



## FANTINI'S GAMING REPORT®

*More Important Than Your Morning Coffee...  
... And Now More Important Than Ever™*

### Special Reporting Service

May 20, 2020

Frank Fantini – *Publisher*

Ashley Diem – *Associate Publisher and Executive Editor*

Blake Weishaar – *Editor*

### *Fantini's COVID-19 Gaming Daily*

#### INDEX

OPENING DEMAND REMAINS HIGH

OPENINGS: CA, CT, MI, MN, NC, TX

COMPANIES: GATEWAY, LUCKBOX, SARATOGA

US: LV, MS

INTERNATIONAL: FRANCE

FANTINI'S VIRTUAL TRADE SHOW

CONVENTIONS, TRADE SHOWS, CONFERENCES, EXPOS

**NOTE:** *As casinos are making plans and reopening we welcome all news and developments for these and anything COVID-19 related. Send your news releases to us at [Editor@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:Editor@FantiniResearch.com). In addition, you may reach Editor Blake Weishaar at [BWeishaar@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:BWeishaar@FantiniResearch.com) or by phone at +1 302 730 3793.*

#### OPENING DEMAND REMAINS HIGH

Demand for gambling seems to have remained high during the COVID-19 lockdowns.

Some Louisiana casinos felt like a Friday, not a Monday when they reopened, the Baton Rouge Advocate quoted Louisiana Gaming Control Board Chairman Ronnie Jones.

Eldorado Resorts' Isle Lake Charles, Penn National's L'Auberge Lake Charles and Golden Nugget in Louisiana had higher gaming volumes than a typical Monday, Thomas Allen of Morgan Stanley quoted casino operators.

Additionally, volumes were double the normal on Tuesday with business expected to remain elevated through Memorial Day weekend, operators said.

Those high volumes came despite the casinos operating at 50 percent capacity, Allen noted.

#### OPENINGS: CA, CT, MI, MN, NC, TX

- CALIFORNIA. Spotlight 29 Casino and sister property Tortoise Rock Casino will open on Friday.

Harrah's Southern California, Morongo and Cher Ae Heights casinos will also open Friday.

Red Hawk will open June 1.

- CONNECTICUT. Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun will begin phased re-openings on June 1 limiting their customers to residents of Connecticut and Rhode Island.

They will not market to customers in New York or Massachusetts and no out-of-state buses will be accepted.

- MICHIGAN. Island Resort has become the state's first casino to reopen this past Saturday.

- MINNESOTA. Mystic Lake and Little Six casinos near Minneapolis will reopen Tuesday at 50 percent capacity, KSTP-TV reported.

Prairie's Edge in Granite Falls reopened Monday.

Running Aces plans to reopen its hotel on June 1 and is applying to resume live racing by June 20.

- NORTH CAROLINA. The Cherokee have reopened their two Harrah's Cherokee casinos by-invitation-only to limit the number of customers.

- TEXAS. Simulcasting and live racing with fans can resume on Friday, making Texas possibly the first in the world to reopen with spectators, Horse Racing Nation reported.

Tracks can open at 25 percent capacity.

#### COMPANIES: GATEWAY, LUCKBOX, SARATOGA

- GATEWAY CASINOS will decide when to resume construction on Cascades Casino in North Bay, Ontario, once its 12 Ontario casinos have reopened, Director of Communications & Public Affairs Rob Mitchell said.

"We have suspended construction at the site until the COVID-19 situation is resolved and the Ontario Government gives us permission to reopen our 12 casinos in Ontario," he said.

- LUCKBOX. The eSports betting operator is preparing to list on the Toronto Stock Exchange through a merger with special purpose acquisition company Elephant Hill, accelerating plans due to strong results during COVID-19.

Luckbox plans to raise US\$2.1 million, with \$1.4 million through a private offering of shares and a \$700,000 over-allotment option through its listing.

Elephant Hill's directors will resign following the completion of the listing and will be replaced by a five-member board jointly appointed by the two companies.

Total bets have grown more than 500 percent on eSports competitions since lockdowns began in March, leading to all key performance indicators skyrocketing, Luckbox CEO Quentin Martin said.

- SARATOGA GAMING terminated the agreement to buy Wildwood Casino, the 67-room Gold King Mountain Inn and two associated businesses in Cripple Creek, Colorado, due to impacts related to COVID-19.

"At this time, we believe it's in the best interest of both companies, and our respective casinos, to cancel the deal so we can focus on doing what's best for our casinos and our players," Wildwood Owner Joe Canfora said.

The amount of the original agreement was undisclosed.

#### US: LV, MS

- LAS VEGAS. McCarran International Airport, a key to Las Vegas recovering, has announced LAS ALL IN, a campaign to assure travelers that the airport is safe.

Among its points: hospital-grade sanitizing of high-touch surfaces, social distancing, limiting terminals to ticketed passengers only, reducing personal contact including the use of automated boarding passes.

- MISSISSIPPI. Casinos can reopen Thursday however The Mississippi Choctaw's Bok Homa casino and Pearl River Resort will not reopen until June 1.

#### INTERNATIONAL: FRANCE

- FRANCE. Several racetracks shut down a week after resuming activities as a result of the government preparing to publish new racetrack reopening policies in upcoming days.

#### FANTINI'S VIRTUAL TRADE SHOW

As COVID-19 has caused the cancellation of many trade shows, now is the time to turn to a virtual show to display and advertise all your product lines and news events too.

To exhibit your company, contact Dee Wild-Shyver at [DWild@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:DWild@FantiniResearch.com).

See products, demos, and news from exhibitors at [www.FantinisGamingShow.com](http://www.FantinisGamingShow.com).

## CONVENTIONS, TRADE SHOWS, CONFERENCES, EXPOS

Shows and conferences have been canceled or postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak. As new dates become available or for those that transition to webinars, they will be listed in our online calendar at <https://www.fantiniresearch.com/conventions.html>.

## ABOUT THIS REPORT:

*In Fantini's COVID-19 Gaming Daily report we consolidate all developments about the virus that have business and investment implications for the gaming industry. We will post them on our website until further notice. Fantini's COVID-19 Gaming Daily is a Special Report that is included with all levels of Fantini's Gaming Report subscriptions.*

## SUBSCRIBER RIGHTS AND CONDITIONS:

*Copyright©: Fantini's Gaming Report© and Fantini Research are divisions of Morning Report Research, Inc. All rights reserved. Our reports and content are protected by copyright and we reserve all rights except for as granted in this paragraph, and subject to the conditions stated below. We grant each subscriber and secondary recipient the right to receive, read, and utilize the reports and report contents for their individual use only. Your Subscriber Rights and Conditions give subscribers and secondary recipients the right to receive, read, and utilize the copyrighted reports and report contents for their individual use only. This right of individual use does not authorize providing whole or partial copies to others (even in your company) in any way, such as forwarding, posting, printing, file sharing, scanning, making photocopies, circulating, selling, publishing or otherwise. The right does not authorize any use by a person before he or she becomes a subscriber or secondary recipient. Any other right must be granted in writing by Morning Report Research, Inc. You agree to inform paid subscribers and recipients of the conditions on their use, and you authorize us, in our discretion, to employ tracking services to check their compliance. Unauthorized copying or distribution violates copyright law and may carry serious consequences.*

## SUBSCRIPTIONS:

*Subscriptions to Fantini's Gaming Report are available for \$7,099 a year for the Full Service Suite, \$1,999 for the Enhanced Service, and \$1,099 for the Basic level. Subscriptions are limited to one primary subscriber who may, with permission, add a secondary recipient at the same company and URL at no additional charge, with Morning Report Research, Inc. first giving you written permission to do so. Affordable multi-user licenses are available and can be customized for any number of designated recipients. See Subscriber Rights and Conditions above. For additional information, call +1-302-730-3793. Subscriptions can be ordered by phone or online at <http://www.FantiniResearch.com>. Credit card payments and bank transfers are available or send payment to Morning Report Research, Inc., P.O. Box 1676, Dover, DE, USA 19903-1676.*

## **STAFF/CONTACT US:**

Frank Fantini, publisher. [FFantini@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:FFantini@FantiniResearch.com)

Ashley Diem, associate publisher and executive editor. [ADiem@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:ADiem@FantiniResearch.com)

Dee Wild-Shyver, associate editor and VP of Virtual Trade Show. [DWild@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:DWild@FantiniResearch.com)

Laura Briggs, public policy editor. [LBriggs@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:LBriggs@FantiniResearch.com)

Blake Weishaar, editor. [BWeishaar@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:BWeishaar@FantiniResearch.com)

Hannah Wilmarth, writer. [HWilmarth@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:HWilmarth@FantiniResearch.com)

Dylan Kaplan, writer and project team member. [DKaplan@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:DKaplan@FantiniResearch.com)

Alex Capitle, marketing specialist. [ACapitle@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:ACapitle@FantiniResearch.com)

Cindy Konowitz, office manager. [CKonowitz@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:CKonowitz@FantiniResearch.com)

Subscription inquiries: [Subscriptions@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:Subscriptions@FantiniResearch.com)

Analyst notes: [Analysts@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:Analysts@FantiniResearch.com)

News releases: [Editor@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:Editor@FantiniResearch.com)