News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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ELLIS PARK CLOSES SUMMER MEET WITH RECORD $77 MILLION HANDLE, UP 6% FROM 2024

HENDERSON, Ky. (Monday, Aug. 25, 2025) – Ellis Park Racing & Gaming closed its 25-day summer season Sunday on a high note, generating $77 million in all-sources handle, a 6% increase over last year's record $72.7 million.

"All of us at Ellis Park are truly grateful to both our local community and the broader horse racing community for their incredible support this summer," said **Steve Roof**, general manager of Ellis Park Racing & Gaming and Owensboro Racing & Gaming. "This shared enthusiasm drives our momentum forward and reinforces Ellis Park as one of the premier summer tracks in the country."

Along with the strong handle, a record $18.7 million in purses were awarded across 227 races, an increase of more than $3.6 million or 24.1% compared to last year. (includes contributions from the Kentucky Thoroughbred Development Fund)

The meet was headlined by the return of jockey **Tyler Gaffalione**, one of North America's premier riders, who came back from injury and vaulted to the top of the standings with 28 victories from 99 mounts, while earning purses of more than $2.3 million.

"Thank you to all of the people who have supported me coming back off of injury," Gaffalione said. "It was great to have such a successful summer at Ellis Park and I'm really looking forward to building on this foundation for a successful fall."

Gaffalione's summer included a six-win day on Aug. 10, highlighted by victories in the $300,000 Ellis Park Derby (Listed), $200,000 Audubon Oaks, $200,000 R.A. "Cowboy" Jones Stakes, and $200,000 Ellis Park Juvenile.

Hall of Fame trainer **Steve Asmussen** clinched the training title with 15 wins, four more than **Brendan Walsh**. Asmussen started 143 runners during the meet, with purses totaling $1.2 million. His winners included promising 2-year-old **Fuel**, who earned an 86 Brisnet Speed Rating in his Aug. 22 debut.

Godolphin led all owners with nine wins from 30 starts, including stakes victories in the $250,000 Kentucky Downs Preview Ladies Turf Sprint with **Pondering** and the $150,000 Ellis Park Turf Stakes with **Hope Mission**.

Horseplayers benefited from a competitive meet with an average $2 win payoff of $12.43 and a closing-day payout of $3,832 in the 20-cent Dade Park 6 Jackpot, which had a total pool of $866,642.

Live racing will return to Ellis Park in July 2026. For more information about racing and gaming at Ellis Park and its sister property Owensboro Racing & Gaming, visit www.ellisparkowensborogaming.com.

ABOUT ELLIS PARK RACING & GAMING

Ellis Park Racing and Gaming ("Ellis Park") located north of the Ohio River and just south of Evansville, Indiana, has been the home of summer Thoroughbred racing in Kentucky for more than 100 years. Ellis Park also features a gaming entertainment venue with approximately 300 historical racing machines. www.ellisparkowensborogaming.com

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