

# DRC opens gates for Michigan Mile

**By Brad Emmons**  
staff writer

Thumbsucker is the king of Michigan-breds. The 5-year-old GAT Stable product also sits atop the Michigan Mile throne.

On Saturday, Thumbsucker returns to the Detroit Race Course in Livonia to defend the \$150,000-added crown, the state's richest and most famous horse race.

At least 10 starters will headline the featured event in the 11-race program, which begins at 1:30 p.m.

A year ago, Thumbsucker wrote a new chapter in the Michigan racing

books by winning both the Mile and the Hazel Park Handicap, the top race held annually across town.

Although DRC racing secretary Bud Sears promises a "competitive field," Thumbsucker is a good bet to become the first horse to win the Mile two years in a row.

ONLY A WEEK ago, Thumbsucker finished third in the famed Whitney Stakes at Saratoga, boosting his career earnings to \$519,518. In three years of racing, the horse has rolled up 16 victories in 37 starts, along with three seconds and a pair of third place finishes.

## Thumbsucker out to defend wealthy title

Dick Gray, GAT Stable director, says that "Thumbsucker never has been in better physical condition, overcoming earlier leg problems."

Coming up from Louisiana to ride the Mile favorite is Sam Maple, a leading jockey and brother of Eddie Maple, who rode Temperance Hill to victory in

the 1980 Belmont Stakes.

If any horse could unseat Thumbsucker, it's Timeless Native, which has scored five wins in seven starts this year, including the Cornhusker Handicap, the No. 1 race of the season at Ak-Sar-Ben in Omaha, Neb.

Donald Brumfield, one of the nation's top five leading jockeys, will ride Timeless Native.

ANOTHER STAKES winner, Dixieland Band, will invade DRC, fresh from winning the Massachusetts Handicap at Suffolk Downs. The 4-year-old is 8 for 20 in career starts and has earned more than \$405,000.

Among the Eastern hopefuls is Star Choice, winner of the Metropolitan Handicap at New York with \$279,000 in career earnings. Then there's the Valiant Lark, winner of last year's Gint Handicap at Keosauqua.

Looking for an outside shot?

WHAT: The 30th annual Michigan Mile, the state's richest thoroughbred race run over a mile and one-eighth distance.

WHEN: The 11-race program begins at 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

WHERE: The Detroit Race Course, located at 1400 and Middle Road in Livonia.

WHO: A field of 8 to 10 thoroughbreds will include defending champ Thumbsucker.

ADMISSION: Reserved seats are on sale for \$2.50 (grandstand) and \$3.50 (clubhouse).

## World's best vie for title in Crim race

A pack of world class runners — including several fresh from Olympic competition at the 23rd Summer Games in Los Angeles — will set the pace in this year's Bobby Crim 10 Mile Road Race for Special Olympics.

The race, in its eighth year, will attract some 5,000 runners to Flint on Saturday, Aug. 25, for its 8:30 a.m. start. The race is rated by "Runners Magazine" as among the top 25 competitions in the country this year.

In seven years, the race has raised \$600,000. The funds help to provide year round sports training and athletic competition for the Special Olympics.

ENGLAND'S NICK ROSE, 33, will be back to defend his 1983 Crim title. Rose covered the course in 46:58 — the second fastest time in the race's history — despite unfavorable running conditions of 77 degrees and 100 percent humidity.

Countryman Steve Kenyon, who set the course record of 46:42 in 1982, and Herb Lindsay, three-time Crim champ and holder of the U.S. 10-mile record, will also compete.

Grand Rapids native Greg Meyer will compete, as will his wife Paula. As a University of Michigan track standout in 1978, Meyer took the Crim title by outrunning a field of world-class runners which included Kenyon and Bill Rodgers.

Leading women racers include Sue King of Mobile, Ala., who finished second last year, and Elaine Burns, a Battle Creek native who finished third, and Kim Burns of Tennessee, who placed third, also return this year.

Several other crowd-pleasing Crim runners will return, including Gary Fanelli, 24, the Orlando, Fla., runner known for his sense of humor.

OUTSTANDING Michigan runners include 38-year-old David Hinz from Canton, who was the first Michigan runner to make the Olympic trials and was a member of the U.S. team in last year's Pan American Games. Jeff Drenth, a 1984 Central Michigan University graduate who ran with the U.S. cross country team which placed second in the Olympic Trials, also will compete.

Strong possibilities to run in the event — although not yet confirmed — are last year's winner Lisa Martin of Australia, and Joan Benoit, gold medalist in the first running of the women's marathon at the recent Olympics.

Benoit set a U.S. women's record of 53:18 in the 1982 Crim race.

For information on the race, or to make a pledge, call 762-3372.

## sport shorts

A special ceremony honoring two Detroit Olympic Gold Medalists will take place tonight as part of a boxing extravaganza scheduled at the Ballroom of Cobo Hall.

Detroit's Steve McCrory and Frank Tate will be honored. McCrory, younger brother of World Boxing Council welterweight champ Milton McCrory, won the flyweight gold with a 4-1 decision over Redap Redeporak of Yugoslavia, while Tate registered a controversial 5-0 win over Canada's Shawn O'Sullivan in the finals of the light middleweight tournament.

The main event on the 11-board card pits Detroit's David Iratton against Gonzalo "The Thief" Montes in a 12-round title fight for Braxton's North American Boxing Federation super-welterweight crown.

Also listed on the card is former lightweight champion Billmer Kenty, who is scheduled to fight Dave Odem in a 10-rounder.

Tickets for tonight's show are \$20 (ring-side), \$12 (reserved) and \$8 (general admission) and are available at the door.

**STINGRAY SIGNUP**

The Michigan Stingrays, a Farmington Hills-based amateur swim team, will hold their fall registration from 7-9 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 10-11 at the Farmington Harrison High School pool.

The Stingrays, made up of swimmers from Farmington, Southfield, Livonia, West Bloomfield and Birmingham, are coached by Mark Palmer.

All levels of swimmers are invited to register. For more information, call Linda Palmer at 553-0594 or Sue Bedore at 943-6163.

**PISTON HOOP CLINIC**

Terry Tyle, John Long and Earl Curren, along with Detroit Pistons coach Chuck Daly and general manager Jack McCloskey will bring their traveling basketball clinic into the Farmington area Tuesday, Aug. 21.

The free clinic, cosponsored by McDonald's and CBLW, will take place at 10 a.m. at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus.

The clinic will help youngsters learn dribbling, shooting, teamwork and good sportsmanship from the professionals.

The clinic is free with a registration card from participating McDonald's.

**SWIM REGISTRATION**

Boys and girls ages 4-12 from Troy, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, West Bloomfield and Southfield can register for fall swim on the 10th and 11th.

Bloomfield Hills team 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 10, at the media center at Labor High School.

Atlanta Swim Club offers competitive age group swimming.

For more information, call 691-1649, or 639-1192.

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