

Jeff Greenhill

Big fan of Polytrack should be dangerous at upcoming Turfway meet

By **BYRON KING**

It is difficult to miss trainer Jeff Greenhill's excitement when he talks about the new Polytrack surface in place at Turfway Park. More than a fan of the new surface, which proponents claim is safer for horses, Greenhill goes so far as to joke that he likes to do "snow angels" in the stuff.

Greenhill said he believes the new surface is the best thing to happen to horse racing since he began training horses about a decade ago. And that belief shows in the recent production of his horses. This fall at Turfway, Greenhill – who operates a mid-sized stable filled mostly with claiming horses – finished in a tie for third place in the standings, winning with 4 of 19 starters. With several of his winners paying handsomely, the \$2 return on investment on his horses that meet was \$2.51.

Even with that meet over, his good fortunes continued. He started five horses at Keeneland in October, winning with one starter and grabbing second with another. The winner, Wirebender, scored at more than 20-1.

The results were not surprising to Greenhill. Greenhill said he believes training day after day over the Polytrack surface at Turfway keeps horses healthier than over a traditional track, and more apt to run to their ability.

"I haven't found a hole in it yet," he said of the Polytrack surface. "Nothing is 100 percent good, but I haven't been able to find anything wrong with it."

When the Turfway holiday meet begins

INSIDE THE STABLE

HORSE	AGE/SEX	LAST RACE	FINISH	LAST 3 BEYERS	CAREER RECORD	EARNINGS
Amanda's World	3F	C1m \$5,000	3	39 27 27	21-3-4-3	\$32,823
Funny Honey	4F	Alw N3L	3	67 56 53	19-2-2-5	16,434
Hoofin' It	3G	C1m \$10,000 N3L	1	74 62 41	16-3-3-2	28,269
Silver Mark	5G	C1m \$7,500	8	30 69 68	35-5-2-4	43,640
T. K.'s Turn	7G	C1m \$6,250	1	74 64 67	70-13-8-6	88,841
Wirebender	6G	C1m \$10,000	1	87 68 64	42-10-5-6	132,743

Sunday, Greenhill may have a further advantage: the weather. With freezing temperatures soon to roll into the Kentucky-Ohio area, his horses should be able to train with more regularity than those that are not stabled at Turfway or at Keeneland, where there is a Polytrack training track. This may give his horses a fitness edge.

Greenhill, 50, was a chemical engineer before turning to training Thoroughbreds in 1996, and he has other strengths beyond having a Polytrack surface over which to train. He has won with 3 of his last 10 first-after-claim runners, generating a \$2.74 return on investment, and his comebacking horses have also outperformed the public's expectations. Greenhill has also shown favorable statistics with horses adding blinkers and those moving from routes to sprints.

Part of the reason for Greenhill's profitability at the betting windows can be attributed to his choice of jockey. He has ridden Lori Wydick extensively in Kentucky since the Turfway Park fall meet began, and the pair have combined to win with 3 of 19 starters together since September. The return on

investment on those runners has been \$3.01.

Wydick does not draw the betting action of other riders, sometimes creating overlaid odds on the Greenhill-trained runners.

With Greenhill running only a couple of horses over the first few weeks of the Churchill meet, he should have a fresh barn heading into Turfway. The following Greenhill-trained horses have won a race over the Polytrack and merit consideration as horse-for-course plays through the winter:

❑ **Amanda's World:** A winner over nonwinners-of-three \$7,500 stock at Turfway in the fall, she has regressed in recent months, but still figures competitively at the bottom level of the claiming ranks.

❑ **Silver Mark:** Scored over \$5,000 claimers at Turfway in early October, and comes off a poor showing at Keeneland when eighth of nine for \$7,500. He may bounce back against low-end stock on the Polytrack.

❑ **T. K.'s Tune:** Wired \$6,250 claimers at Turfway on Sept. 24, and is blessed with early speed. A 7-year-old with 13 victories, he could fire fresh during the Turfway winter meet.

VITAL STATISTICS

CATEGORY	STS.	W%	ROI
1st race after claim	10	0.30	2.74
2nd race after claim	8	0.12	1.38
1st race with trainer	12	0.33	3.13
+180 days since last race	3	0.67	8.20
60-180 days since last race	13	0.23	4.38
Second off layoff 45-180 days	21	0.05	0.40
Second off layoff +180 days	5	0.00	0.00
1-7 days since last race	1	0.00	0.00
1st time starter	6	0.17	0.83
2nd start as maiden	5	0.00	0.00
Maiden special to maiden claimer	1	0.00	0.00
1st time turf	7	0.14	1.57
1st time blinkers	5	0.40	2.16
1st time Lasix	1	0.00	0.00
2-year-olds	25	0.16	0.96
Dirt to turf	16	0.06	0.69
Turf to dirt	15	0.13	1.59
Blinkers on	6	0.50	4.13
Blinkers off	1	0.00	0.00
Sprint to route	36	0.08	0.86
Route to sprint	30	0.30	2.92
31-60 days since last race	44	0.07	0.45
Won last start	38	0.11	1.18
Wet tracks	60	0.15	1.50
Dirt	225	0.15	1.72
Turf	22	0.09	0.83
Sprints	152	0.17	1.93
Routes	95	0.09	1.17
Maiden claiming	10	0.10	0.88
Maiden special weight	22	0.14	0.63
Claiming	141	0.16	2.06
Allowance	46	0.17	1.99
Stakes	14	0.00	0.00
Debut greater than/equal to 1 mile	1	0.00	0.00

Trainer statistics reflect North American starts from Jan. 1, 2004 through Nov. 20, 2005

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