



# Polytrack: Two Years Running





- **History of Polytrack**

- Developed by Martin Collins
- 1987 : in use for training in England
- 2001: in use for racing in England
- Sept 2004: in use at Keeneland for training
- 2005: in use at Turfway for training & racing
  - Opened for training August 3, 2005
  - Opened for racing September 7, 2005



- **Turfway: a rigorous Polytrack laboratory**
  - **One track in continuous use**
    - Racing 5 days a week, 5 months of the year
    - Training 6 days a week year-round
  - **Temperature swings the Ohio Valley norm**
    - Average low (January): 21° F
    - Average high (July): 86° F
    - Average precipitation: 3.5" per month



- **2005-2006: a nearly flawless first year**
  - **Meet-over-meet handle increases**
    - 2005 Holiday Meet through 2006 Holiday Meet
  - **Few cancellations**
    - 1 full (winter storm), 1 partial (power outage)
  - **Dramatic reduction in fatal breakdowns**
    - Sept 2004 – Apr 2005 (last dirt): 24
    - Sept 2005 – Apr 2006 (first Polytrack): 3



- **2007: “Averages? What averages?”**
  - **Winter**
    - 3 weeks of temps far below normal
  - **Summer**
    - 4 weeks of temps far above normal
  - **Precipitation**
    - 13” below normal through September



- **Learning from extremes**
  - **Winter**
    - Temps unsafe for horses and riders
    - Deep cold affected Polytrack
    - Material applied to mitigate effect of deep cold
  - **Summer**
    - Surface unaffected by high temps and drought



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- **Racing year handle comparison**
  - Year = fall, holiday, winter/spring meets
  - Other factors also affected handle
    - 2005 Fall Meet: horsemen's boycott
    - 2005 Fall Meet: Hurricane Katrina/Fair Grounds
    - 2007 Winter/Spring Meet: weather extremes
    - Various meets: decisions about OTBs and ADWs

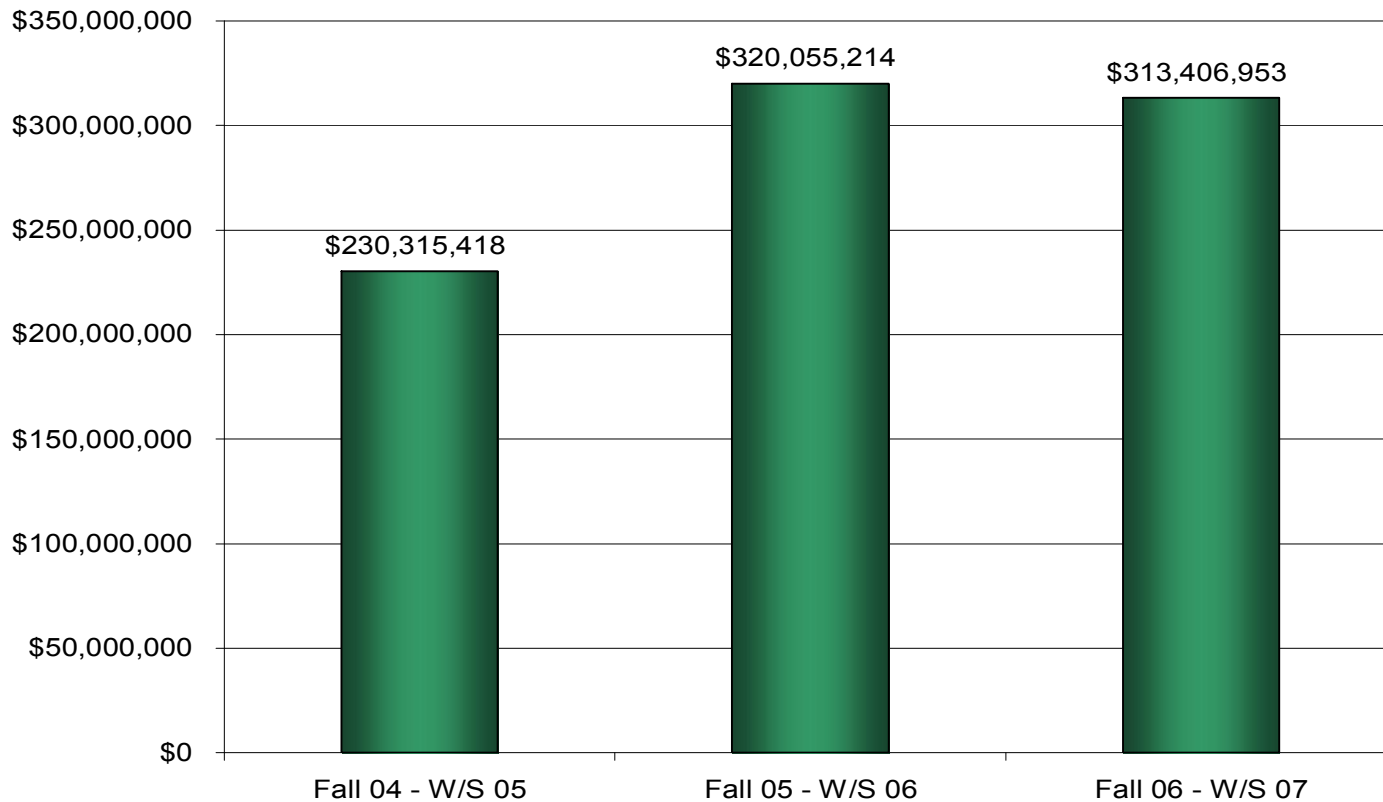


- **Racing year handle comparison, cont.**
  - Meets run on Polytrack: 7
  - Like meets showing increased all-sources: 4
  - Like meets showing increased on-track: 5
  - Comparing racing year to racing year, on-track handle has increased every year.



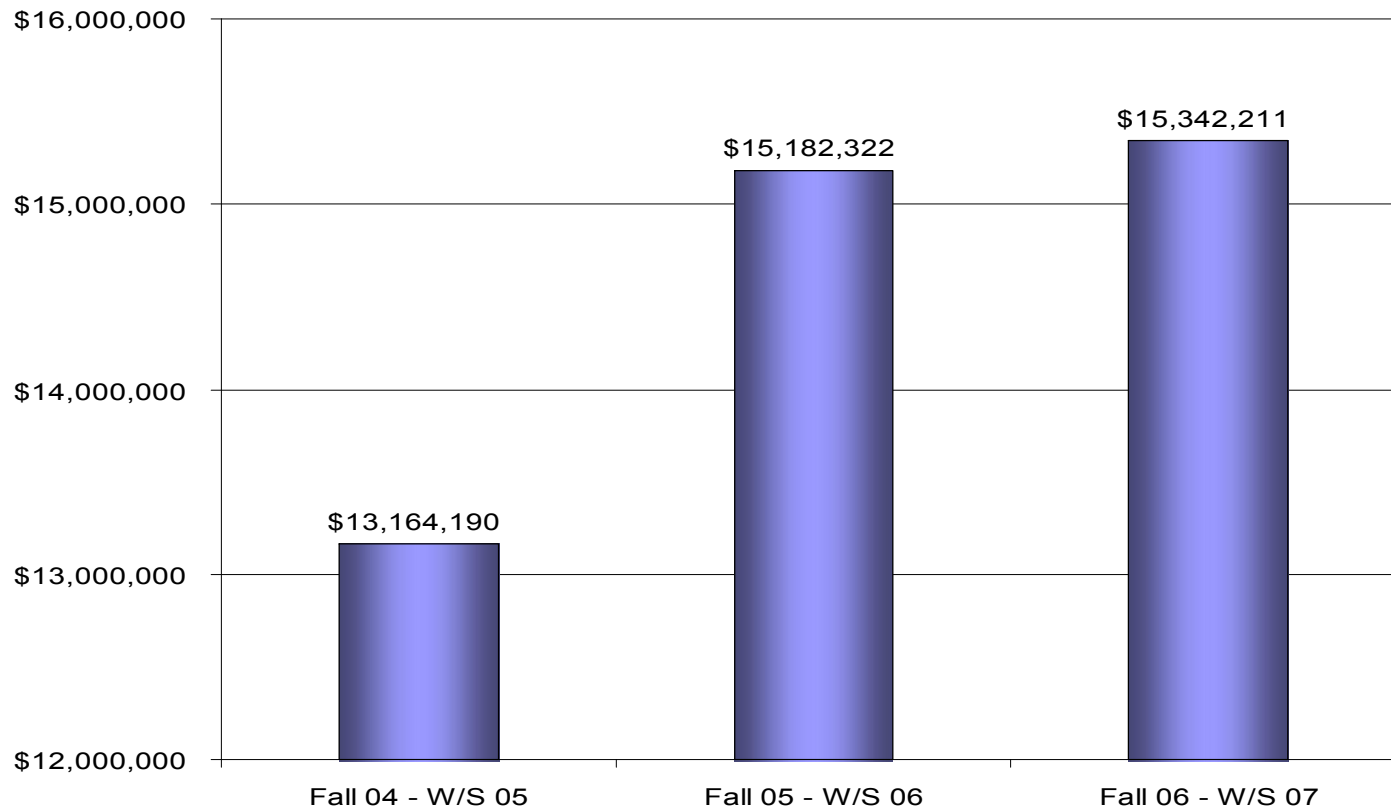


- **All-sources handle comparison**





- **On-track handle comparison**





- **Cancellations**

- **Pre-Polytrack**

- 2003 Winter/Spring Meet only: 15
    - 2004 Winter/Spring Meet only: 12
    - 2005 Winter/Spring Meet only: 11

- **Post-Polytrack**

- *A total* of 10 full or partial cancellations across 7 meets

- **Reliability of product**

- Increased fan interest and confidence
    - Increased handle

- **Fatal breakdowns**
  - **Despite extreme conditions in the winter of 2006-07, breakdowns were still 42% below our last racing year on dirt.**
    - 2004 Fall – 2005 Winter/Spring: 24
    - 2005 Fall – 2006 Winter/Spring: 3
    - 2006 Fall – 2007 Winter/Spring: 14
  - **Considering only the winter/spring meet, breakdowns fell by 50% in 2007 compared to the same meet in 2004 and 2005.**



- **No breakdown is acceptable.**
  - **No surface can prevent every breakdown.**
  - **Other contributing factors also must be addressed.**
  - **Polytrack has proven its value in significantly reducing breakdowns even in extreme conditions.**