

# Horse racing industry fuels gambling addiction

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The front-page report on the horse racing “industry” lamentably skipped over the risk of gambling addiction. The News might remember that it causes ruined lives, family distress, increased crime, a serious burden on our society and certainly contributes to the financial deficits every state with legalized gambling now suffers.

The good news is that “the young people aren’t getting into the game.” The bad news is that the so-called “instant gratification of slot machines, poker and roulette” is winning the game. Still more troubling is that \$121 million is legally bet on horse racing in Western New York through OTB.

Additionally, \$35 million in losses came out of people’s pockets to the Racino at Batavia Downs, and let’s not forget about Hamburg Fairgrounds. What a shame!

Now they are trying to “lure” anybody they can snare with EZBets locations. The OTB calls this “serving its customers.” How tragic that our government supports this form of robbery.

The reaction of the 20-something new bettors is sad. When a new gambler gets “totally into it,” we should all cringe. Gambling addiction may follow. The “rush” one gets from the first win and excitement can begin altering brain chemistry and put a hook into a person’s reasoning and willpower.

How many more embezzlements due to gambling addiction will The News report this year? Please remember the ABCs of gambling—addiction, bankruptcy and corruption— and warn the 20somethings in the next article about the “industry.”

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