

At Wolverine Harness Raceway

Grand Circuit Week to open

Grand Circuit Week starts Saturday night at Wolverine Harness Raceway, but not before Detroit area harness fans are welcomed to Good Old Times Night Friday. Post time is 8 p.m. with gates open at 6 p.m.

Prizes will be rolled back to those of old, with hot dogs selling for a dime and pop, ice cream, and popcorn all going for a nickel. Grandstand admission tomorrow night is only 50 cents, and children under 12 accompanied by an adult will be admitted free.

Every year, the sport of harness racing puts its most talented horses on display for fans across the country in an extravaganza called Grand Circuit Week. Wolverine Raceway is the initial stop for the top racers this year. After Wolverine, the star performers will race at 20 different racetracks from coast to coast.

Starting off the big week is the \$40,171 Matron Stakes for three-year-old pacers. Ambro Ranger, a Canadian-bred animal, was elected the 1978 Canadian Horse of the Year, a rarity for a two-year-old. He won 14 of 21 starts and more than \$100,000 in purse money. Off his record, he has been named the number one pacer for this year in the United States Trotting Association regional ratings.

Stanley Dancer, one of harness racing's premier trainer-drivers, has sent a stable of 10 horses to Wolverine for the Grand Circuit. Dancer, 47, is in his 30th year of driving and boasts more than 2,100 career wins and more than \$18 million in purse money.

Dancer's "big horse" is Nevele Thunder, a three-year-old trotting colt, who is the winter book favorite to win the 1978 Hambletonian classic at DuQuoin.

Nevele Thunder, a son of Nevele Pride, who was Dancer's greatest horse, will race Thursday night in the \$44,000 race for his division.

The Livonia track has never been faster, and the Grand Circuit stars should expect to better lifetime marks. Through last Monday night, a total of 70 two-minute miles have been clocked as Wolverine moves toward the all-time record of 102 for a race

meeting set by Hollywood Park in 1974. Although he never came close to being a Grand Circuit horse, Slickies First, a seven-year-old gelding who is owned in part by six different people, is appreciated for what he is — an honest racehorse who keeps winning and earning checks.

Two of Slickies First's owners, Bob Rybka and Darrell Metz, are Livonia residents. The gelding is trained by 32-year-old horseman Rocky Berube of Southgate.

When Slickies First won for the third time this meet June 2, a total of 32 people

(owners and friends) were in the winners' circle picture with the horse.

Tomorrow night's \$11,400 Old Times Invitational Trot attracts Savor, the 1978 Harms Horse of the Year. Savor is an eight-year-old trotter who is the richest U.S.-owned trotter of all time, with career earnings of \$1,064,568 through 1975.

Facing Savor will be Meadow Bright, 1975 three-year-old filly trotter of the year and winner of last Friday night's Valley Forge Invitational. Noble Rogue and Hobo Colby are also entered.

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Spartans rally to claim district

The Bishop Borgess baseball team last weekend claimed its district title with 7-4 victories over both Detroit Mumford and Detroit Catholic Central.

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Mumford opened the scoring with a run in the top on the first, one in the second and three in the third to take a 3-0 lead.

The Borgess team exploded for four runs in the bottom of the third when Vince (Red) Tom Quay, Gary Glendon and Gerry Mulka singled for one run. Then John Wiedsky doubled home three more, to cut the deficit to one run at 3-4.

Mumford scored its final run of the game in the fifth inning to grab a two-run lead, but Borgess battled back in the bottom of the sixth with one run on a triple by Chris Prebe and a single by Craig Miller.

The Borgess team came within one out of beating out of the state tournament when they had two men out and a man on first. Mulka and Wiedsky singled and Prebe hit his second triple of the game to knock in two runs and give Borgess the victory.

Winning pitcher for Borgess was Dale Paige who worked the entire game, giving up eight hits and striking out 10 Mumford batters.

In the finale, the Spartans held off a seventh-inning rally to defeat Catholic Central.

Again it was Dale Paige who was the pitching hero as he picked up the save in relief of winning pitcher Dave Prebe. CC opened the scoring in the first inning when they touched Prebe for two runs. But Borgess scored three times in the third when Mark Montrose was safe on an error. Tim Hickley was hit by a pitch, and Darrell sacrificed and was safe on an error allowing a run to score. Quay hit a sacrifice fly for another run, with the final run scoring on a CC error.

CC rallied for three runs in the fourth before Paige came in to put out the fire.

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