



The Woodlands might "tip the scale" in Texas' racetrack license competition.

Riders on the storm

Hubbard's track record called into question

By SCOTT WILLIAMS

Horse racing enthusiasts in Kansas have a word of warning for their friends in Texas: What R.D. Hubbard promises and what R.D. Hubbard delivers are not always the same.

Three years ago, Hubbard promised to make Kansas' first horse racing track a spectator's dream, with convenient nightly post times and a racing season that spanned the entire summer.

What he has delivered bears little resemblance to that. To make matters worse, he is fighting Kansas tax collectors and losing money at a pace that has created cynicism in the local racing industry.

Many industry insiders wonder why the Lone Star State would even consider allowing Hubbard to control a publicly subsidized racetrack here.

"Texas will be sorry," said Jeff Rutland, a leading Kansas horse breeder. "I think they ought to keep him out."

Hubbard, a Fort Worth businessman, is spearheading one of the groups competing for a state license to build and operate a racetrack in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Midpointe Racing L.C. has picked a site in Grand Prairie, where voters in January approved a \$65 million tax increase to help finance the project and gain a competitive edge on other communities in the area.

Voters were largely unaware of Hubbard's background when they approved the tax increase.

And although Hubbard could not be reached for comment this week, he apparently will get another chance to explain his Kansas troubles — to members of the Texas

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