

January, 2008

Mr. David J. Butler, Editor
San Jose Mercury News
750 Ridder Park Drive
San Jose, CA 95190
Main fax number: (408) 288-8060
Sports fax number: (408) 920-5244

Dear Mr. Butler,

As a long time subscriber, California Thoroughbred owner, and horse racing enthusiast, I am disappointed by the diminishing coverage of the great sport of racing in the San Jose Mercury News. Horse racing has a long history in this state, dating back to the mid 1800s. In years past, the San Jose Mercury News reported not only complete race results – including listing the jockeys, trainers, owners and breeders of each winning horse – but also provided regular news coverage of our important stakes races and race meets at Bay Meadows, Golden Gate Fields, and the Northern California Summer Racing Fairs.

Now, the most one can find in your newspaper is usually a condensed listing of the top finishers in each race with prices for the various wagers. This information is of very little use or interest except perhaps to those who are strictly hard core gamblers. However, to a great many of us who love horse racing and for whom the sport is a very important part of our lives, your race results coverage is simply unremarkable, and well below the standard of journalism and coverage for which the News was once known.

As I said, Thoroughbred horse racing has a grand history and tradition in this great State, and represents a vast agri-business that employs and supports tens of thousands of Californians, and entertains millions annually. Despite what some journalists have asserted recently, racing remains a beloved sport, vital to California. I respectfully request that you recognize it as such with the coverage that it deserves!

Sincerely,

Signed

Name (printed)

Address

City, State, Zip