

Parx Casino and Racing's New HD Control Room Crosses the Finish Line with JVC CONNECTED CAM December 2019

The Customer:

Parx Casino and Racing, located just outside Philadelphia, features a thoroughbred horse racetrack and is the region's largest casino gaming complex.



GY-HC900 studio configuration in the booth



GY-HC900 captures footage from the track



Streaming and production are fast-tracked in the control room

The Challenge:

Looking to boost its production capabilities to allow live simulcasts, beyond the Racetrack, in order to reach a global, online audience.

The Solution:

An all-new HD control room is equipped with entirely new production technology — monitors, switchers, a replay system, etc. — replacing legacy analog equipment. Prominently featured among the high-end gear are nine newly purchased JVC CONNECTED CAMS — six GY-HC900STU studio and three GY-HC900CHU broadcast cameras — to help boost production for its live racing simulcasts and officiate the races. Nearly all of Parx's nine JVC CONNECTED CAMS are used in actual broadcast settings, positioned strategically around the track, with one camera reserved as a spare. With built-in streaming and connectivity options and advanced low latency features, the spare camera can be used as a mobile and/or streaming unit, when Parx is ready to expand into more wireless streaming productions.

The Result:

The cameras, which feature three 2/3-inch CMOS sensors and an industry standard B4 lens mount, form the foundation of the recently built HD control room. They also produce HDR images and offer built-in WiFi and low-latency streaming/FTP performance up to 20Mbps.

"We decided it was time to come into the 21st century and upgrade to HD," says Rich Romano, director of video operations at Parx Racing. "Now, our racing signal is simulcast to other racetracks and casinos. It also goes to horse racing shows such as TVG, a national horse racing network based out of California that presents HD broadcasts of races from all over the country. Broadcasting in 1080i to those sources has proven to be a gigantic leap forward in our production and made our video offerings a lot more attractive to broadcast providers. That was really the drive behind the upgrade, to basically put us on par with the major tracks in the industry."

Romano says he chose the JVC CONNECTED CAMS, "first and foremost, because the price point was right. Secondly, the quality and versatility that we get for that price point is outstanding; we can broadcast in either 1080i or 1080p. The streaming capabilities of the cameras will allow us to expand and do different types of productions in the future without having to buy new equipment, which is also huge for us."