

# Fogelsonger Debuts on MTV Thursday Night

**BALTIMORE, 07-06-05**---Add Ryan Fogelsonger to the list of reality television stars when the 24-year old rider stars in TRUE LIFE: I WANT THE PERFECT BODY II. The one-hour documentary will air July 7 at 10 p.m. with repeats July 8 (10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.), July 9 (9 a.m. and 5 p.m.) and July 10 at 4 p.m. The show also features a teenage strongman and female fitness expert.



From mid-December to Preakness day, a crew from MTV visited Fogelsonger seven times, including six stops at either Pimlico Race Course or Laurel Park to chronicle the 2002 Eclipse Award winning apprentice as he tried to add eight pounds of muscle to his 104 pound frame.

Having never ridden a horse until after graduating from high school in 1999, Fogelsonger has quickly climbed the ranks in the industry with mounts in the Preakness Stakes and Breeders' Cup. In less than 40 months as a jockey, Fogelsonger has 858 career victories from 4,150 mounts with earnings of \$16.8 million and nine riding titles on his resume. MTV selected him during an interview process last fall that included 50 top young riders.

"I'm very happy with the show and it was very well received at MTV," said producer Pat Lope. "I couldn't have had a better time shooting with Ryan. The only unfortunate aspect is that our show can only be 43 minutes long (without the commercials) so there is so much that had to be cut out. Ryan is such a great people-person, I think the audience will have an easy time relating to him and will definitely enjoy his segments."

During the six-month taping period, Fogelsonger suffered two serious spills, including one where he injured his back and spent an afternoon at the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Unit. Because of the injuries, he missed 31 of the first 109 days of racing during the winter and spring meetings.

"I can't wait to see the final product," said Fogelsonger. "It was quite an experience. I have done plenty of TV interviews, but having someone follow me around was different. I feel like I let them down a little bit by not gaining the weight but because of the spills I had to stop working out. I am extremely honored they picked me for this project. I talked to the producer last week and know he included that into the show as well as all the excitement of Preakness weekend."

"The jockey's lifestyle is fascinating," added Lope. "I wish I could have included more of Ryan's story, but because the focus of this show had to be very body oriented, I couldn't go into as much detail about the actual racing, and the business behind the racing that I would have liked to. This show is going to be seen by millions of people, many of whom know nothing about horseracing, so hopefully it will open a lot of people's eyes, especially the younger audience."

Since its initial episode in 1998, MTV's award-winning "True Life" has told remarkable real-life stories of young people and the unusual subcultures they inhabit. Perfect Body is one of five shows in the "True Life" series.

# Racing Commission Approves Laurel Park Fall Schedule

**BALTIMORE, 07-12-05**---Racing dates and the stakes schedule for the Laurel Park fall meeting were approved today by the Maryland Racing Commission. Thirty-nine stakes races, for purses of nearly \$3.8 million, will be contested. Sixteen of the added money races are six-figures.

The meet will open September 7 with live racing on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday during the month. Sunday racing will be added beginning the first week of October.

This summer, the Maryland Jockey Club completed the installation of sod to the Laurel Park turf course which has been expanded from 75 to 142 feet, allowing for six different courses to race on. Maryland Jockey Club Chief Operating Officer Lou Raffetto expects to card four turf races a day through November.

"We are trying to get people to focus on Maryland racing. To showcase our new grass surface, we will institute an all turf Pick 3 during the first four weeks of the meet," said Raffetto. "We will offer it on races six, seven and eight and reduce the takeout to 14 percent, the same as the Pick 4. The four-day week in concert with turf racing will allow us to have very large fields and competitive racing during September and beyond."



Highlighting the 78-day stand will be the 20th running of the Maryland Million (October 8) and the Fall Festival Of Racing (November 19), headlined by the Grade I Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash.

Purses for Maryland's Day At The Races have been increased from \$1,125,000 to \$1,430,000 with more than half of the 12 races getting increases, including the Classic, which has been upped from \$200,000 to \$250,000. The Oaks, Ladies, Distaff, Turf and Sprint were also given \$50,000 boosts. Introduced in 1986, the Maryland Million is a program restricted to the offspring of Maryland-based stallions. It has been duplicated by 19 other Thoroughbred states.

The Fall Festival of Racing is the fourth biggest day on the Maryland racing calendar with total purses approaching \$1 million, trailing only Preakness, Pimlico Special-Black-Eyed Susan and Maryland Million days. The eight stakes spectacular will include the De Francis Dash and four added money races on the grass.

"We are bringing back the Laurel Turf Cup for older horses and have added a filly and mare race at a mile and an eighth," added Raffetto. "Instead of trying to bat heads with New York and the Breeders' Cup, racing secretary Georganne Hale and I thought it would help our program if we returned the Selima and Laurel Futurity to the grass. We know we'll lose the grading on the Futurity, but instead of struggling to get a six or seven horse field, we should be looking at 10, 12, 14 horse fields in all of these races."

After an eight-week break, live racing returns to Maryland on August 12 for the nine-day Pimlico summer meeting. Racing then shifts to Timonium for the eight-day state fair stand on August 27 before settling at Laurel Park for the remainder of the year and first three and a half months of 2006.