

PERFORMANCE SAFETY DURABILITY

POLYTRACK 

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A PARTNERSHIP OF KEENELAND ASSOCIATION AND MARTIN COLLINS INTERNATIONAL, LTD.

Overview

- General Polytrack Overview
- The Keeneland and Turfway Park Installations
- What We Have Learned
- What the Turfway Park Trainers are Telling Us



What is Polytrack?

Polytrack is an entire system comprised of a unique top surface and a specially designed vertical drainage system—all of which work in tandem to create a safer, more consistent racing surface.



What is Polytrack?

The Top Layer

- The top layer is several inches thick and is comprised of sand, synthetic fibers and recycled rubber.
- All of these materials are carefully weighed and mixed together, then covered in a wax coating.
- The wax coating helps ensure that the water does not settle on top of the surface and instead flows right through to the specially designed drainage sub-surface system.
- The specially selected combination of materials provides a safer and more secure footing that remains in place even after heavy use.



What is Polytrack?

The Vertical Drainage System

- The drainage system consists of a layer of porous macadam, a layer of clean stone base and drainage pipes that use longitudinal pieces together with cross drains.
- Vertical drainage allows water to flow straight down through the Polytrack material to pipes below, which carry the water away from the track.



Finding Polytrack

- Because of the global nature of Keeneland's racing and sales businesses, it provides an opportunity to inquire about emerging trends and products.
- After hearing about Polytrack's success in Europe, Keeneland's Rogers Beasley traveled there to see the surface in use.
 - Conducted in-depth interviews with a wide array of people including Polytrack's pioneer Martin Collins and Peter Amos, former Managing Director of the Jockey Club Estates in Newmarket.
 - On-site visits were made to several European locales that use the surface, including Lingfield Park, John Gosden's Manton House Stables and Ballydoyle.



About Martin Collins

- More than 30 years experience in synthetic surface manufacturing.
- After 7 years of experimentation, Collins developed first commercial product – the Pacemaker Riding Surface.
- Continued research led to the development of the Polytrack and Geltrack surfaces widely used throughout Europe and now being offered in America.



A hand holding a red flashlight, shining a bright beam of light onto a dark, textured surface, likely asphalt or concrete. The beam of light is the central focus, illuminating the surface and creating a strong contrast with the surrounding darkness. The texture of the surface is visible, showing small pebbles and grains.

The Keeneland & Turfway Installations

Installations *Overview*

- Weather and climate must be considered when timing a new installation.
- Expense varies from site to site due to the cost of obtaining key materials, such as sand.
- It is often best to set-up a temporary or mobile manufacturing facility near the installation site to produce the top layer.
- Installations times vary depending on the distance of the track. Typically—provided Mother Nature cooperates and there are no extraneous interruptions—race track installations take about ten weeks.



Timelines

Keeneland

- June 30, 2004—project began
- September 4, 2004—5/8 mile training track is completed
- Eight days were lost due to weather and other interruptions.
- Project took approximately nine weeks to complete

Turfway Park

- May 6, 2005—project began
- August 3, 2005—Horses trained on new one-mile surface for first time
- September 6, 2005—Turfway Opens for Racing
- Project took approximately 12 weeks to complete



The Installation Process

Onsite surface
manufacturing progresses
quickly



Removal of dirt surface

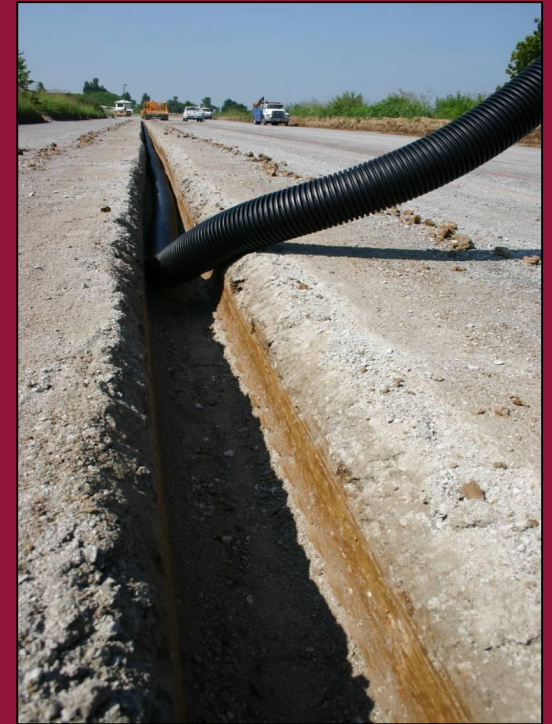


The Installation Process

Installation of vertical drain



Dense grade aggregate is applied



The Installation Process

Laying of clean stone



Porous macadam layer is applied over the clean stone layer



The Installation Process



Macadam layer is tested to ensure that it is porous

Polytrack surface top layer is applied over macadam layer



The Installation Process

Horses begin training and racing



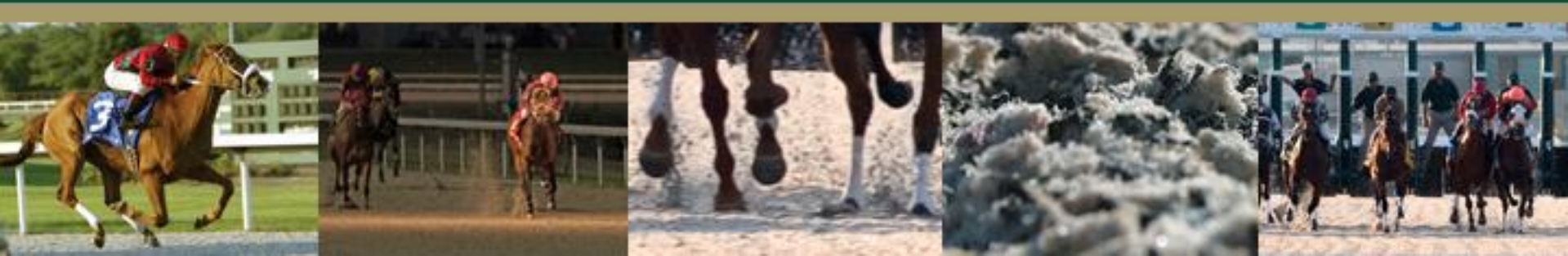
What We Have Learned



Advantages of Polytrack *Safety*

Assessment

Based on long-term results from Europe and short-term results from Keeneland and Turfway Park, Polytrack appears to be much safer for horses and their riders.



Advantages of Polytrack *Safety*

Turfway Park

- No horse ambulance runs during training since it opened on August 3, 2005
- At 2005 fall meet, there were zero catastrophic breakdowns. The average for the previous three years during the fall meet was six.
- At Fall Meet, DNF's reduced by 50 percent—from 21 to 10
 - Only 3 horses who DNF were actually injured
 - No breakdowns resulting in jockey spills



Advantages of Polytrack *Installation*

Assessment

Each Polytrack installation is unique. Elements such as climate and primary purpose/usage must be factored into the equation when developing the right formula for the top layer.



Advantages of Polytrack *Installation*

- Safety and Turfway Park's winter racing were major factors in developing its formula.
- Safety, Kentucky's four distinct seasons and its use as a training track were major factors in developing Keeneland's formula.



Advantages of Polytrack *Maintenance*

Assessment

Polytrack is easier to maintain than a conventional dirt track. However, proper maintenance of the surface is a critical component to its success.



Advantages of Polytrack *Maintenance*

- Because Polytrack maintains its uniformity in various weather conditions, less manpower and equipment is required for grooming during racing.
- Polytrack requires fewer materials for maintenance and upkeep
- Maintenance of a Polytrack does require some special equipment.

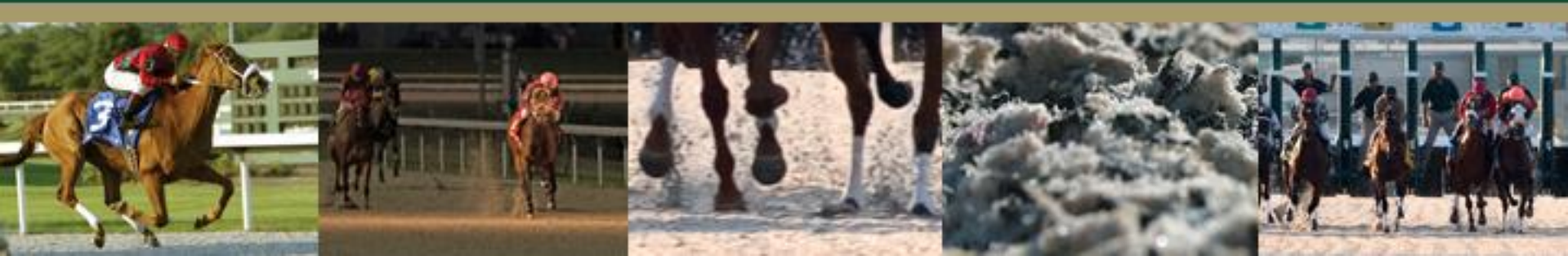


Advantages of Polytrack

Financial

Assessment

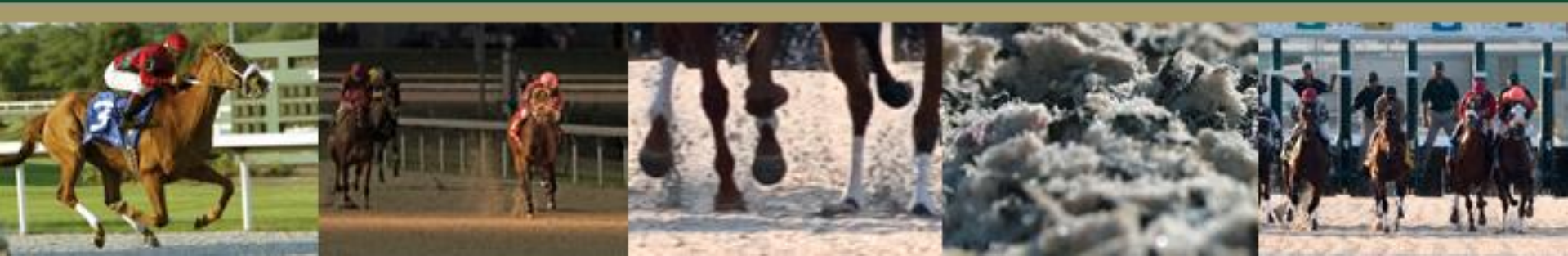
The cost of installing a Polytrack varies regionally due to cost of materials. Turfway Park expects to pay for its Polytrack in about five years based on factors such as reduced maintenance costs and increased revenue from creating a surface that is usable year-round.



Advantages of Polytrack *Competitive Racing*

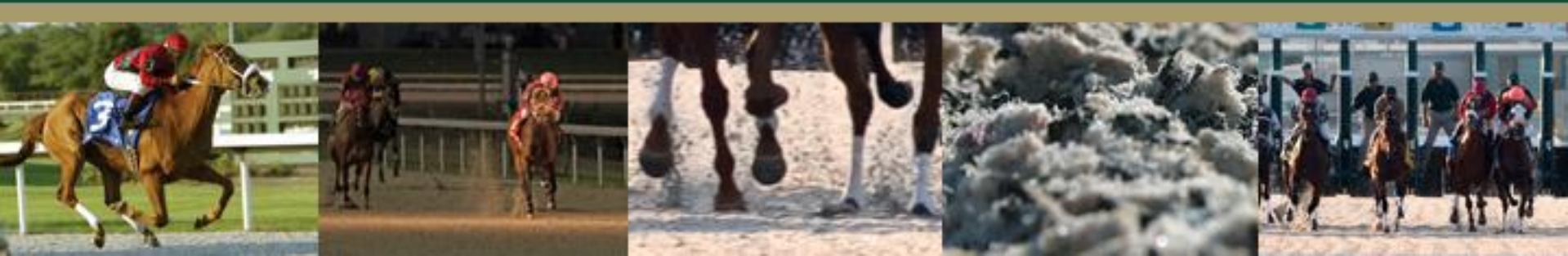
Assessment

Polytrack is providing competitive racing for horsemen **and** for the betting public—while continuing to keep safety in the forefront.



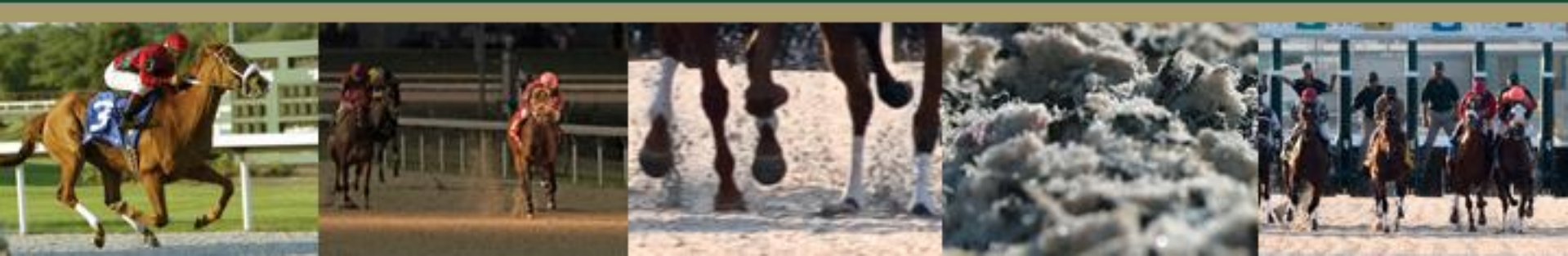
Advantages of Polytrack *Competitive Racing*

Horses that trained at Keeneland and raced at Turfway Park in late 2004 and early 2005, made 25% more starts and won 80% more races than horses in the comparable timeframe 12 months earlier.



Advantages of Polytrack *Competitive Racing*

- At Turfway Park's 2005 fall meet, field size increased to 9.0 from from 8.5 in 2004.
- From 11/27/05 thru 12/04/05, average field size at Turfway Park's current winter meet was 11.2.



Advantages of Polytrack *Competitive Racing*

Route Races

- 8 different post position's had at least 11 winners
- Running Style
 - 34% Front Runners
 - 42% Stalkers
 - 26% Mid-Pack
 - 10% Deep Closers

Sprint Races

- 5 different post positions had at least 10 winners
- Running Style
 - 31% Front Runners
 - 49% Stalkers
 - 17% Mid-Pack
 - 2% Deep Closers

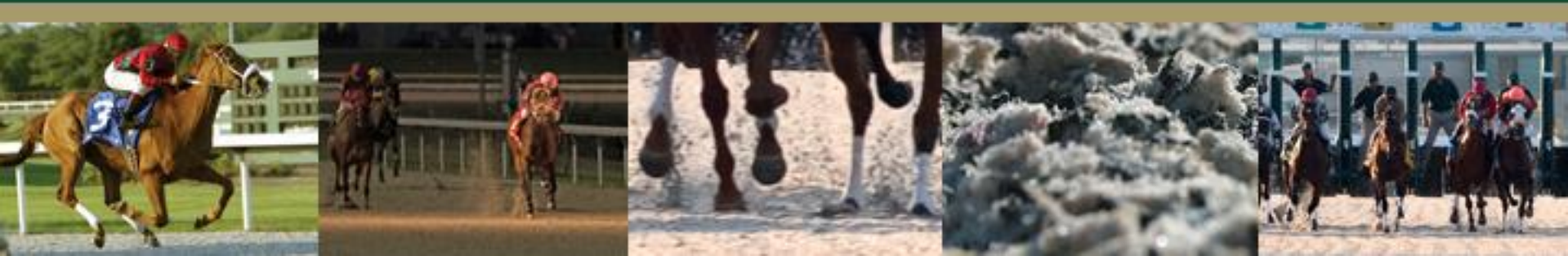


Advantages of Polytrack

Overview

Assessment

The Keeneland and Turfway Park installations have thus far provided very encouraging results. However, they are considered test sites and we will continue to monitor them closely and make adjustments as needed to ensure that we continually strive to produce an outstanding product.





What the Turfway Park Trainers are Telling Us

Polytrack

The Market Research

Following Turfway Park's 2005 fall meeting, we employed Matrix Research Group—an independent market research firm—to conduct face-to-face interviews with trainers who raced at Turfway during the 2005 fall meet. The goal was to determine attitudes, perceptions and satisfaction of trainers regarding Turfway's Polytrack surface.



The Market Research

Methodology

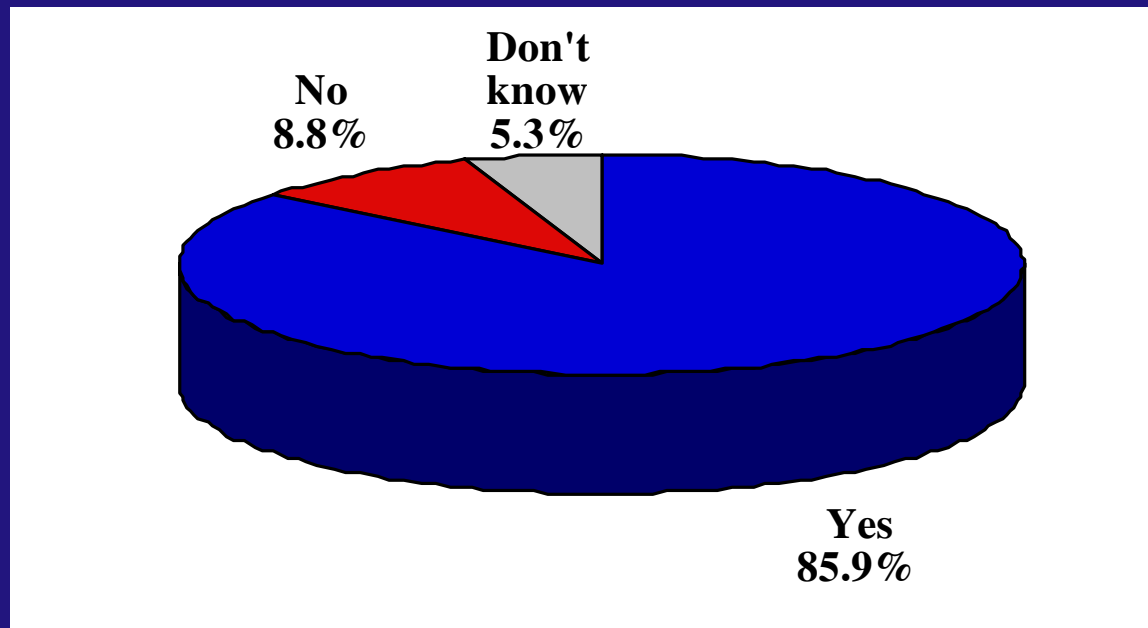
- Face-to-face interviews were conducted with 57 trainers.
- Interviews were conducted during and after morning workouts on Saturday, Oct. 1, 2005 and Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2005.
- Based on the population of trainers, the findings can be considered accurate to the 95% confidence level with a margin of error of ± 8.3 percent.



The Market Research

Comparison of Polytrack to Other Tracks--Safety

Do you feel Turfway's Polytrack surface is safer than other racetrack surfaces?



The Market Research

Some verbatim comments related to safety:

“It is a very safe track. It is uniform in the weather, which makes it a safer racetrack.”

“It takes all the negative equations out of racing and it is safe. We will have to see if it holds up through a freeze.”

“It is good on horses. They last longer and don’t get injured.”

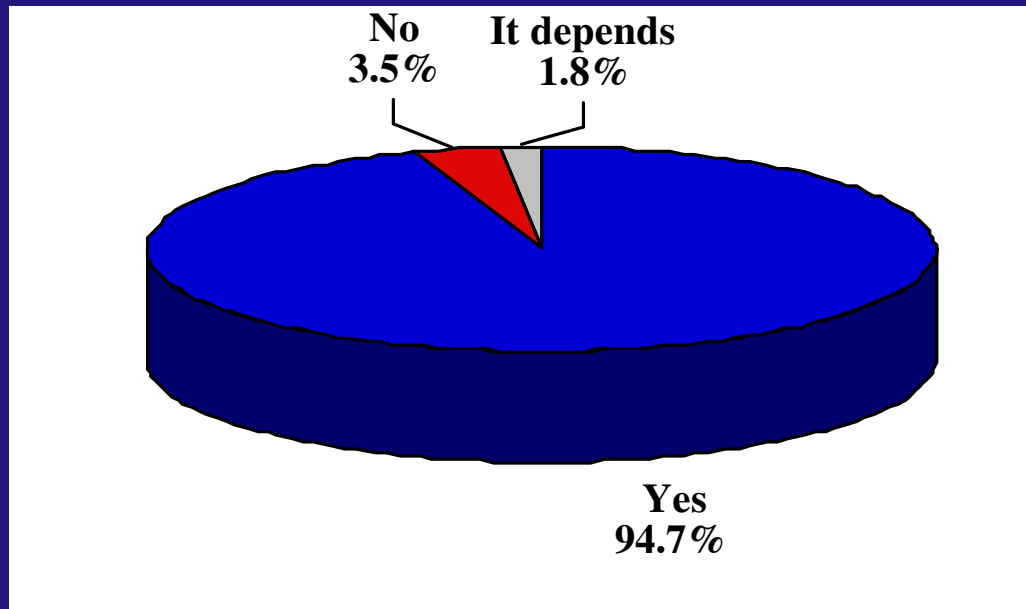
“It is easier on your horses, it lowers your vet bills and allows more starts, which is good for the owner and the track.”



The Market Research

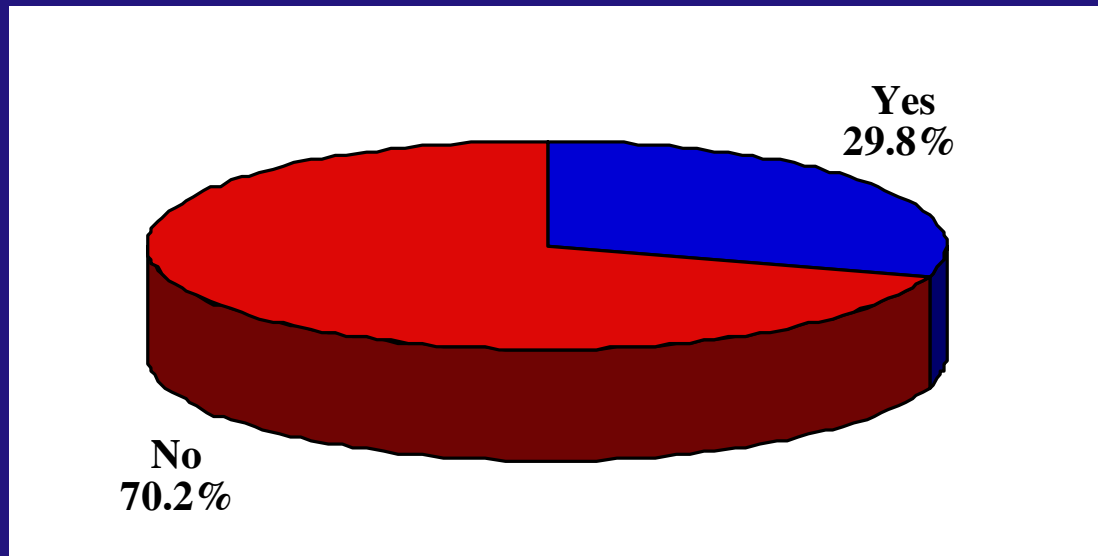
Comparison of Polytrack to Other Tracks—Track Bias

*Do you feel Turfway's Polytrack surface is **bias-free**?*



The Market Research

Have you changed the way you get a horse ready to run due to training on Polytrack?



The Market Research

Of the 30 percent who changed their training regimens, here are some comments:

“Gallop for longer distances.”

“Don’t miss training due to track conditions.”

“Train horses harder.”

“I work them once a week instead of every 10 days.”



The Market Research

Opportunities for Improvement

Some trainers expressed

- There is more kickback than expected
- They believed the track would “tighten” up in the very near future—rain, additional watering, etc.



The Market Research *Summary*

The overall feedback was extremely positive—with emphasis on safety, uniformity, consistency.

- 86 % feel Polytrack is safer than other track surfaces
- 86 % feel Polytrack is more favorable than a conventional dirt track
- 95 % feel Polytrack is bias-free



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