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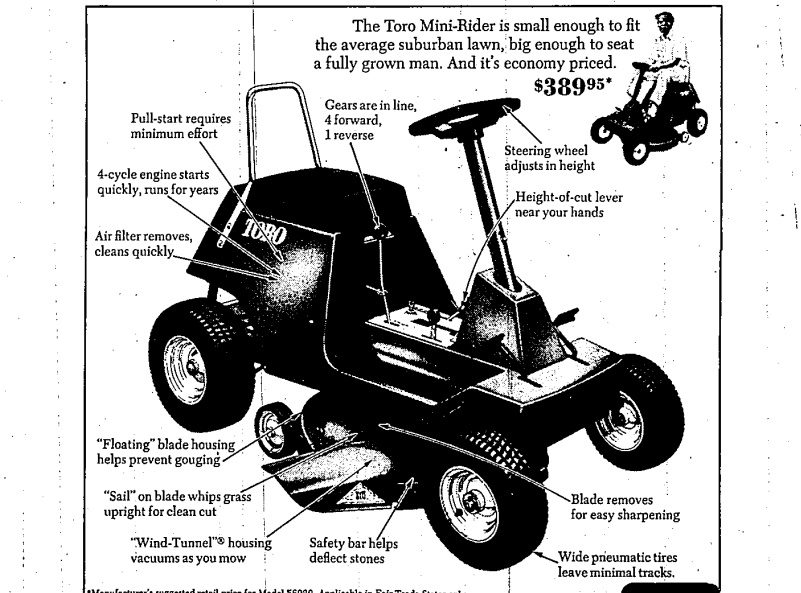
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Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

One wonders if Racing Commissioner Leo Shirley will ever get around to announcing the outcome of the investigation of drivers, trainers and owners at the Jackson-Northville January meeting.

Shirley had his investigators talking to numerous drivers and trainers on rumors of collusion in the trifecta races. The probe did unearth several interesting things but for some reason Shirley has not made any of his findings public.

At the same time the investigators were busy in Michigan the Ontario Racing Commission was delving into similar charges at the Windsor track.

Strange enough both commissions were checking all sorts of rumors at the same time. Ontario ordered a lengthy hearing and then delayed a final decision until the commission had a chance to study all the testimony.

One hears Michigan had a series of hearings at about the same time but little was divulged at the time and thus far nothing has been made public.

Thus it wasn't any surprise to learn the Ontario Racing Commission had suspended Michigan's Terry Butler for life and his brother, Tim, for a year for alleged violations of the racing code.

It was general knowledge well in advance of the ruling that Terry was in big trouble but few expected a lifetime suspension. Such a ruling means he will be unable to train, drive or own horses anywhere in the United States, Canada, and United States have a reciprocal agreement and a suspension in one country automatically becomes effective in the other.

It is expected Terry will appeal the decision on the grounds that he has had his livelihood taken away from him. What happens next is between Butler and the Ontario Commission... if he appeals and wins, then he'll be back in racing again. If he loses, Terry will have to

look around for something else to do, something entirely divorced from racing.

Oh yes, now that someone else has paved the way, it is expected Commissioner Shirley will take some action. Those close to the situation have been waiting for some kind of a decision since mid-February... come to think, it probably will be some kind of a ruling, one that won't hurt anyone and keep all happy and satisfied. That seems to be the policy, don't rock the boat, someone may get mad and we don't need that in Michigan.

Heading Saturday's cast is J. R. Skipper, a three-year-old son of Meadow Skipper owned by Russell Miller of Dutton, Ontario, who is rated as one of the top contenders for the Little Brown Jug crown in September.

Winner of \$108,695 a year ago when acclaimed one of the nation's standout juveniles, J. R. Skipper will be making his 1973 debut and could pace away from his four rivals.

The Skipper ranks fifth in the experimental handicap ratings for three year olds with a potential speed of 1:55.4. Reenie Ricci Time tops the rankings with a potential of 1:53.

The Skipper will be handled by Greg Wright, the youthful Canadian pilot who guided the colt to 12 wins in his first two seasons and a clocking of 1:58.1 in Lexington, Ky.

Going against the young speedster is Redford, currently the fastest of the Michigan crop with a time of 2:02.2 while winning a preferred event a week ago.

The Jet will be alter its eighth win in 13 starts this year and a chance to boost its earnings to more than \$26,000... quite a tidy sum for a horse purchased for \$500 as a green two year old.

Then there is Big Kahuna, with a mark of 1:59, over



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Churchill Netters Topple Franklin

"The Year of the Charger" has scored again.

Churchill's varsity tennis squad captured its first tennis triumph of the '73 campaign over rival Franklin, the first win over Churchill over Franklin in tennis.

The Chargers blitzed Franklin, 7-4-0.

Mark Osenko (No. 1 singles) and Rich Boehms (No. 2 singles) scored impressive

Edsel Ford Dumps RU

Edsel Ford won two relays and seven of the eight individual running events to crush Redford Union in a Suburban Eight dual track meet, 79-39.

RU did muster three firsts in the field events, sparked by Scott Bjerkie with titles in the long jump and pole vault and Jerry Petsch who established a RU school record in the shot put with a toss of 53-6¹/₂.

But Edsel Ford's overall running depth proved too much for the RU Panther squad which slipped to a 1-1 league mark.

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