

Inaugural race a big success

Board track bicycle racing revived in area

By STEVE KAPLAN

Most of the 900 spectators probably didn't know quite what to expect when the bicycle riders took to the wooden track last Friday for something called a Madison in the Southfield Civic Center Arena.

Indoor bicycle racing on a steeply-banked track, called a velodrome, had its heyday in the 1920s and '30s, when thousands of fans packed New York's Madison Square Garden to watch the races. Since then, interest in the sport has declined in the United States, although it remained strong in Europe.

But now four Detroit-area bike racing buffs are trying to bring back the sport. They've constructed a portable velodrome—the only one of its kind in the country—and planned a series of five races at the Civic Center hockey rink this summer.

The first race, the Southfield Inaugural, debuted last Friday and, if

the inaugural is any indication, the program will be successful.

"When you watch these races, you become consumed by them," said Dale Hughes of Rochester, Hughes used to own a bicycle shop, but now promotes indoor bike racing with partners Bill Jacobson, Dave Staugaard and Larry Monasteriski.

"The fans in Southfield were just super excited about how things went," Hughes said. "The races generated a lot of enthusiasm. We had standing ovations all night."

THE TRACK itself accounts for much of the sport's excitement. The 125-meter plywood track is steeply banked—50 degrees on the curves and 20 degrees on the straightaways—so that a rider must do 12 miles an hour just to keep from sliding off.

The riders, who train for months to prepare for a race, use special bicycles with no gears or brakes. The bikes can't coast like ordinary ones.

There's a direct drive from the pedal to the wheel similar to a child's tricycle.

There are three types of competition—sprint, pursuit and the Madison, a two-man relay race, named after the famous New York arena where it originated. Madison teams race 30 miles during a one-hour period. Relay members change places while on the go.

Because of the banked track and the speed involved, spills are common in indoor bike racing. There were a couple of spills last Friday, but no one was seriously injured.

"Board track racing looks super dangerous," Hughes said. "But it really isn't. The track is made of wood, and it gives when you fall on it. The worst that happens is that you get some floor burns. If you fall on a cement (outdoor) track, it just eats your skin up."

The brother team of Wolfram and Chris Meingast, both of Grosse

Pointe, won the Madison race. Ted Waterbury and Bill Shook finished second.

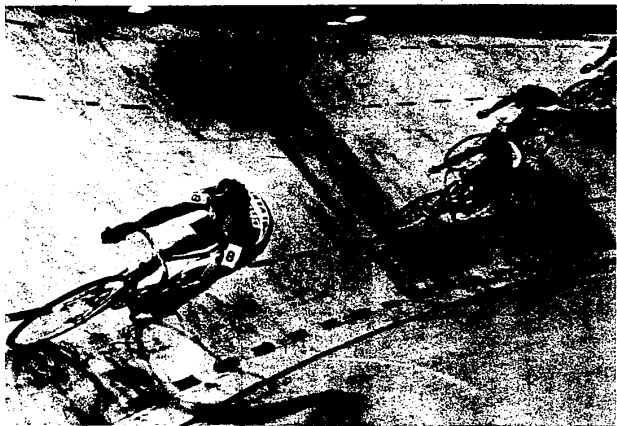
IN THE flying lap (once around the track), Les Barchezski, a 20-year-old college student from Madison, Wis., won with a time of :07.95. Barchezski teamed with Mike Moale to win the 1,000-meter pursuit in 1:12.15.

Barchezski also won the two-lap sprint races in :17.0. Waterbury won the 32-lap point-to-point race with 42 points.

Another Madison race is scheduled for June 3 at the Southfield Civic Center Arena.

SOUTHFIELD INAUGURAL RACES:
MADISON RACE — 1 Chris Meingast and Wolf-

fram Meingast. 2 Ted Waterbury and Bill Shook. 3 Roy Hoppert and Don Camp. 4 Tom Bohman and Rick Freeman (did not finish).
FLYING LAP — 1 Les Barchezski. 02.95. 2 Roy Hoppert. 08.50. 3 Tom Bohman. 08.72.
1,000-METER MADISON PURSUIT — Mike Moale and Les Barchezski. 1:12.15. 2 Chris Meingast and Wolfram Meingast. 1:15. 3 Tom Bohman and Roy Hoppert. 1:15.15.
32-LAP POINT-TO-POINT — 1 Ted Waterbury. 42 points. 2 Don Camp. 32. 3 Bill Shook. 35.



Board track racers must travel at least 12 miles per hour to avoid sliding off the steeply-banked track.

Seaholm stops Southfield

John Mugarditchian and Steve Schubeck led the way in Birmingham Seaholm's 9-2 baseball victory over Southfield High last Monday in a Southeastern Michigan Association game at Southfield. The loss dropped coach Calvin Fletcher's Southfield club to 2-9 in the league and 7-10 on the season.

Schubeck had two hits in four trips to the plate and drove in three runs, and Mugarditchian went three for four and knocked in two more runs. Winning pitcher Al Spencer worked 5½ innings, allowing six hits, striking out two and walking one.

Southfield's Jay Clark went two for four and drove in a run, while teammate Mark Steinberg had one hit in four at-bats and drove in the other run. David Wilkinson had two of Southfield's eight hits. Losing pitcher Glen Curtis, a senior right-hander, went all the way, giving up 13 hits, fanning one and walking none.

Last Saturday, Southfield split a doubleheader with non-league Bishop Borgess. Southfield came back to win the nightcap, 6-3, after dropping the first game, 3-2. Southfield's Jon Vigi was the winning pitcher in the second game. He gave up five hits, struck out eight and walked three.

Southfield plays next on Thursday at Walled

Lake Central in a predistrict qualifying game at 4 p.m. On Friday, Southfield continues its SMA season with a 4-15 p.m. home game against Hazel Park.

ADAMS-LATHRUP

Rochester Adams scored the winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning to whip Southfield-Lathrup, 9-8, in a Metro Suburban Association baseball game at Adams.

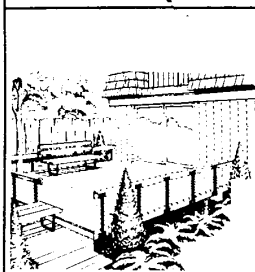
Adams' Jim Cupples, who had three hits and drove in four runs, had the big hit, a single to drive in Brad Watkins with the winning run. Neil Sitko was the winning pitcher.

Lathrup, which had 15 hits to Adams' eight, got a home run and three RBI from Joey Silver. Teammate Jim Wissing went two for four and knocked in three runs. Bob Pyles had a double and a single and two RBI, and Paul Konopacke had two hits, including a homer, in four trips.

Losing pitcher Joe Wissing, now 2-4, pitched three innings in relief of starter Andy Coden, who gave up two earned runs.

Lathrup plays next on Friday at home against Birmingham Groves. The MSA game begins at 4 p.m.

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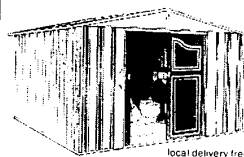


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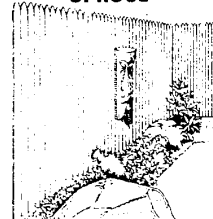
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