

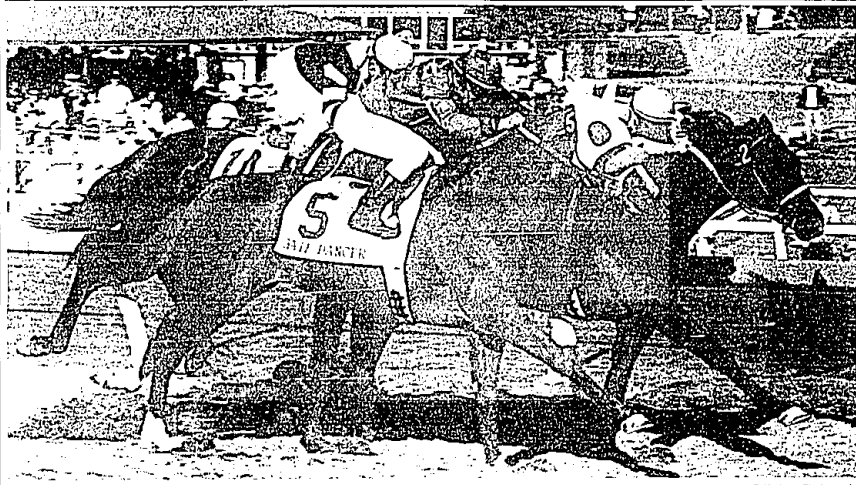
## Sports

Chris McCosky, Brad Emons editors/591-2312



(F.P.C.D)

Thursday, July 10, 1986 G&amp;E



TAT Abalway Photography

Gate Dancer, racing here in the 1984 Breeders' Cup Classic at Hollywood Park, is one of the nation's premier horses. The 1984 record-setting Preakness winner will be on display Saturday in the \$250,000-added Michigan Mile, the state's richest race.

## Ladbroke catch

## Gate Dancer spices up Michigan Mile

THIS HORSE has been described as a "rogue." Others have called him "eccentric."

The arrival last week of Gate Dancer at Ladbroke's Detroit Race Course has caused quite a stir. The 1984 Preakness winner with over \$2.5 million in career earnings, the Florida-bred 5-year-old is the first Triple Crown winner scheduled to ride in the Michigan Mile since Damascus, who finished second in 1968.

Never since 1966, when Tom Rolfe rode into Livonia, has a horse been treated so royally.

Gate Dancer obviously has a split personality, but he's charming as well, especially when he's around the media.

This couldn't be the same horse who we are told rides "erratically."

This debonair fellow couldn't be the same guy who was disqualified for running "rodeo style" at the '84 Kentucky Derby and the \$3 million Breeders' Cup.

Arriving at sunrise Thursday morning for Gate Dancer's weekly workout, I soon discovered that the old railbirds didn't know what they were talking about.

GATE DANCER may be pampered a bit, but he's deserved it, winning seven of 28 starts (he's also hit the board 15 times).

Gate Dancer gets round-the-clock, 24-hour security at his stall. His hay goes for \$14 per bale, compared to \$3 per bale for his neighbors.

He gets the best hay, best stall and best everything," said DRC public relations man Bob Raymond. "You can do that when you make \$2.5 million."

Gate Dancer is certainly well-mannered and groomed. I watched in amazement as he stood at attention for nearly 25 minutes while assistant trainer Mark Wallerstedt (to Jack Van Berg) administered a wrap to protect his four precious legs.



Brad Emons

The parade of horses around the barn came to a halt when Wallerstedt slipped a banana, equipped with earmuffs, over Gate Dancer. "He looks like the Easter Bunny," cracked one onlooker.

Gate Dancer could also start his own stock company. When he goes out on his morning walk, everybody else in the barn area falls in line behind him.

When Gate Dancer stops, everybody stops.

"CAN I GET BY?" politely pleads a woman riding another would-be star as they enter the track. "Oh, maybe I better not.

That's a \$2 million horse. If it was anybody else I would."

And when Gate Dancer goes out for exercise, he just doesn't get any old Jack LaLaine. Jerry Santiago, DRC's leading jockey in 1983, was saddled up for his training run.

The workout was short and brisk with Gate Dancer gliding around a mile in 1:41.2.

"I'm real happy with him," said Wallerstedt after the workout. "He's not a real speed-workout horse anyway. He's deceiving. A lot of times he looks around."

Gate Dancer hasn't run since April, when he finished second in the Oaklawn Handicap. He suffered a bruised heel in a race over the winter in Santa Anita and has been given time to heal.

"This horse is like a big kid," said the assistant trainer. "I've been with him since he was a baby. He's just a big clown who'll eat candy, carrots and donuts."

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## Gate Dancer attacks DRC, Michigan Mile

By Brad Emons  
staff writer

Will Gate Dancer be facing any competition Saturday when the 38th renewal of the \$250,000-added Michigan Mile gets under way at approximately 5:30 p.m. at Ladbroke DRC?

Other horses will be quartered into the starting gate, but do any have a chance against the 1984 Preakness Stakes winner and two-time runner-up in the '84 and '85 \$2 million Breeders' Cup Classic?

The only thing preventing Gate Dancer from being the prohibitive favorite is the crowd noise, which sometimes causes the talented 5-year-old to run erratically.

Others point to the fact that Gate Dancer hasn't raced since April and hasn't won in over a year.

But Gate Dancer, with career earnings of over \$2.5 million and trained by Jack Van Berg (DRC's leading trainer seven times), is the first triple crown winner to visit the Livonia track since 1968 (Damascus finished second) and is clearly the class of field.

ASSIGNED A WEIGHT of 123 pounds, Gate Dancer should win easily, but Michigan Mile history reveals that the favorite doesn't always win.

Two Michigan horses, defending champion Badwagon Harry, along with Dejeau, could make things interesting.

But Badwagon Harry needs to turn things around after losing by nine lengths to Dejeau last Friday in the \$50,000 Michigan Breeders' Cup.

Another starter worth watching is Ends Well, a New York horse that recently won the Brambling Handicap at Philadelphia Park, his eighth victory in 29 starts. He has \$420,000 in career earnings.

Ends Well, assigned the second highest weight to Gate Dancer, also finished second in two previous starts.

Other horses committed to run include Canadian 5-year-old Key

## horse racing

## MICHIGAN MILE

## RACING FACTS

Largest attendance: 1968, 27,470.  
Biggest win mutual: \$290.00, Estreno II, 1967.

Shortest win mutual: \$3.20, Sensitive Piece, 1979.  
Highest betting odds: 124-1, Estreno II, 1967.

Record times: 1:36, one mile, Heartlic; 1:40, 1-1/16 mile, Crimson Star, 1962; 1:47, 1/4, Calandria, 1969 and Fast Fission, 1970.

Most starts by a horse: Second Avenue, four (second in 1952, first in '53, 15th in '54 and 16th in '55).

3-year-old winners: King's Hope, 1951; Nodouble, 1968; King's Bishop, 1972; Golden Don, 1973.

5-year-old winners: Old Hat, 1965; My Juliet, 1977; Glorious Bong, 1980.

Largest field: 1954, 18 horses (winner Spar On).

Smallest field: 1951, six horses (winner King's Hope).

Split field: 1972, 20 horses, two divisions (winners King's Bishop and Favorecution).

Biggest purse: 1985, \$105,120.

Biggest payouts to winners: 1985, Badwagon Harry, \$102,240.

to the Moon, winner of the Dominion Handicap in Toronto; Land of Belove, Vallant Lark, Purple Mountain, Quibble and Montenero, a stable mate of Dejeau.

SATURDAY'S 11-RACE card begins at 1 p.m. General grandstand admission is \$2.50 (senior citizens \$1.25) and clubhouse is \$3.50. Parking is \$1 (general), \$2 (grandstand preferred), \$3 (clubhouse preferred) and \$4 (valet).

DRC officials are expecting a crowd of 12,500.

Other attractions Saturday include a beauty pageant, an illusionist and free gifts (shower radios will be given to the first 8,000 fans).

The state's richest race will also be broadcast live on WXYT-AM (1270) radio.

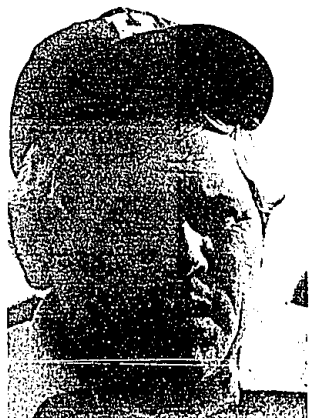
## Former Hawk gridded Cianferra files lawsuit against coach, school

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

Anthony Cianferra, 19, a former Farmington Harrison football player, has filed a lawsuit against coaches and Harrison school officials seeking to recover damages in excess of \$10,000.

Cianferra, a second-team lineman on the 1983 Harrison team, broke his jaw during pre-season conditioning drills that year. He returned to the team's active roster four weeks later and finished the season with the team.

"We are looking to recover damages for the medical expenses, the pain and suffering Anthony is entitled to recover under the law," said Cianferra's attorney David Lawson, who has offices in Southfield and Detroit.



John Harrington  
Harrison grid coach

## football

According to Lawson, the practice in which Cianferra was injured was "not properly supervised" and that the injury "came about during contact drills at a time of the season when contact is prohibited by the Michigan High School Athletic Association."

As of Tuesday afternoon, Harrison head football coach John Harrington had not been served the legal papers regarding the case, nor had he been contacted by the school administration.

"I think it would be best if I withhold comment until I've talked to someone (from the school administration)," he said.

CIANFERRA'S INJURY came about during a drill that Harrison has used at the end of its conditioning practices for 15 years. The drill resembles the sport of rugby in that players are divided into two teams and advance a ball (a volleyball) up and down the field. Ball carriers are "stopped" by either a fumble, interception or by getting the ball stripped away by the opposition. Pads are not worn and contact is minimal. Cianferra is the only player ever to be injured during the drill.

Cianferra, apparently, was involved in a collision with another player during the drill and broke his jaw. His mouth, according to Lawson, was wired shut and required extensive dental work. "It was not our intention to make this into a high-profile case," said Lawson. "All we want to do is recover the damages. I am aware that Farmington (Harrison) has a well-known football program and has been very successful. This is not a wholesale attack on the coach, the program or the boosters."

"On the other hand, we do have a serious injury with somewhat lingering consequences. That's why the action was filed."

Lawson said he was brought on the case by Cianferra's father in 1983. He said that he spent the last three years researching the case.

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