



October 27, 2009

**NEW YORK STATE OTB'S ANNOUNCE WINNERS IN THE FIRST-EVER
STATEWIDE HANDICAPPING CHAMPIONSHIP**

Approximately \$40,000 In Cash And Prizes Awarded In New York's Inaugural Statewide Showdown

(Albany NY) --- New York State's top horseracing handicappers were crowned this Saturday, October 24, 2009 at the Albany Tele-theater in Albany, New York, OTB (Off-Track Betting Corporation) officials announced today. The Empire State's top 3 handicappers were officially crowned in the first-ever New York State OTB Handicapping Championship with the top money prize totaling nearly \$28,000.

Saturday's final showdown was a culmination of the statewide competition that began October 3rd at numerous OTB sites across New York State. The cost to enter the New York State OTB Handicapping Championship was only \$20.

- The New York State OTB Handicapping Champion, Jeff Barone, representing Nassau OTB, received a grand prize of \$27,551.
- The 2nd Place winner of \$7,871 was Stephen Jenny, representing Suffolk OTB.
- The 3rd Place winner of \$3,935 was Peter Wankmiller, also representing Nassau OTB.

Along with bragging rights as New York's best, all of the top three finishers receive an expense paid trip to Las Vegas, and an entry into the Horseplayer World Series to be held on February 18th, 2010.

"I would like congratulate all the participants in the inaugural New York State OTB Handicapping Championship" said John Signor, President and CEO of Capital OTB. "It was a terrific tournament and a way for the OTBs to provide our patrons with a low-cost, fan-friendly contest with life changing results. The winner entered the contest for \$20 and walks off with nearly \$28,000 in prize money. This is yet another example of how the OTBs are leading the way in New York by providing these types of events for our loyal patrons."

"Congratulations to all the New York State Racing Fans from Buffalo to Montauk who participated in the first statewide OTB Handicapping Championship" said Nassau OTB President Dino G. Amoroso. "Nassau Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation is particularly proud of Grand Champion Jeffrey Barone from Franklin Square and 3rd place winner Peter Wankmiller from Franklin Square. Long Island was well represented with the Champion and 3rd place winner from Nassau County and the 2nd place winner was

from Suffolk County (Stephen Jenny) along with the 4th and 5th place finishers, also representing Suffolk OTB.”

“Nassau OTB proudly sends our representatives on to the Coast Casino World Championships in February of 2010. With Jeff Barone’s and Pete Wankmiller’s outstanding achievement in the New York State Handicapping Championship this past Saturday, and with John Conte from Nassau as the reigning National Champion from this years DRF/NTRA Contest, we’re proud to see that Nassau County is at the center of the Handicapping Contest Universe”, said President Amoroso.

“The New York State OTB Handicapping Championship was a great example of the six OTB Regions doing something special for our customers. For a small \$20.00 entry fee, the winner walked away with over \$27,000.00 and a trip to Las Vegas and a chance to win many thousands of dollars more”, said President Amoroso. Once again the Players and Racing Fans of New York win BIG at OTB.”

Western OTB President Martin Basinait said, “New York’s OTB corporations have provided ‘the best distribution network’ for horse racing nationally for nearly forty years. The 2009 New York State OTB Handicapping Championship is just another prime example of how N Y’s OTB’s have, and continue to take a leadership role in the support and marketing of racing. Well done”.

Catskill OTB President, Donald Groth said, "I wish to congratulate all participants and especially the lucky Long Island winners of the New York State OTB Handicapping Championship. I am confident that Catskill entrants will be ready to win the next contest to be offered by the OTBs."

The New York State OTBs will be holding another collective event to coincide with this year’s Breeders Cup. On Saturday November 7th, DRF’s own Steven Crist will be given a \$6,000 bankroll to wager on the Breeders Cup Ultra Pick 6. 30 horseplayers from around New York State (5 from each regional OTB) will share in any winnings from Mr. Crist’s Pick 6 ticket! Participation information is available at respective OTB websites, and at www.OTBPICK6.com.



NEW YORK STATE’S REGIONAL OTBs ... working together for YOU!

