

By George Maskin observing sports

Gentlemen . . . and ladies, too . . . I goofed. Remember what was said here a week ago . . . that while many high school coaches have asked for an extra week of football practice in the fall, nothing had been done.

Sorry, I goofed.

Something has been done, although many of the coaches I talked to were just as much in the dark on the subject as I was.

Jack Cotton, Farmington school system athletic chief who is a member of the State High School Athletic Council, passed along the word that the Council voted last spring for a fourth week of football drills, commencing in 1970.

Under the current rules and will be affected this fall—no prep team may start football practice prior to the third Monday before the opening game.

This year, the date in the lower peninsula is Monday, Aug. 25.

"Of course, our action isn't official yet," Cotton told this reporter. "When we recommend a rule it must go before the state legislature for final approval."

But the legislature stamp is merely a formality. It's a 99.9 per cent bet that the Lansing legislature will agree to what the prep athletic council suggests.

All of which should bring smiles to the prep grid coaches who have figured for many years that they have been cramped with less than three full weeks of actual workouts before starting the season.

Too, it should put an end to "cheating" coaches who have huddled their charges in some corner lot, where they thought nobody might see them, and work on football maneuvers which are strictly against the state rule.

DOTS-DASHES: Are steps being taken to build up interscholastic sports for girls in Michigan?

Many administrators are under the impression that there's nothing wrong with organized competition for the fair sex in sports like basketball, swimming, golf, tennis and even track.

We're all for it. The girls certainly would help dress up The Observer sports pages.

TALKING ABOUT the young ladies, Nancy Patch of Farmington rates a few bouquets for her brilliance in golf.

She's among the top players in the state and recently reached the semifinals in the Michigan championships before being eliminated.

Miss Patch generally finished in the first three in the weekly tournaments staged by the Women's District Golf Association.

AH, YES; if you're looking for an exciting evening, drop around one of the fields in the area where the girls play softball these days.

Most of the teams are in the playoffs and they contest at the same feverish clip the men do.

A lot of the gal players are mothers who bring the little ones with them to help create a little extra excitement.

BEFORE YOU RIP UP the Tigers too much, stop for a second to realize that even if the Tigers were playing at the same pace that won the pennant in 1968 they'd still be six or seven games behind Baltimore today.

It's not that the Tigers have done that badly . . . until they were wrecked with injuries last week . . . they had done very well . . . It's just that Baltimore has emerged into one of the hottest teams baseball ever has known.

THERE'S BEEN LITTLE said in the Detroit Lions camp about Livonia's Wayne Walker.

But fear not. The veteran linebacker will be right back in the thick of things when matters count.

And it wouldn't surprise us if Walker is back booting the extra points and field goals regularly . . . something he did extremely well for many years on the ball club.

Speaking of Walker and his Lion mates, they start their exhibition season next Saturday night in Kansas City against the Chiefs and comes Aug. 15 the Lions will host the Buffalo Bills at Tiger Stadium.

It wouldn't surprise us if by that time, O. J. Simpson has ended his holdout siege, with the Bills.

DRC Entries

ENTRIES THURSDAY, AUG. 7

Weather clear, track fast.
First post 3:30 p.m. EST

1st-\$1500, 4 furlongs
Chief Pick: Kitty's Cub, Middle

2nd-\$1500, 4 furlongs
Chief Pick: Kitty's Cub, Middle

3rd-\$1500, 4 furlongs
Chief Pick: Kitty's Cub, Middle

4th-\$1500, 4 furlongs
Chief Pick: Kitty's Cub, Middle

5th-\$1500, 4 furlongs
Chief Pick: Kitty's Cub, Middle

6th-\$1500, 4 furlongs
Chief Pick: Kitty's Cub, Middle

7th-\$1500, 4 furlongs
Chief Pick: Kitty's Cub, Middle

8th-\$1500, 4 furlongs
Chief Pick: Kitty's Cub, Middle

9th-\$1500, 4 furlongs
Chief Pick: Kitty's Cub, Middle

10th-\$1500, 4 furlongs
Chief Pick: Kitty's Cub, Middle

11th-\$1500, 4 furlongs
Chief Pick: Kitty's Cub, Middle

12th-\$1500, 4 furlongs
Chief Pick: Kitty's Cub, Middle

13th-\$1500, 4 furlongs
Chief Pick: Kitty's Cub, Middle

14th-\$1500, 4 furlongs
Chief Pick: Kitty's Cub, Middle

15th-\$1500, 4 furlongs
Chief Pick: Kitty's Cub, Middle

16th-\$1500, 4 furlongs
Chief Pick: Kitty's Cub, Middle

17th-\$1500, 4 furlongs
Chief Pick: Kitty's Cub, Middle

18th-\$1500, 4 furlongs
Chief Pick: Kitty's Cub, Middle

19th-\$1500, 4 furlongs
Chief Pick: Kitty's Cub, Middle

20th-\$1500, 4 furlongs
Chief Pick: Kitty's Cub, Middle

21st-\$1500, 4 furlongs
Chief Pick: Kitty's Cub, Middle

22nd-\$1500, 4 furlongs
Chief Pick: Kitty's Cub, Middle

23rd-\$1500, 4 furlongs
Chief Pick: Kitty's Cub, Middle

24th-\$1500, 4 furlongs
Chief Pick: Kitty's Cub, Middle

25th-\$1500, 4 furlongs
Chief Pick: Kitty's Cub, Middle

Northville Shatters Wager, Crowd Marks

Exploding the much accepted theory that gimmicks attract patrons and make a successful meeting, Northville Downs racing down the curtain on its most successful campaign in 26 years. Wagering was up 10.7 per cent for an all time high nightly average of \$344,004 and the turnstile count was up 6.7 per cent with an average of 4,542.

The handle for 1969 contrasted with the \$310,807 average of a year ago and climaxed a five year climb from \$216,828 in 1965 to this year's record high.

According to Michigan Racing Commission Leo Shiley's annual report, Northville's rate of increase in average handle has exceeded that of any of the other harness racing tracks in the Detroit area during the five year period. This despite the fact of the relatively poor location, farthest away from the metropolitan Detroit area.

"AND" POINTS OUT Northville Downs Executive Manager, John Carlo, "We have completed this growth in business without gimmicks. Other racing plants in the area have the twin double, perfectas, giveaway

lights in which they hand out everything from automobiles to mini-stores and free admission nights. We believe in presenting evenly matched races, limit wagering to each of the 10 races and only a daily double and that's all."

This year Northville Downs shattered 10 records during a meeting marked by the most rain in years. There were no races during the 54 night campaign without rain on either a Friday or a Saturday, the biggest nights of the week for attendance and wagering.

"Despite the weather we managed to boost our mutual handle to its highest level and we feel certain it will continue to climb in the future once the three-level clubhouse is completed," added Carlo.

Work has started on the clubhouse and the first level will be available for the Jackson at Northville meeting starting Nov. 24 and continuing to the end of the year.

The closing night crowd of 4,114 braved intermittent showers to bid the pacers and trotters goodbye and sent \$305,033 through the mutual machines.

CHRIS BORING, of Adrian,

received the trophy for the winning driver with a winning percentage of .398 of 111 starts, 27 firsts, 25 seconds and 10 thirds. Lanky Wally McMillan, of Novi, was second with a .357 average on a total of 67 starts, 36 firsts, 24 seconds and 30 thirds.

Jake Foster, the 67-year-old from Northville, turned in one of the miracles of the season, winning up third in the ranking with 67 firsts, 13 wins, 11 seconds and 12 thirds for a .345 average.

Fred Taylor, the brilliant driver-trainer from London, O., was the winningest reinsman for the third straight year with 50 firsts in 249 starts.

NORTHVILLE HANDLED \$18,576,249 during the 54 nights and registered a total attendance of 245,000.

Other records set included: largest daily double pool, \$40,148, July 5; most wagered on a single race, \$80,202, eighth race on July 5; most wagered on a weekend, \$800,245, June 13 and 14; most wagered in six nights in one week, \$2,174,789, June 30-July 5; most wagered on a Tuesday, \$282,472, July 1; most on a Thursday, \$411,723, July 3; most on a Friday, \$436,950, June 13; and most on a Saturday, \$464,816, June 21.

DRC Off To Finest Start; Better Records For '68

Paul Terone's Michiganbred Champion Kid, a triple stakes winner already this year has

high-weighted at 123 pounds for Saturday's running (Aug. 9) of the \$15,000-added Good Neighbor Handicap at the Detroit Race Course.

In assigning weights Monday for the DRC's third stakes event of the meeting, Racing Secretary Norris Gwin tabbed "Terror" four-year-old colt as the standout among 38 nominees for the Good Neighbor.

Starters will be named Thursday for the mile and 70 yard test for three year olds and up.

First-week interest in 1969's program bore out pre-season predictions that the suburban thoroughbred plant may be in for one of the most successful meetings of its 20-year history.

Attendance and pari-mutuel play both showed increases over the first week's action in 1968.

THE HANDLE for the first six days of the 90-day meeting totaled \$5,949,593, averaging out at \$981,598 per day. This was a jump of 1.65 per cent over going week a year ago, with racing both years conducted on an identical Monday through Saturday schedule.

Attendance last week totaled 79,499 against 77,585 for opening week in 1968. This reflected a 1.17 per cent increase in admissions for comparable periods.

On four of the first six racing dates on the DRC's calendar both the handle and attendance were up from comparable 1968 figures. The 15-week meeting will continue through Saturday, Nov. 8.

This is the DRC's first season under the newly organized

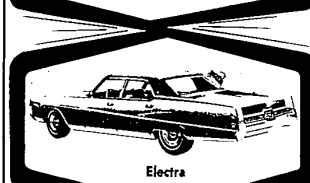
Detroit Racing Association, which purchased the track last November.

Prior to opening day President Jack Davis expressed the belief that "continuing effort

to improve the caliber of racing" would result in added interest on the part of the fans and in just one week his forecast has proven accurately prophetic.

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SIZE	Tubeless Black Wall	Tubeless White Wall	Std. Ex. Tax Per Tire
6.50-15	138.00	151.00	11.79
7.00-15	148.00	161.00	12.79
7.50-15	158.00	171.00	13.79
8.00-15	168.00	181.00	14.79
8.50-15	178.00	191.00	15.79
9.00-15	188.00	201.00	16.79
9.50-15	198.00	211.00	17.79
10.00-15	208.00	221.00	18.79
10.50-15	218.00	231.00	19.79
11.00-15	228.00	241.00	20.79
11.50-15	238.00	251.00	21.79
12.00-15	248.00	261.00	22.79
12.50-15	258.00	271.00	23.79
13.00-15	268.00	281.00	24.79
13.50-15	278.00	291.00	25.79
14.00-15	288.00	301.00	26.79
14.50-15	298.00	311.00	27.79
15.00-15	308.00	321.00	28.79
15.50-15	318.00	331.00	29.79
16.00-15	328.00	341.00	30.79
16.50-15	338.00	351.00	31.79
17.00-15	348.00	361.00	32.79
17.50-15	358.00	371.00	33.79
18.00-15	368.00	381.00	34.79
18.50-15	378.00	391.00	35.79
19.00-15	388.00	401.00	36.79
19.50-15	398.00	411.00	37.79
20.00-15	408.00	421.00	38.79
20.50-15	418.00	431.00	39.79
21.00-15	428.00	441.00	40.79
21.50-15	438.00	451.00	41.79
22.00-15	448.00	461.00	42.79
22.50-15	458.00	471.00	43.79
23.00-15	468.00	481.00	44.79
23.50-15	478.00	491.00	45.79
24.00-15	488.00	501.00	46.79
24.50-15	498.00	511.00	47.79
25.00-15	508.00	521.00	48.79
25.50-15	518.00	531.00	49.79
26.00-15	528.00	541.00	50.79
26.50-15	538.00	551.00	51.79
27.00-15	548.00	561.00	52.79
27.50-15	558.00	571.00	53.79
28.00-15	568.00	581.00	54.79
28.50-15	578.00	591.00	55.79
29.00-15	588.00	601.00	56.79
29.50-15	598.00	611.00	57.79
30.00-15	608.00	621.00	58.79
30.50-15	618.00	631.00	59.79
31.00-15	628.00	641.00	60.79
31.50-15	638.00	651.00	61.79
32.00-15	648.00	661.00	62.79
32.50-15	658.00	671.00	63.79
33.00-15	668.00	681.00	64.79
33.50-15	678.00	691.00	65.79
34.00-15	688.00	701.00	66.79
34.50-15	698.00	711.00	67.79
35.00-15	708.00	721.00	68.79
35.50-15	718.00	731.00	69.79
36.00-15	728.00	741.00	70.79
36.50-15	738.00	751.00	71.79
37.00-15	748.00	761.00	72.79
37.50-15	758.00	771.00	73.79
38.00-15	768.00	781.00	74.79
38.50-15	778.00	791.00	75.79
39.00-15	788.00	801.00	76.79
39.50-15	798.00	811.00	77.79
40.00-15	808.00	821.00	78.79
40.50-15	818.00	831.00	79.79
41.00-15	828.00	841.00	80.79
41.50-15	838.00	851.00	81.79
42.00-15	848.00	861.00	82.79
42.50-15	858.00	871.00	83.79
43.00-15	868.00	881.00	84.79
43.50-15	878.00	891.00	85.79
44.00-15	888.00	901.00	86.79
44.50-15	898.00	911.00	87.79
45.00-15	908.00	921.00	88.79
45.50-15	918.00	931.00	89.79
46.00-15	928.00	941.00	90.79
46.50-15	938.00	951.00	91.79
47.00-15	948.00	961.00	92.79
47.50-15	958.00	971.00	93.79
48.00-15	968.00	981.00	94.79
48.50-15	978.00	991.00	95.79
49.00-15	988.00	1001.00	96.79
49.50-15	998.00	1011.00	97.79
50.00-15	1008.00	1021.00	98.79
50.50-15	1018.00	1031.00	99.79
51.00-15	1028.00	1041.00	100.79
51.50-15	1038.00	1051.00	101.79
52.00-15	1048.00	1061.00	102.79
52.50-15	1058.00	1071.00	103.79
53.00-15	1068.00	1081.00	104.79
53.50-15	1078.00	1091.00	105.79
54.00-15	1088.00	1101.00	106.79
54.50-15	1098.00	1111.00	107.79
55.00-15	1108.00	1121.00	108.79
55.50-15	1118.00	1131.00	109.79
56.00-15	1128.00	1141.00	110.79
56.50-15	1138.00	1151.00	111.79
57.00-15	1148.00	1161.00	112.79
57.50-15	1158.00	1171.00	113