



GET INSIDE THE GAME Get premium online content and coverage not available anywhere else! PackerInsider.com Click here for your exclusive preseason subscription offer!



Business Blogs

Home » Blogs » Business Blogs



The Business of Sports

Don Walker offers news, notes and perspective on the ever-changing sports business landscape in Wisconsin and around the country

Dairyland Greyhound Track to close

By Don Walker of the Journal Sentinel

Nov. 10, 2009 | 92 COMMENTS

Dairyland Greyhound Track in Kenosha, the state's last pari-mutuel greyhound racing track in the state, will close at the end of the year.

The announcement was made on Tuesday to employees. The track opened on June 20, 1990.

"It's a sad day for the Dairyland family and Kenosha community," Roy Berger, Dairyland executive vice president, said in a press release. "We looked at every opportunity to apply for racing dates in 2010, but there was no longer a way to remain a viable entity."

Berger said the ownership group would now focus on helping the track's 180 employees "transition to new jobs and helping our kennel owners and operators work in conjunction with the State of Wisconsin to find homes for the racing greyhounds either at other racetracks or through an adoption group."

At one time there were five greyhound tracks in the state. The others were the Geneva Lakes Kennel Club; the Fox Valley Greyhound Park in Kaukauna, the Wisconsin Dells Greyhound Park in Lake Delton and the St. Croix Meadows Greyhound Racing Park in Hudson.

When the tracks first opened, people flocked to them. There were more than 3.5 million visitors in 1991, the first year all five tracks were open. But then attendance began dropping steadily in the 1990s.

Dairyland said it lost \$3.4 million last year. The track also has reported losses to the state of \$2.82 million in 2007, \$2.84 million in 2006 and \$2.41 million in 2005.

Dog tracks opened in Wisconsin after voters in 1987 approved a constitutional amendment allowing the creation of a state-run lottery and legalizing pari-mutuel betting. In 1991, a federal judge ruled that because Wisconsin now had a lottery and legalized betting at greyhound tracks the state also had to let Indian tribes open casinos.

The ownership group is expected to continue efforts to support the application of the Menominee tribe to build a \$1 billion casino on the grounds of the track.

The closing of the tracks follows a national trend of greyhound tracks closing, a victim of changing tastes and the ability of casinos, many of them owned and operated by Indian tribes, to attract gamblers.

The Menominee are continuing to pursue a lawsuit against the federal government, challenging a denial of the project that was issued in the final days of the Bush administration.

Greyhound adoption groups say they expect hundreds of dogs to be available for adoption. The groups, spread around the Midwest, have had experience before in finding homes for the greyhounds.

Comments (92) View Comments »

Permalink | Email This Blog

92 Comments

Post a Comment

Tools

TEXT SIZE AA - +

print

e-mail

RSS

Yahoo! Buzz

reddit

Delicious

facebook

Newsvine

Digg it

Technorati

Mixx

advertisement



Get Your Degree Online

Cambridge Students wanted! Get your degree from home on your schedule. Financial aid available. Learn more



Project Mgmt Certificate

Average Salary for Project Management Professionals is \$100k. Earn a PM Certificate from Villanova! Learn more

Add Your Link Here!

LATEST THE BUSINESS OF SPORTS POSTS

- A wrinkle in Packers' playoff ticket plans
Fay Vincent's interesting sports idea
Sirius XM, NFL extend agreement
Buyer beware for Wisconsin Rose Bowl fans
Wrong-way Wrigley game may be a first
Only one end zone will be used for Wrigley Field game
A tale of two franchises: Indians and the Brewers
ESPN's deal with Tiger Woods
Philadelphia Eagles are going green
Tiger joins the Twitterverse

ELSEWHERE IN SPORTS BUSINESS

Business of sports articles of interest from elsewhere on the Web.

More Sports Business Links

SPORTS BLOGS

SportsDay with Bob Wolfley
UW vs.TCU football history: One

Sort by: **Oldest** | Newest | Most Thumbs Up

Prev **1** 2 3 4 5 Next All

Liberative - Nov 10, 2009 12:37 PM » Report abuse 0 1

FANTASTIC!!!!!!!

MDavidson - Nov 10, 2009 12:37 PM » Report abuse 0 1

Good riddance.

ryanjhorton - Nov 10, 2009 12:57 PM » Report abuse 0 1

The best news I've heard in a long time. Good riddance, indeed. The slaughter of Greyhounds in Wisconsin for sport has come to an end.

Journ Sent Reader - Nov 10, 2009 1:05 PM » Report abuse 0 0

Yea, more job losses! AWESOME!

CCW - Don't post something so blatantly irresponsible if you don't back it up with any evidence

haakee49 - Nov 10, 2009 1:11 PM » Report abuse 0 0

I'll miss 50 cent beer/pizza nights

Jon Favre - Nov 10, 2009 1:19 PM » Report abuse 0 0

To the people celebrating this, I hope you lose your job this year, too.

Rustyroo - Nov 10, 2009 1:24 PM » Report abuse 0 0

CCW - Why on earth would you think these dogs are slaughtered? Just another uneducated person who thinks they know something about the breed.

I hope all the nice folks at Dairyland can find other jobs quickly.

Bombadil - Nov 10, 2009 1:31 PM » Report abuse 0 1

Great news. A sad chapter in the history of gambling in Wisconsin comes to an end with the closing of the last greyhound track. Sad news to the people losing their jobs, but not all jobs are honorable ones.

Bombadil - Nov 10, 2009 1:34 PM » Report abuse 0 1

Those who think greyhound racing is good, honest sport should read what The Humane Society has to say about it:

<http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/testmodel-4-2/>

Doves - Nov 10, 2009 1:44 PM » Report abuse 0 1

It's cause for celebration in my world! Now if the FL tracks would close I'd be on top of the world!!

quickhound - Nov 10, 2009 1:46 PM » Report abuse 0 0

The dogs love to race, there's no debating that.

GregJennings85 - Nov 10, 2009 2:00 PM » Report abuse 0 0

What will these poor dogs do now that they won't be running around a track, pointlessly?

Doves - Nov 10, 2009 2:02 PM » Report abuse 0 0

No debating that they are bred to run. The loving to race part???

GregJennings85 - Nov 10, 2009 2:04 PM » Report abuse 0 0



tie



Packers Blog
Packers sign Tramon Williams to contract extension (98)



On the Trail
Gun deer harvest up 11% (1)



Bucks Blog
Jackson suspended for outburst at BC (10)



Off the Couch
American Birkebeiner sets date for second tour



Badgers Blog
UW to explore NFL options for Watt, Clay and Toon (39)



Brewers Blog
Braun to be in Lake Geneva parade (38)



The Business of Sports
A wrinkle in Packers' playoff ticket plans (9)



Golden Eagles Blog
Is TCU coming to the Big East? (36)



Racing Beat
The King has his castle back (3)

FOLLOW THIS BLOG ON TWITTER



Follow the Business of Sports blog on Twitter at [js_bizofsports](#).

STATS AND STUFF

PACKERS

- Schedule | Results
- Roster
- Statistics
- NFL scoreboard
- Official site

BREWERS

- Schedule | Results
- Story archive
- Roster
- Statistics
- MLB scoreboard
- Official site



BUCKS

- Schedule
- Story archive
- Roster
- Statistics
- NBA scoreboard
- Official site

BADGERS Football

Santa's Little Helper comes to mind.

quickhound - Nov 10, 2009 2:06 PM

» Report abuse 0  0 

I urge you to go to the track, go outside on the apron and watch the dogs demeanor as they are walking to the starting box. And then pay attention them as the lure is coming around before the box opens.

Jon Favre - Nov 10, 2009 2:21 PM

» Report abuse 0  0 

"Not all jobs are honorable ones". Yeah, like food service, maintenance, and ticket-takers. They totally deserve to lose their jobs, right Bombadil?

While I cannot celebrate the track closing, it was the right thing to do from an economic standpoint. But being happy about it? Jeez.

btamb - Nov 10, 2009 2:24 PM

» Report abuse 0  0 

There's no doubt the dogs love to run. However, it was irresponsible and cruel to have them run on a subpar track that had not been resurfaced in years, increasing their chance of injury--all while the venture lost \$11.47 Million in 4 years. My heart goes out to those who lost their jobs, as well as to the dogs that now need homes in the wake of this debacle. My hat goes off to those that help.

ParadeMom - Nov 10, 2009 2:25 PM

» Report abuse 0  0 



Its a sad day for all the track employee's.

For those who think the greyhounds in Wisconsin are slaughtered..get your facts straight! Wisconsin was one of the toughest advocates for greyhounds.

Those "poor" dogs will be couch potatoes which is what they love to do after they retire from racing. Go adopt one, they make excellent pets and will love you unconditionally. They are no different that any other home pet.

To my old work buddies at the track, good luck in your future endeavors.

sighthounds4me - Nov 10, 2009 2:27 PM

» Report abuse 0  0 

For those that think Greyhound racing is cruel, based on things that the H\$U\$ and PeTA spout, please remember that those two organizations try hard to bring an end to pet ownership as a whole. So it should be no surprise that they would like us all to believe that Greyhound racing, horse racing, and other dog sports, are cruel. Yes, it is true that some Greyhounds are still dispatched after their days on the track. But Wisconsin is a no-kill state, meaning it is illegal for owners and trainers to kill their dogs, just because they are no longer making money in the sport. Yes, there are still bad apples, but with the help of the National Greyhound Association and Greyhound adoption groups like Greyhound Pets of America, things are changing for the better. Don't believe every piece of propaganda given to you! Personally, I am most upset for those who will lose their jobs. The Greyhounds will find homes...

kaylyred - Nov 10, 2009 2:37 PM

» Report abuse 0  0 

It's truly a shame for those losing their jobs. Job loss hurts, but it stings worse near the holidays. There are plenty of "honorable" jobs in the greyhound racing industry, as Jon Favre noted.

I share my life with two retired racing greyhounds. They are wonderful animals. I urge anyone who loves dogs to learn more about retired racers and consider adoption (gpawisconsin.org is a great resource). Contrary to what many believe, retired racers are laid back and about as mellow as a dog can get. They do not need a great deal of exercise--greyhounds are sprinters, not endurance runners, so they spend most of their lives preparing to run rather than actually doing it. (And by "preparing to run" I mean "sleeping.")

That said, while I'm sorry for the job losses, I'm not sorry to see the track close. We've heard of excessive injuries and, recently, the death of dogs, and it's become clear that the track's financial situation was endangering the racers.

Sort by: **Oldest** | Newest | Most Thumbs Up

Prev **1** 2 3 4 5 Next All

Post a comment

- » Schedule | Results
- » Roster
- » Statistics
- » NCAA scoreboard
- » Official site

Men's Basketball

- » Schedule
- » Roster
- » Statistics
- » Scoreboard
- » Official site

Women's Basketball

- » Schedule
- » Roster
- » Scoreboard
- » Official site

GOLDEN EAGLES

Men's Basketball

- » Schedule
- » Roster
- » Statistics
- » Scoreboard
- » Official site

Women's Basketball

- » Schedule
- » Roster
- » Scoreboard

PANTHERS

Men's Basketball

- » Schedule
- » Roster
- » Statistics
- » Scoreboard
- » Official site

Women's Basketball

- » Schedule
- » Roster
- » Scoreboard

PREPS

Football

- » Schedule/results
- » Leaderboards
- » Standings
- » Players
- » Teams
- » WIAA Web site

Boys Basketball

- » Schedule/results
- » Leaderboards
- » Standings
- » Players
- » Teams

Girls Basketball

- » Schedule/results
- » Leaderboards
- » Standings
- » Players
- » Teams

ADMIRALS

- » Schedule
- » Official site

We encourage your comments but will strive to remove discussion that contains personal attacks, racial slurs, profanity or other inappropriate material as outlined in our [guidelines](#). We post-moderate comments on most content, but may choose to pre-moderate some comments so please be patient if you don't see yours appear right way. We also ask for your help by reporting comments you think are inappropriate.

Please [login](#) or [register](#) to post a comment.

WAVE

- [Schedule](#)
- [Roster](#)
- [Official site](#)

IRON

- [Schedule](#)
- [Roster](#)
- [Statistics](#)
- [Scoreboard](#)
- [Official site](#)

ARCHIVES

- [November 2010](#)
- [October 2010](#)
- [September 2010](#)
- [August 2010](#)
- [July 2010](#)
- [June 2010](#)
- [May 2010](#)
- [April 2010](#)
- [March 2010](#)
- [February 2010](#)
- [January 2010](#)
- [2009](#)
- [2008](#)
- [2007](#)
- [2006](#)

Sponsored Links

Prius Special Offers

2010 Toyota Prius Special Offer at BuyToyota.com
www.buyatoyota.com/Prius

Shocking Discovery for your Joints

Shocking discovery by Cambridge Researcher's for amazing joint relief
EverydayLifestyles.com

Trade Stock Online

Advanced Trading Tools and Resources! Sign Up Today!
JustClickLocal.com

[Buy a link here](#)

Elsewhere on JSOnline

Holiday TV



Listing of holiday TV specials

Giving Guide



Find a charitable organization

Melinda Myers



Melinda Myers' tips for Christmas tree care

Education



Building a Better Teacher

Readers' Picks



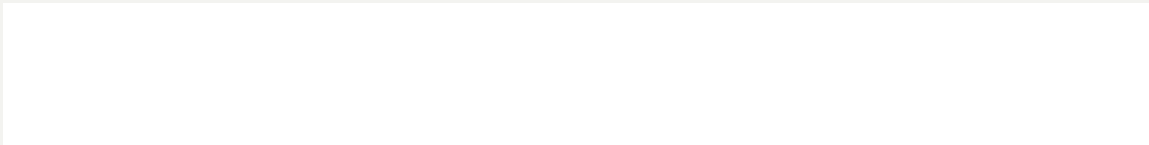
Restaurant recommendations in dozens of categories

Recipe Database



Search, print, rate Journal Sentinel recipes

advertisement



[JSOnline](#) | [MyCommunityNOW](#) | [Living Lake Country](#) | [MilwaukeeMoms](#) | [Today's TMJ4](#) | [Newsradio 620](#) | [94.5 Lake FM](#)

PRIVACY POLICY/YOUR CALIFORNIA PRIVACY RIGHTS

| [Terms of Use](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Subscription Services](#) | [Place an Ad](#) | [About Our Ads](#)

© 2010, Journal Sentinel Inc. All rights reserved.

Powered by Clickability.

Produced and Managed by Journal Interactive.

