

# A peek at NY's gambling future

After the Supreme Court legalized sports betting, New Jersey was immediately all in



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Saturday night in the FanDuel Sportsbook at The Meadowlands, enthusiasts gambled legally on every sort of sporting contest imaginable.

Most were enthused, but also anxious and boisterous, celebratory and heartbroken, flush and broke, right at home and tragically out of place.

The Meadowlands, in addition to hosting NFL games, is home to a horse track. That means that under the sports gambling laws New Jersey passed this year, it can host a sports betting parlor. And it provides a preview of what we'll probably see in New York next year. Legislators from both parties and Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo agree that 2019 is when the Empire State will likely legalize sports gambling, too, unwilling to miss out on taxes and jobs from a popular, profitable vice.

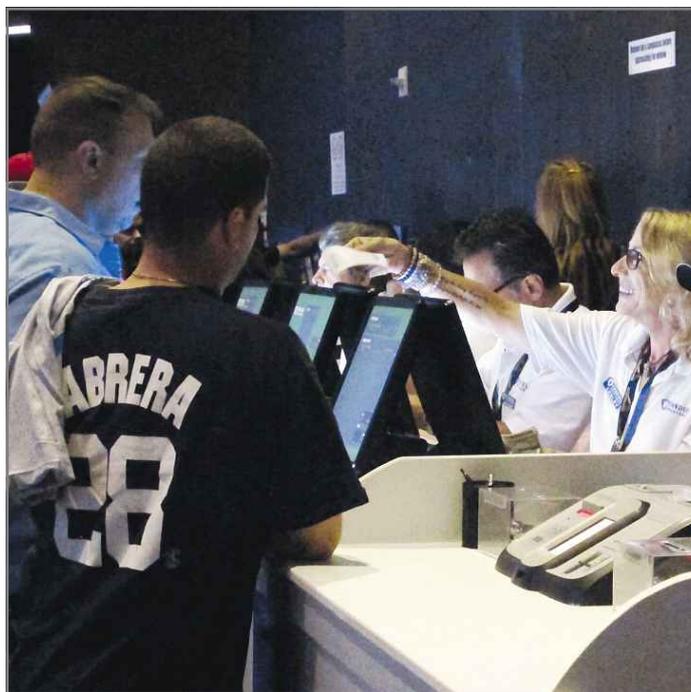
Until New Jersey won its Supreme Court case this year, Nevada had been the only state

where unfettered sports gambling was legal. And it's only fitting that New Jersey, whose Atlantic City was the first city to play second fiddle to the casinos of Nevada, was next in line for betting lines.

The Meadowlands horse-betting facility also hosts sports wagering, and at 9:15 p.m. Saturday it was jammed. College football games appeared on a dozen TV screens, and betting was heavy on NFL games scheduled for the following day. The Conor McGregor-Khabib Nurmagomedov UFC battle that was just hours away had hordes of young men buzzing. And Game 2 of the Yankees-Red Sox playoff series was ongoing, with odds on that contest, as well as the live football games, changing with every play.

The Yankees led 3-0 in the bottom of the third inning and had become big favorites to win at minus 550 (meaning you'd have to bet \$550 on the Yankees to win \$100), but those odds were moving with every hit and out.

It's tempting to say this is not your grandpa's sports wagering, but there were grandpas there, and one of them may well have been yours.



Gamblers bet at the Meadowlands Racetrack in New Jersey in July.

The alcohol, while not cheap, was plentiful. The FanDuel setup could use more clerks and seating, but that's not surprising considering a state full of the biggest sports fans in the world and no legal sports books is just 11 miles away.

And while gamblers have had

access to bookies forever and sophisticated betting apps on their phones for years, these sports bar-sports books meet a different need. People love to watch the game with other gamblers, where the winnings can be immediately claimed.

Fun, fun, fun, right? Mostly, yeah. But like most gambling

venues, terribly sad, too.

Saturday night, one shabbily dressed and exhausted young couple sat together desperately rooting for Auburn in the fourth quarter against Mississippi State. He kept looking from a handful of betting slips to the screen. She cradled an adorable and sleeping boy toddler in a colorful knit cap and overalls against her shoulder and exhorted the Tigers silently. Auburn, favored by 3.5 points, lost the game outright 13-9, and the couple lost their money.

Sports gambling will be legal in New York soon, and it's likely that recreational marijuana will follow. And both ought to be legal. Adults should be free to do as we wish when exercising that freedom does not impinge on the liberties of another. But that baby boy ought to have been home in bed, too, warm and cradling his favorite stuffed animal, listening to daddy read him a story.

Freedom can come at a terrible cost, but folks can be fools just as easily without liberty as with it. And it's the foolishness, not the freedom, that causes the trouble.

*Lane Filler is a member of Newsday's editorial board.*

## E-cigs becoming on-ramp for addiction

BY ALEX M. AZAR AND SCOTT GOTTLIEB

At the Department of Health and Human Services, we are concerned about the risks e-cigarettes pose for children, given how quickly teenage use of these products has accelerated. Using a small battery to heat a liquid that contains nicotine, e-cigarettes turn the liquid into an inhalable vapor. Since 2014, they have been the most popular nicotine product among American teenagers.

And e-cigarettes' popularity is accelerating: From 2017 to 2018, according to data from the National Youth Tobacco Survey, the number of high school-age children reporting use of e-cigarettes rose by more than 75 percent. Use among middle-school-

ers also increased nearly 50 percent. That is an epidemic.

The surge in e-cigarette use by teenagers is alarming because nicotine is highly addictive and can harm brain development, which continues into young adulthood. Worse, kids who start on e-cigarettes are actually more likely than non-user peers to migrate to smoking tobacco, as shown by data in a 2018 report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine.

It is crucial that e-cigarettes do not become an on-ramp for children to become addicted to nicotine. But at the same time, we believe e-cigarettes can be an important off-ramp for adults who are addicted to combustible cigarettes. At HHS, we are intent on combating tobacco use, the leading cause of preventable

death in the United States. And last year we placed nicotine at the center of a comprehensive plan for tobacco regulation.

The efforts at HHS to combat tobacco's lethality focus on two key goals: first, reducing the nicotine levels in combustible cigarettes to render them minimally or nonaddictive. Second, harnessing new forms of nicotine delivery, including medicinal products and e-cigarettes, to give adult smokers less harmful substitutes for cigarettes.

Yet products such as e-cigarettes need to be put through an appropriate regulatory process. Under the most likely path for marketing authorization, they must show that their marketing is appropriate for protecting the public health, taking into account their risks

and benefits to the population as a whole.

Rising e-cigarette use by children makes the marketing of this product especially deserving of close attention.

To better understand how this marketing works, the Food and Drug Administration has taken a series of actions, including obtaining records from Juul Labs headquarters in San Francisco during an unannounced inspection. Juul devices function as nicotine-delivering e-cigarettes, but are shaped like a USB flash drive. Juul now has more than a 70 percent share of the cartridge-based e-cigarette market in the United States. The use of Juul in schools, including classrooms and restrooms, has been widely reported by students and teachers.

All these concerns drove us

to crack down on sales of e-cigarette products to minors. For several months, we have advanced a comprehensive Youth Tobacco Prevention Plan to thwart the marketing and sales of e-cigarettes to minors, including an extensive education campaign warning teens about the risks of these products.

E-cigarette manufacturers are on notice. They still have the opportunity to come forward with plans to stem e-cigarette use by children. The technology that might help adults end one addiction cannot pull a generation of kids into a new one.

*Alex M. Azar is the secretary of Health and Human Services. Scott Gottlieb is the commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration.*