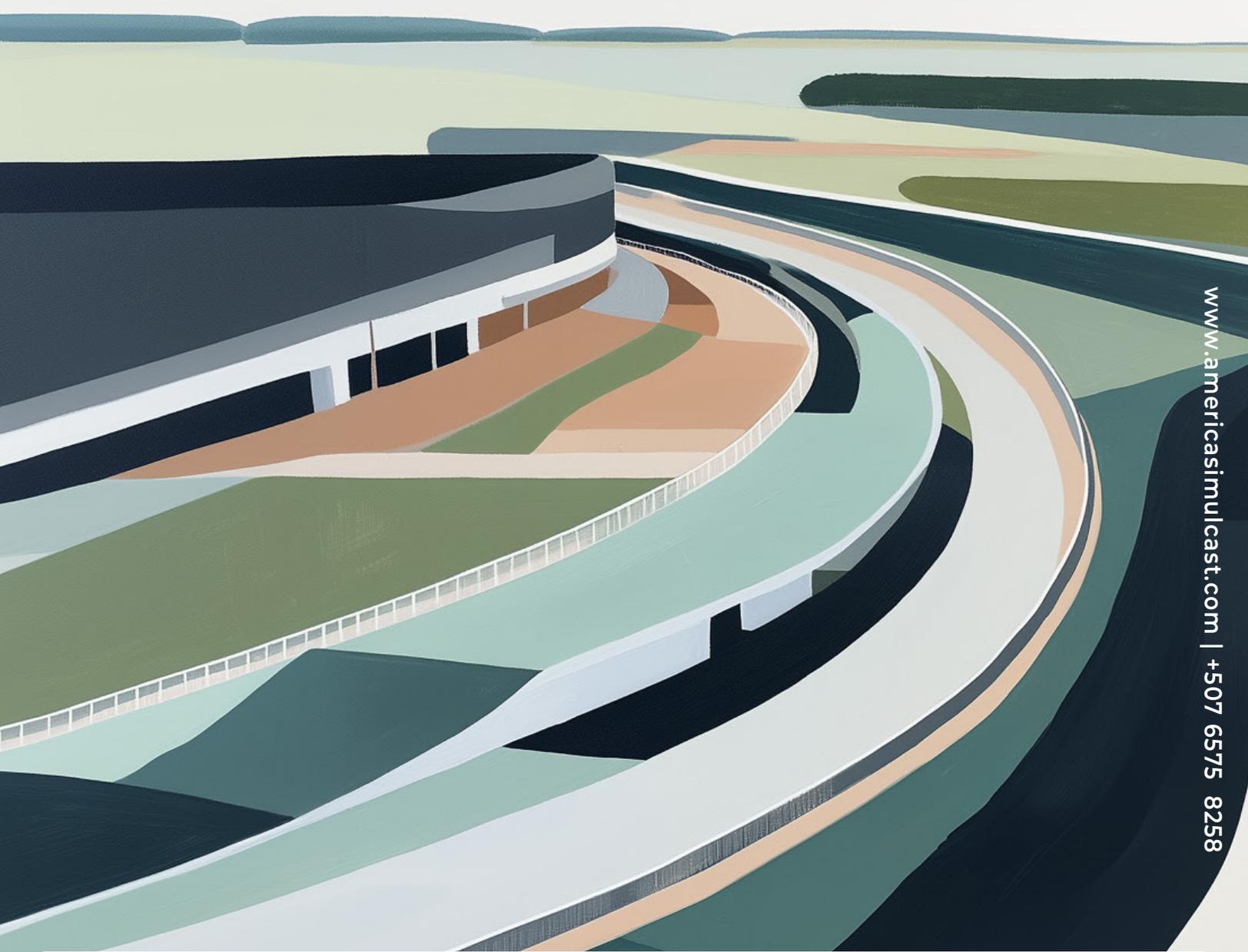
New York joined the movement in September 2025, enacting penny breakage through its FY 2026 state budget. The reform was promoted by the New York Racing Association (NYRA) and supported by Governor Kathy Hochul. It ensures that all wagers on NYRA races are paid to the penny, with one thoughtful exception: on-track bets may still use nickel breakage, but only if the retained funds are directed toward aftercare programs for retired racehorses. This blend of fairness and compassion reflects a broader commitment to modernizing the sport. Alongside penny breakage, New York also reduced pari-mutuel taxes, funded equine safety research, and dropped coupled entries, steps that signal a forward-thinking approach to racing.

The push for penny breakage has been led by passionate advocates like Pat Cummings, formerly of the Thoroughbred Idea Foundation and now with the National Thoroughbred Alliance. Their efforts have helped shift industry attitudes, encouraging racetracks and regulators to prioritize the bettor's experience. With Kentucky, New York, and Washington leading the way, penny breakage geared up to become the new standard across the country.

Ultimately, this reform is more than a technical adjustment; it's a statement of respect. **In a sport built on precision, passion, and trust, paying bettors every cent they've earned isn't just fair; it's essential.** It's a reminder that the racing industry thrives when it listens to its fans, embraces innovation, and puts integrity at the heart of every wager.



Thank you for reading; we have more to share and discover in this field. Stay tuned, you do not want to miss it!



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Review the most important future races in our calendar here  
<https://americasimulcast.com/carreras-destacadas/>