Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

Imagine a race between three and four-year-old pacers in which every one of the six starters has a mark of less than 2:00?

That's the story tonight (Saturday) at Wolverine when the track management presents the finest program of the season. We have been saying that each week as the season progressed and we repeat it again for the simple reason it's true.

The purse distribution for the 10 races is an all-time high total of $73,900 for an overnight program at a harness track in Michigan. There have been nights when a track would put up more money when it presented some early closing stakes but an average of $7,390 for a 10-race card is unheard of at a midwest oval.

Included are two $12,500 invitational paces, a preferred worth $8,000, another for $7,500 and a $10,000 claimer with a value of $6,900. Matter of fact, the cheapest event has a value of $4,000.

It wasn't so long ago that $4,000 was high for the evening and went to the horses in the featured race. It's unbelievable how much purses have gone up in this one meeting.

Getting back to the battle between the three and four-year-olds. We can't recall so many standout pacers in one race at Wolverine or for that matter any of the tracks in Michigan.

Neither can Racing Secretary Bill Connors who has had that title since the pacers and trotters first started at the Detroit Race Course 24 years ago.

"This program is the finest I have ever put together in the Detroit area," said Connors, "But that race between the three and four-year-olds is the kind a racing secretary dreams of and seldom gets a chance to arrange."

Take the three-year-olds. There's J. R. Skipper, the son of Meadow Skipper that Driver-Trainer-Owner Stan Dancer offered a million for earlier in the year before changing his mind. The Skipper is rated in the experimental handicap ratings as a horse with a possible speed of 1:56.

The Skipper won $108,695 for Owner J. Russell Miller of Dutton, Ont. a year ago and has banked $36,777 to date in 1973. The colt was a fast closing third in the $122,400 Messenger at Roosevelt Raceway two weeks back.

Then there's Racing Knight, a son of Race Time from the Dick Buxton stable of Ohio who won the $21,650 Motor City last week at Wolverine in 1:59.1, fastest mile of the meeting. Racing Knight has earned $38,100 this year and has banked $55,000 in two years.

The third sophomore in the field is the Forsyth Stable's much improved Bret Over Again who was second in the Messenger and probably would have won had Driver Ted Taylor been able to get him out of a pocket at the rail. Bret Over Again did get loose but ran out of track before he could catch the eventual winner Valiant Bret.

The late Ray Forsyth, Birmingham industrialist, who died suddenly in December, would have enjoyed watching the Bret Hanover colt develop. It was one of his favorites from the moment he bought it at the Tattersalls sale in Lexington, Ky., as a yearling. It has won three of four starts, banked $40,033 and looms as one of the choices for this year's Little Brown Jug as it continues to improve.

The four-year-olds are equally as impressive and could make the three youngsters knuckle down this time.

The best of the trio is Keystone Pebble, a Bye Bye Byrd offspring with a mark of 1:59 and earnings of $63,954 this year. Owned by Dr. L. A. Swinehart of Warren, O., Keystone Pebble beat some of the best in the land when it won the Realization at Roosevelt in 2:07.1 for a mile and a sixteenth. It won again last week in 2:01 at Saratoga Raceway.

Easy Irv, the most improved four-year-old in the midwest, is well known to area fans for his performance at the big mile track. Owned by Charley Farber, of Brighton, Easy Irv dropped its first three starts and has been unbeatable since, winning its fourth straight a week ago in 1:59.4.

That clocking equaled the time of Bedford Jet, another Michigan favorite, set earlier in the year and enabled Irv to win the $12,500 invitational. The remarkable improvement of the horse in each race forced Connors to move it up in class after each of the victories. Now it's in the top ranks and whipped the best last Saturday.

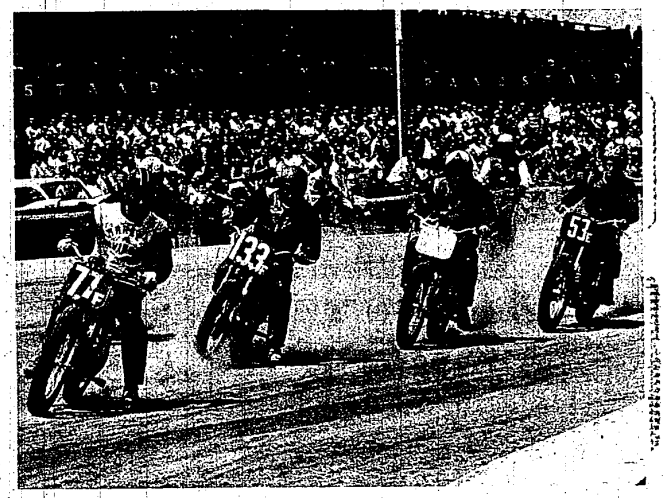
The third four-year-old is Armbro Mystic, the Canadian owned son of Overtrick, who was a winner recently at Greenwood Raceway in Toronto in 1:59.2.

If this race doesn't come close to shattering the track record of 1:57.4 held by Kentucky then we'll be surprised. That is, provided the weatherman cooperates and the track is fast.

The second $12,500 invitational matches the Saturday regulars plus Windy Way, a six-year-old from the Bob Williams stable who was the fastest at the recent Los Alamitos meeting in California where it won in 1:57.4.

Going against the coast star are: Mighty Fire, Bramble Hall, Skipper Gene Marx, Key Creed, Big Kahuna and Shiaway Lad.

Another race that will have the fans cheering all the way . . . try to pick a winner, Connors couldn't.



MOTORCYCLE RACING AT DRC -- The Detroit Race Course will be the site of the 12th annual races sanctioned by the American Motorcycle Association sponsored by the Livonia Metropolitan Club on Sunday, June 3.

The Court Jester

by BILL CAMERON

Today's column is devoted to the beginner - beginner.

This particular breed is the youngster, the teen-ager, the adult, seen on every tennis court in the area. He or she decides it would be fun to go to the tennis courts and get some exercise. They generally haven't the foggiest idea of what they are doing.

If you're unfortunate enough to be playing on the next court, you'll find them running onto your court to pick up balls while you're in the middle of a point, or else they are chasing stray hits in back of your court, and in general making a nuisance of themselves.

What bothers the serious tennis player is that these people are taking up space. Most of the time the beginners are playing singles, while the advanced players end up playing doubles because there aren't enough courts available. But lest we forget, we were all at that beginner stage at one time. Much of the criticism that is leveled at beginners is due to ignorance on their part.

No one has bothered to tell them that you don't run onto another court while play is in progress. No one has told them that all you have to do is to call the attention of one of the players on an adjoining court that their ball is there.

We call this court etiquette, or to put it simply, good manners. Players or spectators shouldn't walk behind a court while play is in progress. They should wait and then run. (My pet peeves are the football players and soccer players who cut across the tennis courts, not only tracking mud but interrupting play. I don't think they'd appreciate a group of tennis players cutting across their playing field in the middle of a game.)

We, as tennis players, have an obligation to educate the beginner. Patience is a virtue. Some day the city fathers will realize that there aren't enough tennis courts in Observerland. Instead of building one or two, they may realize that a battery of five is more practical. I'd like to see everyone taking lessons and enjoying the game. Let's not discourage, but encourage.

The Livonia Family Y has its new tennis brochure ready and is accepting court reservations for the five-court indoor facility due to open in September. I would recommend getting your choice times now.

Last call for our Women's Tennis League, open to anyone in Observerland, classes A, B, & C. Play starts the week of June 3. Call Barbara Moulin.

8 Tigers On All-Star Ballot

The polls will open soon for the 1973 all-star game balloting and the Tigers' nominees are hoping their supporters will turn out in record numbers.

Eight Tigers have their names on the punch card ballot which will be used by the fans between May 26 and July 8 in their selection of the players to start in the game in Kansas City July 24. All but the pitchers, who will be named by the managers, will be picked by the fans.

Ballots will be available at Tiger Stadium starting with the May 26 (Saturday) game against the Oakland A's and for the 15 games to be played there during the voting period. Fans can punch out choices on cards, then leave them in any of the handy official ballot boxes scattered through the stadium or mail them to national headquarters.

Any fans unable to obtain ballots otherwise can ask for them by writing: Public Relations Department, Tiger Stadium, Detroit 48216.

Tiger players on the ballot are: Catcher Bill Freehan; Infielders Norm Cash, Ed Brinkman and Aurelio Rodriguez, and Outfielders Willie Horton, Al Kaline, Jim Northrup and Mickey Stanley.

Trojans Win, 1-0

Clarenceville High nipped Clarkston, 1-0, behind the two hit pitching performance of Terry Laird to push its overall baseball showing to 6-7.

The Trojans tallied in the fifth and that was all Laird needed to score his fourth victory against two defeats.

In the 46 innings Laird has worked, he has given up only five earned runs for a 0.77 earned run average. He also has struck out 61, walked 26 and given up 25 hits.

Clarenceville's run came as Brian Luke doubled, moved to third on an error and scampered in on a single by Bill VanDike.

CLARENCEVILLE	ab	r	h	bi	CLARKSTON	ab	r	h	bi
Beyer,lf	4	0	1	0	Hesse,2b	3	0	0	0
McCammon,3b	2	0	1	0	Foster,3b	3	0	0	0
Luke,2b	3	1	2	0	Watts,1b	3	0	0	0
Saurela,c	2	0	0	0	Purdy,lf	3	0	0	0
VanDike,2b	3	0	2	1	Stewart,c	3	0	0	0
Simons,cf	2	0	1	0	Miracle,ss	3	0	2	0
Laird,p	3	0	0	0	Swanson,rf	3	0	0	0
Phillips,rf	2	0	0	0	Green,ss	2	0	0	0
Bornstein,ss	2	0	0	0	Brittain,cf	2	0	0	0
Totals	23	1	7	1	Keuther,ph	0	0	0	0
					Jorgeson,ph	1	0	0	0
					Totals	24	0	2	0

CLARENCEVILLE	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1-1
CLARKSTON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0-0

	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Laird(W, 4-2)	7	2	0	0	2	5
Miracle(L)	7	7	1	1	2	3

Huskies Having 'B' Fun Match

The Siberian Husky Club of Greater Detroit is sponsoring a sanctioned 'B' Fun Match for all registered Siberian Huskies on Sunday, June 10.

It will be held at the shopping center at 12 Mile and Telegraph starting at 12:30 p.m.

Farmington Slo-Pitch

STANDINGS

	W	L	T	PT
Contractors	4	0	1	7
Steinhaus	2	0	2	6
K of C	2	1	1	5
Farm. Lima	2	2	0	4
Poly-Oleum	2	2	0	4
Assemany	2	2	0	4
McLaughlin	1	3	0	2
Carriage House	0	4	0	0

SCORES

K of C 7, Stein Haus 7
Assemany 9, Poly-Oleum 6
McLaughlin 12, Carriage 9
Contractors 17, Lima 8

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Carriage vs. Poly-Oleum, 1 p.m.
K of C vs. Contractors, 2:15 p.m.
Stein Haus vs. Lima, 3:30 p.m.
McLaughlin vs. Assemany, 4:45 p.m.

TUESDAY'S GAMES

Construction vs. Carriage, 6:30 p.m.
McLaughlin vs. Lima, 7:35 p.m.
Assemany vs. Stein Haus, 8:40 p.m.
Poly-Oleum vs. K of C, 9:45 p.m.
(All games at Farmington's Knights of Columbus Field on Middlebelt Rd. near Nine Mile).

Pistons Wind Up Setting 9 Marks

Nine Detroit Piston records were smashed during the 1972-73 season, official team statistics have disclosed.

The team itself accounted for two of the marks -- 26 home victories and 48 assists in the season's final game at Cleveland.

In the individual department, Dave Bing, Bob Lanier and Curtis Rowe shared in the record - breaking.

Bing set a single - season total assist record of 637 and also upped his Piston all-time career records to 12,216 points and 3,165 assists. He's the first Piston ever to eclipse the 10,000-point mark and the first to go over 2,500 assists.

Lanier set three Piston rebounding records: his 1,205 total for the season, his 33 in one game against Seattle and his 19 for one half in the same game against Seattle.

Rowe, with a shooting average of .519, topped the former mark of .516 set by Bailey Howell a decade previously. Terry Dischinger twice hit at better than .520 clips while with the Pistons but neither time qualified under the league's minimum standards for a number of field goal attempts.

The Pistons also tied a team record by beating Kansas City - Omaha by 44 points in a game on Feb. 18.

Lanier figured in the tieing of another mark when he made his final 10 shots from the field against Houston at San Antonio on Nov. 4 and then made his first two in the Pistons' next game against Golden State. The 12-in-a-row matched the team record set by George Yardley in 1957-58. However, Yardley made his 12 straight in one game.

Wins 6th Title

Michigan State junior Bob Cassleman won the Big Ten 440-yard intermediate hurdle title in 1973 for the second straight year in a meet record-tying time of :50.7. It was the sixth individual loop crown he's won in a sparkling career.

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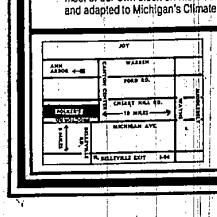

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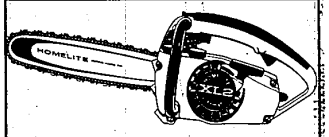

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