

Horse Racing's Biggest Issue..

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- Horse Racing is one of the world's oldest sports, The first modern-day horse race was held in 1776.
 - The industry's economic effect in the United States alone is estimated to be around \$130 billion dollars.
 - In 2021 the total American wagering handle was \$12.2 billion dollars.
 - Horse Racing's effect on domestic and international economics is one of the main reasons why the industry is so successful.

“The Bust of 2020”

- Trainers Jorge Navarro and Jason Servis were among 27 people who were indicted on federal charges for connection to using performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs) on racehorses. “Their horses experienced cardiac issues, overexertion leading to leg fractures, increased risk of injury, and in some cases death.”
- Jorge Navarro and Jason Servis had immense success in the industry. Jason Servis’ once \$16,000 claimer Maximum Security went on to win multiple Grade 1 races including the unofficial winner of the Kentucky Derby and \$20,000,000 Saudi Cup. When this news broke, all of their credibility was gone, and the Saudi Cup purse was not given to the connections of Maximum Security.
- Navarro’s champion sprinter XY Jet (top) died due to a heart attack during training in January 2020. His insurance was stopped due to his trainer’s decisions of what the horse was given. Both of those horses were given these PEDs.



What Did They Do?

- The substance they were found to be using is known as “SGF-1000” and the trainers were told by distributors that there is no drug test that would find the drug. If the drug would show up on a drug test, it would show as a false positive for other drugs including; Dexamethasone.
- Included in the indictment, they also used a drug they call “The Devil” which is “designed to hide illegal drugs on post-race or out-of-competition drug tests.”
- “The Devil” was another drug they used it was “something very new, you put it in the horse, you can give the horse cocaine: It will come back negative.” So basically this drug would cover anything you give.



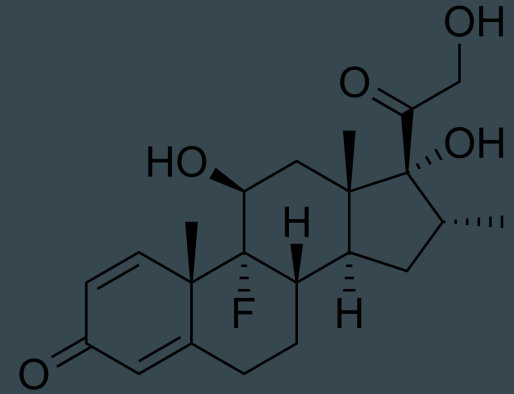
Multiple owners who had their horses with Navarro and Servis have horses with Hall Of Fame trainer Bob Baffert, who even ended up training Maximum Security after Jason Servis was arrested. Baffert's training kept Maximum Security suitable to keep competing in Grade 1 races. Baffert also trains for Rockingham Ranch who owned XY Jet who was killed during training by Navarro by overdosing him with SGF-1000.



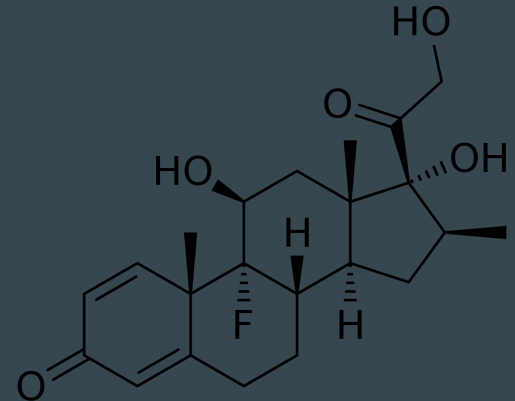
Dexamethasone and Betamethasone

- The drug SGF-1000 that killed XY Jet was said to occasionally be found on a drug test as Dexamethasone. Which is often mistaken for Betamethasone on a drug test, both drugs that Baffert's horses have failed drug tests for.
- The molecular weight and fragment ions of the two closely related drugs Dexamethasone and Betamethasone are basically identical. "So drug testing labs must use an additional layer of analysis to tell the two apart, the only way to actually tell them apart is by Chromatographic separation."

Dexamethasone



Betamethasone



Bob Baffert since 2018..

- In April 2018 Justify failed drug test after Justify won the Santa Anita Derby. He tested positive for the drug scopolamine, a banned substance that veterinarians say can enhance performance, especially in the amount that was found in the horse.
- In May of 2020 Bob Baffert had two horses test positive for Lidocaine on the same day. Charlatan and Gamine both shipped east to race in Arkansas for Baffert, both won their races, but both failed the post-race drug tests.
- In July of 2020 at his home base of California Baffert's winner, Merneith tested positive at Del Mar for Dextrophan which is a metabolite of dextromethorpha
- In September of 2020 Gamine, who had already failed drug tests for Baffert would then go on to run third in the 2020 Kentucky Oaks and tested positive for another drug, Betamethasone.
- In May of 2021 Medina Spirit would win the Kentucky Derby and fail the drug test which proved he had Betamethasone in his system as well.



Bob Baffert's Dark Past

- Since 2000 in the state of California alone, Bob Baffert has had 74 horses die under his care. He averages 8.3 deaths per 1000 starts. Basically 10% of every horse he runs. Not included in this statistic are horses who have died in other states, and horses who have died outside of a California Racetrack.
- On December 6th, 2021, on the verge of his 4th birthday, Medina Spirit collapsed and died of a reported heart attack during his routine training, the same fate XY Jet endured. Was it due to the same drug? We will never know.
- Baffert has won races at 24% over 43 years, which is incredibly good in retrospect of horse racing statistics especially having trained for 43 years and racing 14,036 times.
- His career and legacy will forever be tainted by modern-day technology used in drug tests.

Dead horses per 1,000 starts

The 10 trainers with the most deaths in California since 2000.

TRAINER	DEATHS PER 1,000 STARTS	DEATHS	STARTS
Bob Baffert	8.30	74	8,913
Jeff Bonde	8.12	52	6,401
Charles Treece	6.79	77	11,335
Jerry Hollendorfer	6.25	122	19,516
William E. Morey	5.83	41	7,028
John Sadler	5.62	54	9,602
Jesus Nunez	5.22	52	9,957
Jose Flores	4.51	44	9,766
Paul Jones	3.21	55	17,157
Doug F. O'Neill	3.20	46	14,379

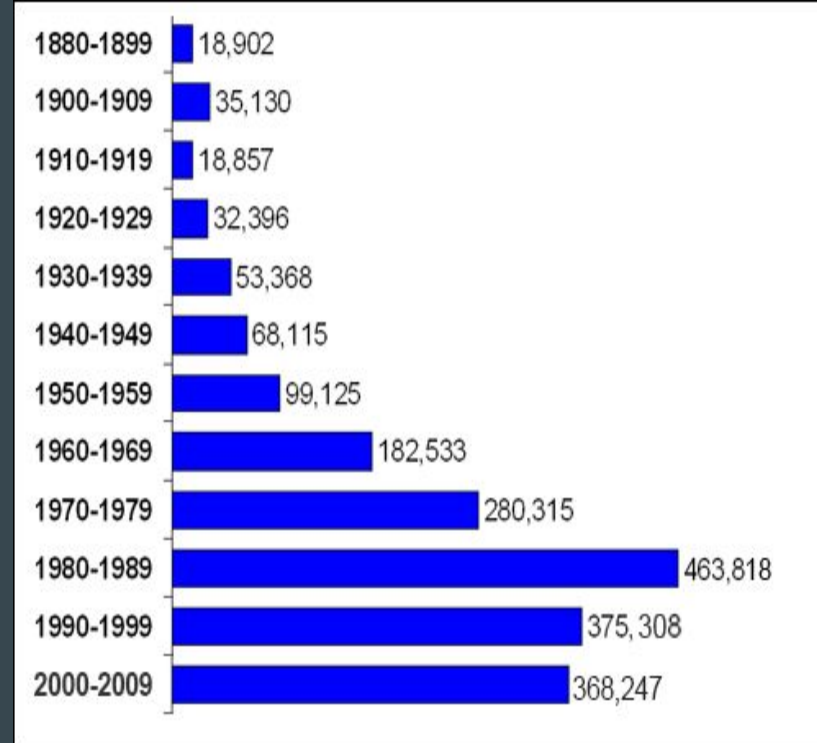
Sources: California Horse Racing Board and Daily Racing Form

THE WASHINGTON POST



How Does Any Of This Affect Horse Racing?

- Thoroughbred investors range from blue collared families who own a single horse to billionaires who spend millions of dollars on horses every year.
- Both investors share the same dream, to reach the winner's circle.
- If horse racing continues to neglect maintaining a level playing field, there will be a decline of those who seek investment opportunities in the sport.
- Along with the amount of owners, the number of bettors will also decline when they are tired of wagering on a "fixed" sport.



My First Hand Experience..

- It is very discouraging to race against people who cheat in this sport.
- When you work day-to-day, 365 days of the year, you know your horse is ready to run well. But when you have to face people who do illegal things to their horses when you do not. It is heartbreaking to see your horse run second to them naturally.
- Deep down I am humble in victory or defeat. As long as my horse tries and comes back sound. I am proud.
- I know that if the sport is clean one day then I will be able to reach my greatest potential as a trainer, I do not know how to cheat. I do not want to cheat. I would not be able to enjoy success that is not fairly earned.
- This is why I am a huge advocate for cleaning the sport of Horse Racing

Brighter Pastures Ahead..

- People who participate in these dangerous and unethical practices have risked not only their horses' lives but have also negatively affected the sport's integrity and public view.
- Thankfully with new technology more and more people get caught.
- The people who follow the regulations, do not cheat and, prioritize their animal's welfare first are often brushed aside and forgotten because of their ability to compete with the ones who do cheat.
- If horse racing can continue to stop the ones who take these shortcuts to success, and negatively affect the sport's public view then hopefully horse racing can see brighter days ahead for generations to come.

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