

**Working ~ Worksheet 10: Week 12,
pp. 359~366: Eddie Arroyo, Jockey**

**NB. Read through the two newspaper
articles following this worksheet to see
how Eddie's life developed after his
interview for *Working***



1. What does Studs Terkel mean by 'He is a jockey, unmistakably' ?
2. Why does Eddie have to keep his weight down?
3. How does Eddie feel about the dangers of the jockey's life? Is he scared?
4. What sort of relationship does Eddie have with his family?
5. "I read how much jockeys made, so I figured I'll give it a try." Does Eddie like being a jockey? Is it just a job?
6. Where do jockeys belong in the scheme of things? What's their status?
7. "I feel I'd rather ride a horse from behind" – p.362. How does Eddie justify this strategy?
8. Write about Eddie' personality. In his case, because he's fairly well-known, we know what Eddie looks like.



NEXT: Charlie Blossom, Copy Boy: pp.437~446.

Taking the reins Arroyo ready to face challenges of new job.

Mike Spellman (Daily Herald, 27 March 2002)

Stewards. The great and powerful Oz of horse racing. From behind the curtain - or rather, perched high atop the track in their booth - stewards are the ones responsible for determining the order of finish in all races, just one part of their wide array of duties. Your horse gets disqualified? Blame the stewards. They'll never be the most popular people at any track.

Eddie Arroyo knows that as well as anyone. The former jockey, who retired in 1978 after 12 years of riding, served his time in the steward's booth from 1979 to 1990.

He began as an assistant steward and worked his way up to senior state steward before opting to work in a variety of management positions within the industry.

He began as the assistant to the president at Arlington Park, and most recently was general manager at the National Jockey Club at Sportsman's Park. Now he's back in the steward's booth - and in the limelight - after being named by the Illinois Racing Board to replace Rene Riera as the senior state steward.

Arroyo will be one of two state stewards, along with Joe Lindeman (Steve Morgan and John Eddy as alternates), who will serve at all three Chicago thoroughbred tracks. In addition to that pair, an association steward appointed by the host track will make up the decision-making troika.

Arroyo took time to answer some questions.

Why would you want to get back into the steward's booth?

As you know, I come from racing - from the backstretch. That's where I started. It's been my life. I have enjoyed my tenure and have learned just an immense amount by working with people like (Arlington chairman) Dick Duchossois and with Ed Duffy and Charlie Bidwill and his dad (Stormy).

The opportunity presented itself, and I thought it was probably in my best interest to solicit the position and I was fortunate to be granted it. I thought it was the best move for me at this time in my life for myself and my family.

Can you give examples of things jockeys might do during races that you can see that others might miss?

I don't know what other stewards can or can't see. I can tell you that being and living in that world, there's a lot of things jockeys do - like any other athlete - that

gives them an advantage.

There's nothing wrong with that. I've always subscribed to the philosophy that you don't ever want to take the competitiveness out of the jockeys. However, you have to ensure that the race is fair and safe.

And you know the tricks of the trade. I'll give you an example. A slight hand movement or a slight pull of the elbow, at the speed those horses are going, if a jockey would make a little move (with his hand or arm) it would actually turn that horse just a marginal amount where it would actually intimidate another horse. It wouldn't bump, but it would make the horse that's approaching him think that he's going to hit his horse and he'll hesitate - all from a little shifting of the weight. It happens. It happens a lot. And that's OK as long as it does not cause an infraction.

THERIOT GETS 30 DAYS FOR ROLE IN DOUGLAS ACCIDENT

Monday, May 25th, 2009 *By Ray Paulick*

Jockey Jamie Theriot has been suspended 30 days by Illinois Racing Board stewards for his actions in Saturday's Arlington Matron Handicap that resulted in a spill in which jockey Rene Douglas has been seriously injured and possibly paralyzed from the waist down.

The ruling against the 30-year-old Theriot reads: "Jockey Jamie Theriot is hereby suspended from riding 30 calendar days, Saturday, May 30, 2009, through Sunday, June 28, 2009, inclusive, for permitting his mount 'Sky Mom' to jostle another horse during the running of the 9th race Saturday, May 23, 2009, causing the jostled horse to clip heels and fall, injuring both jockey and horse. Jockey Theriot's mount 'Sky Mom' was disqualified from 5th to last position."

The ruling was signed by state stewards Joseph Lindeman and Eddie Arroyo and association steward Peter Kosiba Jr.

Theriot had Sky Mom racing along the rail throughout the 1 1/8-mile Matron. Douglas' mount Born to Be was right alongside Sky Mom as the field hit the top of the stretch, when Theriot appeared to angle Sky Mom out for racing room. The two horses bumped or jostled, and Born to Be clipped the heels of another horse, stumbling and throwing Douglas, then rolling over the fallen rider.

Douglas, 42, was placed on a stretcher and taken by ambulance to a nearby hospital. Later that night, he was moved to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, where he underwent seven hours of spinal surgery. His agent, Dennis Cooper, told reporters the native of Panama who came to the U.S. in 1983 and is a six-time Arlington Park riding champion might never walk again. Cooper said doctors held out remote hopes the paralysis might disappear as the swelling to the spinal region is reduced. Born to Be, a 4-year-old stakes-placed A.P. Indy filly owned by Chiefswood Stable, was euthanized.

Monday, April 28, 2008 Racing Daily Form

Jockeys Receive Higher Mount Fee

After intense negotiations at Hawthorne on Friday, racing went off without a hitch Saturday after negotiations between jockeys and horsemen caused a two-hour delay in starting Friday's card.

The issue of the base mount fee bubbled up last June at Arlington, receded into the background, and boiled over again this week. Friday's first race was scheduled for 3 p.m. but went off shortly before 5 when riders insisted they would not participate unless horse owners agreed to pay a \$75 fee to the jockeys whose mounts finish worse than fifth. Previously, riders on fourth- and fifth-place finishers were paid a base mount fee only, but they will now receive 2 percent of the horse's earnings in the race.

As of Saturday, jockeys were presenting horse owners with a contract upon arriving in the paddock before a particular race. If the owners agreed to pay the new fees, the jockey would ride; if not, the jockey would decline to ride, according to jockey Jerry LaSala, a local representative of the Jockeys' Guild. If all riders in the colony adhere to the new fee schedule, the horse would have to be scratched.

State Steward Eddie Arroyo said that jockeys who declined to ride would not be punished for failing to honor their calls.

The \$75 fee represents a \$30 raise over the \$45 base mount fee jockeys have been paid for more than 20 years. The issue of how to increase the fee has led to rancor between some riders and some members of the Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, in great part because there are no strict rules in Illinois defining how much riders are to be paid.

Some states mandate mount fees but not Illinois. And while Illinois Racing Board executive director Marc Laino has tried to mediate the dispute, Laino said that the IRB has no authority to set fees.

"The riders and the horsemen have been operating since 1985 with this informal understanding of what the base fees are," Laino said.

Jockeys regularly file mount-fee reports with the horsemen's bookkeeper, who then disburses the appropriate funds from the purse account to the riders. While riders began billing on the new fee schedule Friday, those funds have yet to be paid, and disagreements between activist jockeys and the leadership of the ITHA may not be fully settled yet.

ITHA president Frank Kirby declined to comment on his organization's position because the issue was ongoing. The ITHA and riders have periodically feuded and negotiated over the mount fee issue for more than a year. A lawsuit filed by riders

trying to force a fee hike was dropped last October.

Jockeys' Guild national manager Terry Meyocks was at Hawthorne supporting the riders Saturday, but Meyocks said that the actions here were being undertaken by individual riders acting as independent contractors. The \$45 base mount fee here does lag behind other jurisdictions. New York raised such fees this month to \$100, Meyocks said.

Racing shifts to Arlington on Friday. Arlington is part of Churchill Downs, Inc., with whom the Jockeys' Guild has a no-strike contract. But if local riders are acting as individual contractors, as they now contend, their actions this week may not constitute a strike. *By Marcus Hersh/Daily Racing Form*