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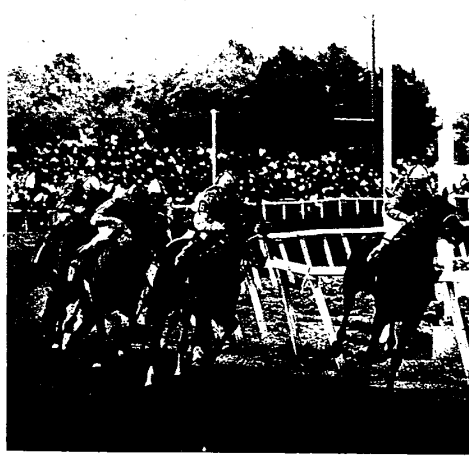
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RICKY TOM TOM (right) appears to have things under control as the field rounds the clubhouse turn at the Detroit Race Course. But the situation changed on the final turn where Mr. Brick's Image (7) rushed past the leaders to win before a Saturday crowd of more than 16,000.

## Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

Judging from the action at the mutual and turnstile machines for the first three nights of its 35-night summer season, the 28th meeting at Northville Downs could well wind up as the most successful in history.

After three programs, the Downs has shattered three records, two for wagering and one for the largest crowd in 28 years.

Although opening on a Thursday, generally considered one of the poorest nights of the week as far as business and attendance goes, the track handled the most money ever for an initial program with a total of \$354,556. That bettered the previous high by almost \$1,000.

That was just a sample of what was coming up for 5,884 turned out Friday and sent \$427,574 through the machines...a near record for that night.

Then on Saturday, the crowd count soared to the highest level in Northville history with 8,038 jamming the clubhouse, grandstand and the apron in front of the outside wagering area at the east end of the grandstand.

It was the most customers ever to attend a program since the opening of the clubhouse a year ago and the expansion of the grandstand three years back.

In fact, longtime Northville Downs officials discounted previous attendance figures and said the Saturday throng was the biggest ever. All of which means that one can look for even higher figures in the holiday weekend just ahead.

Saturday's handle was the greatest ever with a total of \$544,316 going through the machines, bettering the previous record of \$335,569 set on June 27, 1970...a year previous almost to the night.

IT REMAINED for Bill Longo, of Farmington, to steal most of the honors in the races.

Friday night, it was his Special Boy, one of the best trotters at the track, who won the feature with a brilliant burst of speed in the final quarter.

### Expos Slate Tryouts For Ballplayers

The Montreal Expos will hold a baseball tryout camp Saturday starting at 10 a.m. on McMac field in Windsor, Ontario.

All ballplayers desiring to participate are urged to arrive as early as possible. The tryouts will continue throughout the day.

But Saturday, Longo really stole the show when his spectacular Breadman George, a four year old pacer with plenty of speed, rolled home in a track record equalling 2:00.4 to win the \$6,000 Invitational.

It was the kind of a race that had the crowd on edge from the start, wondering if The Breadman would get up. With Blaze Pick, the Canadian speedster who last year equaled the track record set in 1960 by Vickie's Jet, setting the early pace, it appeared as if The Breadman was in for a rough evening when he trailed in fifth and last place for the first lap.

BLAZE PICK set a sizzling pace of :29.2 for the quarter and 1:00.4 for the half. Then Breadman George, urged on by Driver Mike Novich, started to move on the outside. It was a neck and neck duel down the backstretch before The Breadman took over at the three-quarter pole. Once in front he literally flew in the final quarter to win by a half length over Gaviland. He was clocked in :29.3 in the final quarter.

It was a big double for the smiling Farmington owner who has been looking for a successor to Fanny Mite for more than a year. It will be recalled that Fanny was one of the fastest in the midwest until she went lame late last season.

It appears now that Longo has not one but two successors to Fanny Mite and each could boost his bankroll during the remainder of the year.

### 6 Unearned Runs Fatal

Generosity may be something nice, but not in baseball.

Farmington's American Legion baseball team gave up six unearned runs to Waterford and the result was a 10-8 defeat in an eight-inning (one over the usual limit) battle. Twice Farmington rolled back from four-run deficits to tie the score, the second time in the seventh inning.

BUT A WALK, followed by a homer by Bob Earl won the game for the defending champions from Waterford. Farmington fell behind, 4-0, in the first two innings before knotting matters in the third when Tony Wenson singled. Dan McGrath tripled and Dan Delling and Rick Stringer followed with singles. An error helped out, too.

Waterford regained an 8-4 lead in the fourth before Farmington struck again in the seventh.

Ray Poake singled and John Hollapa doubled for one run. Wenson singled in another and Delling walked. Paul Kuferscheidt doubled to send in two runs and force the game into extra innings.

Farmington had lost, 3-0, to Walled Lake in its previous game as Tom Rapp bested John Fleming in a tight duel.

## By George Maskin observing sports

Life brings with it those moments of co-incidence. And memories.

Like the other day when we arrived for a few days vacation in Montreal.

Naturally, the first move was to buy a Montreal paper. A sports' buff one place is a sports nut everywhere. You can't steer clear of what's going on.

The top story in the Montreal paper naturally dealt with the hometown baseball Expos and how the night before they had lost to the Atlanta Braves in Atlanta.

The winning pitcher for the Braves was one Ron Reed. The winning pitcher for the Braves was one Ron Reed. The president of the Expos is John McHale.

THERE-IN DEVELOPED the story, at least as far as I was concerned.

McHale is a one-time Detroit. He starred at Catholic Central High and later at Notre Dame before entering professional baseball with the Tigers.

His playing days finished he went on to serve in various administrative posts in the game he loved. Ultimately he became general manager of the then Milwaukee Braves in the National League.

Subsequently, he became assistant to the commissioner of baseball before heading up the relatively new Montreal franchise.

Ron Reed, meantime, came out of high school basketball in Indiana to attend Notre Dame and become a pitching star in baseball and also a standout in basketball.

That, in itself, was something...Reed attending the same school as McHale.

During his senior year at South Bend, Reed was drafted by the Detroit Pistons. That was in April. But because he still was pitching for the Irish, he refused to discuss any kind of contract with the professional cagers.

In June, Reed came to Detroit to see the late Don Wattrick, then the Pistons' general manager. The two had no problems getting together on a basketball contract.

But Reed had one favor of Wattrick. "I'd like to take a crack at pro baseball, too," Reed told Wattrick. "Can you help me?"

Always an accommodating fellow, Wattrick said he would, hardly realizing at the time that his move would ultimately cost the Pistons the services of a fine young basketball player.

Wattrick figured that since none of the baseball scouts had recommended Reed, the prospects for him making the baseball grade were very slim.

So, now enters McHale. Wattrick called McHale in Milwaukee and told him about Reed.

Johnny told Wattrick the name of Reed had been mentioned by some of the Milwaukee scouts, but that's about all.

However, the Braves had a farm team in Florida which happened at that moment to be short a pitcher or two because several had been called into military duty.

Since McHale had a warm spot for Notre Dame and Reed, what could the Braves lose? There was no bonus contract involved...just a small monthly salary of perhaps \$500 or \$600.

The news was relayed to Reed and he promptly headed off to join the Braves.

THE REST OF THE story, of course, is told by the sports history books. Reed has developed into a first-class major league pitcher. He has been an all-star and one of the top winners in the senior circuit.

He made it as a Piston regular, but after a couple years decided he couldn't play baseball and basketball the year around. He had to decide on one.

The Piston coach at that time was Dave DeBusschere who earlier had made the same decision. DeBusschere, upon finishing college, turned professional in basketball with the Pistons besides signing a big contract as a pitcher for the Chicago White Sox.

DeBusschere ultimately was to choose basketball as his sport. Reed went the other way, going for baseball.

So there the headline was...in the Montreal paper...Reed beats the Expos. And some fond memories came back to the visitor from the Detroit area.

Later in the day, a call to McHale...and sure he wished he could have Reed pitching for him again.

"It just goes to prove that you never know about baseball talent," McHale said. "Kids with great potential - or so you think - fail. Others, whom you don't think will do anything as a pro, turn out to be stars."

Later that evening, we went out to see the Mets play the Expos.

A relief pitcher for the Expos that evening was a fellow named Mike Marshall.

Sure you knew Marshall. He was one of the kids you took to New York 11 years back to a Hearst National baseball game. On the same trip was a fellow now with the Tigers - Bill Freehan.

Co-incidences?

Life is full of them and somehow it doesn't make much difference where you happen to be.

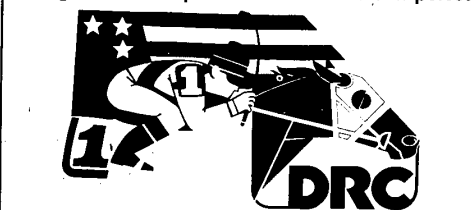
### Set Club Marks; Team Loses

Although Sue MacMillan took the backstroke in :42.9 and Bill Dunn each bettered the freestyle in :35.2.

Other winners for the team were: Kathy McCrory in backstroke, (0:10) in :51.3; Liza Steele, butterfly (11-12), :36.9; Bob Shales, butterfly (11-12), :42.7; and, Tom McCrory, breaststroke (13-14), :38.5.

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