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BLOOD-HORSE PIECE ON LAB SCRUTINY IS UP FOR BERGSTEIN AWARD FRANK ANGST EXAMINES INDIANA'S QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM COMMISSION'S UNIQUE REVIEW UNCOVERED A LAB'S COLOSSAL FAILURES TESTING IN OTHER STATES IS LEFT UP TO CURRENT INDUSTRY STANDARDS

A state racing commission's unique layer of scrutiny uncovered a laboratory's surprising rate of failure in detecting prohibited drugs. What about testing elsewhere in the U.S where such a quality assurance program is not in place?

Frank Angst of the *Blood-Horse* examines the Indiana Racing Commission's unique efforts and the integrity concerns they raise for other jurisdictions in a magazine story that has been nominated for Team Valor's \$25,000 Stan Bergstein Writing Award.

"From a national perspective it should be an eye-opening occurrence," Joe Gorajec, executive director of the Indiana Racing Commission, says in Angst's story "Upon Further Review: Indiana Program Exposes Need For Additional Scrutiny of Testing Labs."

Angst writes "Horse racing prides itself on proper checks and balances. Identifiers read lip tattoos to make sure the horse brought to the paddock is, in fact, the horse scheduled to race. Stewards review video to make sure each horse had a fair run. But when it comes to the 15 labs, including the five fully accredited by the industry's Racing Medication and Testing Consortium, that regulators use to conduct drug tests, experts agree quality assurance programs are falling short."

The full story is [here](#).

Angst also received a nomination earlier this year for a piece on holes within penalty systems for horsemen with multiple medication violations ([story](#)). Other nominations have been extended this year to Ray Paulick of the *Paulick Report* for two stories ([one](#) and [two](#)), Chris Wittstruck ([story](#)) of the United States Trotting Association website and Doug McCoy and Frank Vespe of the *Racing Biz* website ([story](#)). Team Valor nominates candidates throughout the year and assigns a panel of judges to select an award winner. This year's judges are Randy Moss of NBC Sports, Steve Haskin of the *Blood-Horse*, long-time Turf writer and publicist Lynne Snierson, owner-breeder George Strawbridge and Jon White of Santa Anita Park.

Barry Irwin and Team Valor will present the fourth annual Stan Bergstein Writing Award on November 12 in Lexington at the Fasig-Tipton sales pavilion.

