

Upstate New York



Jeffrey R. Gural

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Jeff Gural's love of harness racing has led him to become the driving force behind the resurgence of the standardbred sport in New York. Through his efforts and determination, legislation has been introduced and passed that has proven to be the catalyst that brought fair and equitable cuts from slots revenue to all the racetracks in the Empire State. His actions have stabilized this industry in the state, and helped to secure its future.

The Binghamton, NY native is Chairman of American Racing and Entertainment, L.L.C., which owns both Tioga Downs and Vernon Downs Racinos. These facilities conduct full harness meets which provide racing opportunities and jobs for hundreds of people from April through November. They also offer business for many other farmers and retailers in and around each location which in turn drives their local economies.

Tioga was a long abandoned quarter horse track when Gural resurrected it, and now it's the showplace of racing for the New York State standardbred community. Vernon Downs was in bankruptcy and as good as done when Gural took it over, brought it back and made it vital once more.

Gural's support of harness racing is seemingly endless. He is extremely "hands on" at the tracks he owns. He is always in the crowd, talking to the patrons; finding out what they like and don't like. Asking how they can improve the product.

Jeff Gural is a visionary in the true sense of the word. His ability to put things into perspective for others has put harness racing in New York on very solid ground. And through that success those in the industry and the communities where racing takes place have benefited greatly.