

Nevada eyes wireless casino gaming

BY DAVID STRATTON

The Nevada legislature is considering a bill that would authorize wireless gambling at licensed casinos.

The proposed legislation, Assembly Bill No. 471, has already been approved by the state As-

GT EXCLUSIVE

sembly and is awaiting action in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

If enacted into law, the measure would permit Nevada casino patrons to gamble in public areas

— bars, restaurants, poolside, etc. — through PDAs supplied by the casino.

PDAs, or personal digital assistants, are handheld computer devices that are connected to a mainframe system via microwave transmission.

One company that is lobbying for the legislation is Louisiana-based Diamond I Technologies, which has developed a PDA-based gambling system for casinos, cruise ships and racetracks.

"We are extremely excited that the Nevada Assembly has unani-

mously approved the new bill," said David Loflin, president of Diamond I Technologies. "We intend to continue our lobbying efforts until the bill is signed into law."

Loflin added that legislative Please see Wireless gambling p4

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Preakness preview



NO RESPECT — Derby winner Giacomo (left) crosses the finish line ahead of Closing Argument. Even though six of the last eight Kentucky Derby winners went on to win the Preakness, Giacomo hasn't received the backing of experts.

Derby winner rare 'dog' in second leg

BY ED GOLDEN

It's easier to teach a horse to be potty-trained than it is to win the Triple Crown.

That's why there have only been 11 since its inception in 1919 and none since Affirmed in 1977. That's a string of 26 years. In the last eight years, six horses have had the opportunity for immortality with a Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont sweep, but each — Smarty Jones, Funny Cide, War Emblem, Charismatic, Real Quiet and Silver Charm — failed in the Belmont.

Currently, Giacomo is the only horse on the planet with a chance to capture racing's most elusive prize. But despite his jaw-dropping victory in the Kentucky Derby, Giacomo has been made a 20-1 longshot to win the Triple Crown by some Las Vegas oddsmakers.

Moreover, the Kentucky Derby winner won't even be favored in the second leg of the Triple Crown. Please see Preakness preview p4

Rare \$10K Binion bills up for sale

BY DAVID STRATTON

One of downtown's most famous attractions, the \$1 million display at Binion's Horseshoe, was unloaded by Becky Binion a couple of years before she sold the hotel and its *Horseshoe* name last year.

Now, those rare \$10,000 bills from the display are up for sale.

Rare coin and precious metals dealer Goldline International, Inc., which purchased the million dollars in currency, is offering the \$10,000 notes at prices starting at \$130,000 each.



A RARE \$10,000 bill from the old million dollar display at Binion's Horseshoe.

In case you're wondering, the U.S. Treasury Dept. says there's no law against scalping of currency.

The Binion's Horseshoe display, which featured the money enclosed in a reinforced glass

case framed by a huge horseshoe, originally contained one hundred \$10,000 U.S. bills — the largest denomination bills ever printed for general circulation.

Over the years, millions of people visited the \$1 million display and had their pictures taken next to it. The hotel then created a postcard that was given free of charge to the visitor.

These \$10,000 bills are both Federal Reserve Notes and Gold Certificates. Today's circulating currency are mostly Federal Please see Rare \$10,000 bills p4

'Ultra agent' strikes while Vegas is hot

Striker vows to arrange for anything



BY MARK MAYER

Imagine in a matter of moments riding in a Ferrari to a private VIP party, smoking a Cuban cigar and having the most beautiful girl on your arm.

"I can do this for anyone, anytime," said Steve Striker, the man who created Striker VIP and was awarded 15 minutes of instant fame courtesy of NBC's *Today* show on the opening day of Wynn Las Vegas.

"From Friday, when NBC invited me for the *Today* feature, 'til Tuesday, I got no less than 1,500 emails," he continued. "From all around the world, people wanted to know about my services."

The 52-year-old "ultra agent" said his service is an offshoot

of his former California-based marketing group that handled personal appearances for NFL football players.

"Most of my connections were with the San Francisco 49ers and I am still close friends with people like Ronnie Lott and Roger Craig," Striker said. "By hanging around pro athletes, I got to know what it was like to be treated with white gloves and a red carpet. Athletes were treated like kings. I wanted to give the average Joe a chance to experience that."

Of course, Joe would need a nice chunk of cash to get the royal treatment. After all, service in Las Vegas isn't cheap.

"My job is to create the ultimate experience for people,"



STEVE STRIKER: agent extraordinaire

Striker said. "I have the connections, the juice and the will to get

things done. Everyone should get treated equally."

Of course, as long as they have the cash.

"Sure," he said. "People who want to party like rock stars and get treated at the door like Jerry Rice have to come up with the cash."

Striker calls Las Vegas "ground zero" for the "in crowd." And he admits it's a long way from his Iowa roots in Cedar Rapids. But, through his close relationship with a high-rolling father who was well-known in Las Vegas, he knew this would be his life's calling.

"In Vegas, there is the 'in' crowd and the 'out' crowd," Striker said. "There is no middle road. That's the great thing about this town. Hang with the big dogs and you can do anything."

"The turning point in my life was deciding I no longer wanted to be an outsider," Striker said. "I do what I love and I love what I do. I enjoy being the star and it gets better everyday."

Striker believes the time is right for his operation in Las Vegas, which is on the verge of a new spurt of urbanization.

"Old Vegas is going to be Manhattanized," he said. "High rises are going to appear in downtown. You won't recognize this town in five years. We have the right timing, the right mayor, the right chemistry. So much of New York is showing up here."

Striker is a confident businessman who knows how to promote himself and attract customers, 99 percent of whom are males.

"I hire nothing but gorgeous women," he said. "They do my work. I want the very best, be it chefs or valets, to treat my people right. It's all about making the average guy feel like a king."

Bestowing royalty isn't always easy, and the task often comes with strange requests.

"Once, I had a guy request a bachelor party for the groom and 30 friends," Striker said. "I found out the groom was petrified of midgets. They wanted a jumbo party bus with a pole for exotic dancers. They asked for a beautiful, vertically challenged woman. So I arranged for one, along with an extra large 350-400 pound stripper."

"When the groom showed up he only saw the big woman," Striker said. "Then the midget jump out and danced on his head. He was absolutely petri-

fied. I never heard a guy scream so loudly. That was about the strangest request, but odd enough it turned out to be a fun evening."

Exposure on shows like the *Today* show has helped fuel his business in Las Vegas.

"It's like being a surfer and getting the big wave," Striker said. "I have my surfboard out. I rode the small waves for years. Now, I ride the big wave."

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