

...And Still Enjoy Top Racing? Parties, Polkas, Surprises

things go as Wilson hopes, then Wolverine's mutuel handle should better the records set a year ago.

The stakes program is one of the most impressive in the midwest with 10 early closing events slated during Grand Circuit week-- June 8 through June 16-- and the historic Motor City pace on Friday, May 25.

Grand Circuit week traditionally is one of the best of the entire summer, bringing the nation's best two, three and four-year-old trotters and pacers to the area.

For instance, Super Bowl, winner of the Hambletonian for three-year-old trotters, and Strike Out, champion of the three-year-old pacers competed last spring and strange enough both lost.

Then there was Albatross in the four-year-old pace and Savoir in the four-year-old trot. The first mentioned was voted "horse of the year" and the second ranked high with aged trotters.

Four of Wolverine's stakes have values of \$40,000 or more. The two Matron four-year-old events figure to go for \$50,000 plus and the two three-year-old stakes are expected to have purses of more than \$40,000.

The complete list of Grand Circuit events:

FRIDAY, JUNE 8 - \$40,000 Matron three-year-old trot \$8,000 Matron three-year-old filly trot.

MONDAY, JUNE 11- \$15,000 Matron two-year-old pace.

TUESDAY, JUNE 12 - \$8,500

Matron two-year-old filly trot \$8,500 Matron two-year-old filly pace.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13- \$15,000 Matron two-year-old trot. \$8,500 Matron three-year-old filly pace.

THURSDAY, JUNE 14- \$50,000 Matron four-year-old pace.

FRIDAY, JUNE 15- \$50,000 Matron four-year-old trot. \$40,000 Matron three-year-old pace.

Imagine a harness racing track in Michigan offering \$90,000 in purses for two stakes on the same evening. Sounds unbelievable but that's the story on the final night of the Roaring Grand.

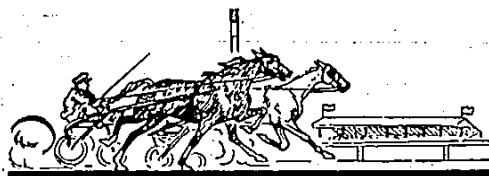
In addition, Wolverine will present a series of Michigan colt stakes during the closing night. It will be the initial appearance of the state's better two and three-year-old trotters and pacers. Entrants become eligible with their performances in the weekly non-betting colt events, sponsored by the track.

All in all it looks like another big year... the only thing that may hurt in the early weeks is the weather. After last year's miserable conditions most of the season, track officials at all plants are looking forward to a better break from the weatherman.

If he smiles, then 1973 could be the best year in a long time. If he frowns as in 1972, then it will take some excellent promotions to keep the fans coming.

That's exactly what the personable Wolverine boss has in mind.

What's Ahead In Racing



The opening of Wolverine Raceway's 82-night meeting marked the first of the major harness racing programs in Michigan.

Northville Downs ended its 39 night winter meeting last week and Jackson-at Northville had a 24-night stand in January.

The racing schedule for the remainder of the year for trotters and pacers includes:

WOLVERINE RACEWAY - Thursday, March 15 - Tuesday, June 19 (82 nights with no racing on Good Friday, April 20)

NORTHVILLE DOWNS - Wednesday, June 20- Tuesday, July 31 (36 nights)

HAZEL PARK - Wednesday, Aug. 1-Saturday, Nov. 3 (82 nights)

JACKSON RACEWAY - Thursday, Aug. 23-Saturday, Oct. 27 (57 nights).

JACKSON-AT-NORTHVILLE - Monday, Nov. 5-Monday, Dec. 31. (47 nights, no racing on Christmas, Dec. 25).

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