

Lolich Slated To Hurl Home Opener For Tigers

By GEORGE MASKIN
Observer Sports Editor

It'll be opening day for the Tigers at Tiger Stadium Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. But they shouldn't have any of those jitters or nervousness which usually are associated with such gala occasions.

This will just be the third opener the Tigers have participated in during the past week.

THEY HAD THE honor of playing before President Nixon in Washington when they beat the Senators last Monday.

On Friday the Tigers helped the defending American League champion Baltimore Orioles usher in their home season.

Now, it'll be the Tigers vs. the Cleveland Indi-

ans, who never recovered last season from a slow start and staggered along at the bottom of the American League-East.

A number of things have happened to the Tigers since they last appeared in Tiger Stadium... in fact since manager Mayo Smith last visited in Detroit during mid-January.

There have been some deals, one of which sent away veteran pitcher Joe Sparma from Livonia to Montreal in the National League.

Another brought Joe Niekro to the Tigers from San Diego of the senior circuit. A third brought infielder Dalton Jones from Boston.

Such rookies as Elliott Maddox, the former University of Michigan star, have won jobs on the roster. Gone is veteran Tommy Tresh.

But the biggest difference as far as the Tigers

are concerned will be the absence of Denny McLain, who likely would have pitched against the Tribe Tuesday.

McLain's suspension on alleged gambling charges in mid-February upset the Tigers to the point they floundered through most of the training season.

Finally when it was announced McLain could rejoin them on July 1, the Tigers came to life and finished their exhibitions in a flurry and started the regular season with two victories in three tries at Washington.

FINE PITCHING by Mickey Lolich and Niekro highlighted the Nats' series. Each went the route and posted a shutout. The failure of Earl Wilson and five other Tigers in the middle game of the series obviously upset manager Smith.

But he will stick to his pitching rotation for the next week at least. He pitched Lolich in the Baltimore opener, with Wilson and Niekro following on Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

Then it'll be Lolich, Wilson and Niekro in the same order against the Indians with all three games scheduled in the afternoon.

The Tigers will have two new faces in their infield, maybe three, depending on who starts for Cleveland.

Cesar Gutierrez will be at shortstop and if a lefty pitcher for the Tribe, Jones will be at third and veteran Mickey Stanley, at first.

Dick McAuliffe has recovered from knee surgery and is back at second base on a permanent basis.

Al Kaline, Willie Horton and Jim Northrup form the starting outfield while Bill Freehan again is the No. 1 catcher.

'Cats' Make For Excellent Fishing

By LEM MESSE

I was fascinated to learn in last weekend's edition that the conservation folks have stocked some big channel catfish in Newburgh Lake.

The "cat" was Huck Finn's favorite angling subject, but you rarely hear about them in Michigan, although they're around. It will be interesting to see if they last in Newburgh.

The ones planted in Newburgh last year were about 15 inches long, I'm told by Ron Spitzer, the fish biologist from the Natural Resources Department, and they have some growing to do. What many think is that state record was a 44-pound lunker from Houghton Lake in 1940.

THE CHANNEL cat shouldn't be confused with his cousin, the bullhead. The cat is silvery in color, has a V-shaped tail and isn't as big in the head; the bullhead is dark in color, squarer in the tail and sometimes seems to be one-third head.

All this talk about the channel cat sent me back to my fishing guide from AAA, which says they are bottom feeders and like water about six feet deep near weedy shores.

You'd better have strong tackle if you took one, or at least play him carefully if you're using spinning equipment. The cat won't leap like a bass, but he's a rugged fighter. He's got a good appetite, liver, old meat, doughballs,

live minnows, frogs, grasshoppers, crayfish—almost any kind of "ripe" bait.

I've seen a 23-inch channel cat hauled out of the St. Joe River. They are also supposed to be in the Tittabawassee River, Saginaw Bay, the Muskegon River and the Manistee River. I could mention Lake St. Clair and the channels of the St. Clair River, but that would be in bad taste, if you'll pardon the pun.

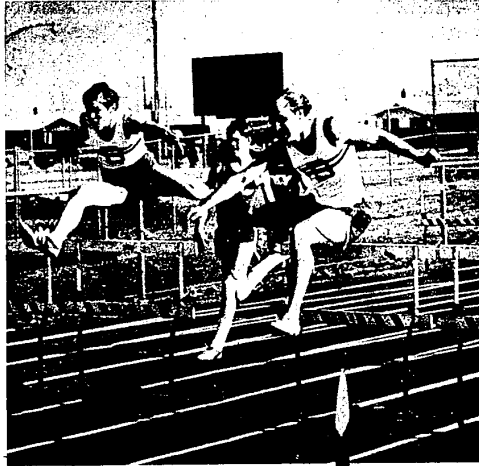
Let us know if you catch one in Newburgh.

Rodeo At State Fair

The sixth annual Detroit Championship Rodeo, including seven performances in four days will be held at the State Fair Coliseum April 16-19.

Chief among the competitors will be Jack Wiseman, a 26-year old bull rider from Houston, who has good reason to remember Detroit. It was in this year's rodeo locally that Wiseman won his first major bull riding event, and on the strength of that performance went on to win both the all-around and bull riding championships in 1969.

According to Bruce Lehrke, rodeo manager for the Loretta Lynn Championship Rodeo Co. of Nashville, promoters of the event, at least four of the six individual defending champions and seven of the top 10 all-around winners will compete at Detroit.



MIKE DAY, of Bentley, leads the field over the final obstacle as he wins the high hurdles in the meet against Franklin. He was one of the top stars for Bentley. (Observer photo by Craig Goffield).

Franklin Trackmen Top City Rival In Opener

It was a gala way for Franklin to high start the track season.

Winning the opener always

is nice, but to beat your arch rival from Bentley.

Well, that's the way it was Tuesday when Coach Bob Holmes' Franklin squad roared past Bentley, 78-40.

Franklin swept three of the events—the pole vault, the high jump and the 220-yard dash.

It was also an afternoon when senior Bob Yuhaz won the 100-yard dash for Franklin, but he wasn't able to overshadow his younger brother, Ken, a sophomore. Ken followed with a victory in the 220.

JEFF KIND was the most versatile Franklin performer. He took the low hurdles, was second in both the long jump and the 220-yard dash and also anchored the winning 880-yard relay.

Franklin's Jim Kosteva turned in one of the best times of the meet when he captured the two mile in 10:15.6. Bentley's Ed McGhie was second, some 15 seconds behind.

Pole Vault: 1-Pfeister (F), 2-Florida (F), 3-Brooks (F). Height: 10 feet, 6 inches.

Shot Put: 1-Craig (F), 2-Day (B), 3-Romano (B). Distance: 39 feet, 4 inches.

Long Jump: 1-Anger (B), 2-Kind (F), 3-Johnson (B). Distance: 20 feet, 3 inches.

High Jump: Three-way tie for first between Florida (F), Jinnett (F), 3-Newman (F). Height: 5 feet, 3 inches.

880-yard relay: 1-Franklin (F), 2-Ridley, 3-Yuhaz, 4-Kind. Time: 1:34.1.

880-yard relay: 1-Koch (B), 2-Munday (B), 3-Dave (F). Time: 2:07.1.

High Hurdles: 1-Day (B), 2-Johnson (B), 3-Lee (F). Time: 14.7 seconds.

Mile: 1-Mosley (B), 2-Steinhauer (F), 3-Burman (F). Time: 4:40.

100-yard: 1-B. Yuhaz, (F) 2-K. Yuhaz (F), 3-Powell (B). Time: 10.8 seconds.

440-yard: 1-Jinnett (F), 2-

Harris (F), 3-Proctor (B). Time: 53.8 seconds.

Low Hurdles: 1-Kind (F), 2-Day (B), 3-Johnson (B). Time: 21 seconds.

Two Mile: 1-Kosteva (F), 2-McGhie (B), 3-Yorliff (F). Time: 10:15.6.

1200-yard: 1-K. Yuhaz (F), 2-Kind (F), 3-Filarechi (F). Time: 23.6 seconds.

24 bowlers with averages above 200 in the classic.

BILL GAY TOOK over the premiership role in the Classic at Garden Lanes with a 651 series this week. At that he had only a 10 pin margin on Mike Margesian who posted a 644.

Among the other high scorers were Marv Tucker with 637 and Ken Lersenger with 620.

B. C. Nunnery still is leading the averages with 205.

Andy Neely and Verna Kusma were named "Bowlers of the Month" at Merril-Bowl Lanes. Andy fashioned a 280 in the Friday House League to gain the honor and Verna had a 268 in the Tuesday Ladies League to get her name on the scroll.

THE CITY OF LIVONIA Recreation Department has finalized plans for the final roll-offs for the city championships in all divisions.

Holloffs in the team event are scheduled at Cloverlanes on Wednesday, April 15, at 4 p.m.

The singles roll-offs in the prep division are set for Wonderland Lanes on April 20-27 and the Teen Division at Wonderland on April 23-30.

In the meantime, the season gets at the close of the season this week. Bert Newby and Dick Beattie had the others.

To state a claim to the highest scoring lanes in the area Westland revealed that, thus far, there have been 43 series posted above the 700 mark and

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

Racing Commissioner Leo Shitzy took steps a few days ago to ease some of the burden on himself by allocating responsibility to members of his staff.

Deputy Commissioner Richard Morris has been named supervisor of harness racing; Secretary Esther McSwen is in charge of licensing and O'Hamel O'Farrell will be supervisor of thoroughbred racing.

The trip has had the duties for some time but this marks the first time the Commissioner has actually made an announcement of responsibility.

The main office of the Racing Commission will remain in the Cadillac Square building but Shirley and his staff will maintain temporary offices at each of the tracks.

With trainers, grooms and stable help pouring into the Detroit Race Course to get horses ready for the Monday, April 20 opening, the Commission staff has been busy for the past several days issuing licenses.

There has been quite a rush but it will be nothing compared to the next 10 days when hundreds of horses will be shipped in from New Orleans and Hot Springs where meetings ended recently.

Bob Clark, in charge of stall allotments, reports more than 400 horses on the grounds with another 1,000 expected by Sunday, April 19.

WHAT'S BEHIND the tremendous increase in wagering and attendance at Hazel Park's spring harness racing meeting?

After asking a few questions of a lot of folks at the track, it

would appear the principal reason is the Big Perfecta.

Remember a few years back when the twin double attracted so much attention with the payoffs that went as high as \$157,000? Now it seems that the Big P is equally as attractive to those who like to wager a couple of bucks with the thought of collecting thousands.

That has been the story at Hazel Park. Many of the Big Perfectas have had fantastic payoffs, going as high as \$71,000, and that's what the small betters dream of collecting.

The fact that the track management insists that the winning tickets on the sixth race must be exchanged in time for the seventh has erased some of the things that made the original twin unpalatable.

Just in case you don't know the rules of the Big P—a bettor must pick the horses in 1-2 finish order in the sixth race, exchange the ticket, and then pick the 1-2 finish of the seventh. If you have any ideas that it is easy, drop out to the track and try your luck.

THE TWIN double, as handled at area tracks in the past several years, gave the better the option of cashing in after picking the winners of the fourth and fifth races. Then he had the choice of either taking the money or exchanging for another ticket on the winners of the seventh and eighth races.

This gave the ticket holder two races to decide whether to cash or exchange. It was known in most spots as the "chicken" twin since those who cashed were considered "chicken" for not going all the way.

Prior to the "chicken twin," the four-race double provided that those holding winning tickets on the first two races must exchange for a ticket on the final two races. The time between two races was allowed for the exchange and it was during that period the big gamblers bought up the first half winners.

There was no such thing as cashing in after the first half. The ticket was good only for exchange. The payoffs from that type of double were in the high thousands daily with many going over the \$100,000 mark.

Why are we bringing up these types of wagering—the Detroit Race Course will follow the steps of Hazel Park Harness Association and switch to the Big P this year.

It should be interesting to see how large the payoffs will go when the runners start. Larger crowds mean larger pools and larger prices.

Don't be surprised to see some \$100,000 payoffs if happened during the winter in Florida.

World's Best On HP Card

The first world driving championships, sponsored by the Harness Tracks of America, will come to the Hazel Park Harness Raceway Wednesday night, April 15, with the finest reinmen from Europe, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the United States going against each other.

Hazel Park will be the third stop in a tour of eight tracks in the U.S. and Canada in the title series. The reinmen who amass the biggest point total on the circuit will be crowned as the mythical world champion driver.

The touring harness aces will receive their nightly assignments by the luck of the draw. They will compete in four races at Hazel Park. They will not ride in the daily double, Big Perfecta or single perfecta races.

THIS IS THE brightest galaxy of international championship drivers ever assembled. They are:

• Nello Belli, 40, of Italy, who won his fourth Italian national crown in 1969 with 157 decisions. He won 237 races in 1964, and is rated as Italy's top driver.

• Stanley Dancer, 42, of the U.S., five-time world money-winning champion and a member of the Harness Hall of Fame. He was supreme in the North American rankings in 1969.

• Herve Filion, 30, of Canada, world record holder for victories in a single season for 407 in 1968 and first in that category in 1969 with 394 wins.

• Eddy Sholly, 41, nine-time German champion and former record holder with 384 conquests in 1963. He has led 10 German drivers for the past three years.

• Kevin Newman, 36, leading stakes winner in Australia and race-winning champion of New South Wales for the last three years. He has set all major Australian speed records.

• George Sholly, 36, second U.S. driver in HTA standings in 1969, and percentage champion at Roosevelt Raceway last year. He has won 1,768 races and \$7,136,532.

• Peter Wolfenden, 35, driving champion of New Zealand and developer of the great Cardigan Bay. He is acknowledged as New Zealand's greatest reinman.

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HOMEOWNERS CORNER

by Marvin Kemp, President
American Hardware & Supply Co.

Wood paneling as a means of home decor is becoming more and more popular, and it is important to know how to maintain it properly. If your paneling should become marred or scratched, use a touch-up liquid or stick made for this purpose. Cleaning the panels is relatively simple in most instances cleaning with a damp cloth is sufficient. If the panels should have any stubborn, soiled areas, most can be washed with a mild detergent—but never use anything abrasive in conditioning them. Wax can be applied in a light coating applying too much will result in a gummy build-up. If you have any inquiries or questions as to what the right method might be in maintaining your paneling, ask your dealer—his experience with the different types on the market certainly makes him an authority in this line.

The experienced sales personnel at American Hardware & Supply Co., 31245 W. Eight Mile Road, Phone 471-2400, 471-2445 is an authority on building, remodeling and home maintenance jobs. In lumber we carry everything from toothpicks to railroad ties. In wood we have wood mastic, cupolas and weather vanes. In Bern siding lumber available.

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