

# Wolverine Opens State Racing Season Saturday



THEY'RE OFF! Finishes like this will be everyday over the facilities of the Detroit Raceway when Wolverine Harness Race Course. Post time for the first race is 8:30 p.m. nightly.

With no competition in the early part of the week, hundreds of standardbred drivers were checked into the barn area and bedded down. Most of them, however, were as busy as the track was a cold.

## The Observer Sports News

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STATE'S BEST: Plymouth high's medley relay team which swam to the state Class A championship. From the left: Brian Foust, Pat McCord, Chick Porter and Bill Leonard.

Wolverine operates over the facilities of the Detroit Race Course, located at the intersection of Schoolcraft and Middlebelt Roads in Livonia, and the 58-night meeting runs through May 31.

Because of the early opening and the prospect of inclement weather, Vice President and General Manager Orlow Owen is hesitant about predicting an opening night attendance record.

The all-time opener was on Friday, April 10, 1964 when 13,186 wagged a high of \$572,703. The best for a Saturday night opening and the second best in history was set on April 17, 1965 when 10,968 wagged \$566,191.

Owen believes the 1967 campaign will be the best ever—and that means the best in Michigan—bettering the record 1965 season when Wolverine averaged 6,572 in attendance and had a nightly handle of \$427,572. No other harness racing plant in Michigan has come close to the figures.

Despite the chilly weather and threat of snow during

There won't be any shortage of horses for the early spring meeting. Pa d o c k Judge and Stall Superintendent Clayton Smith received applications for more than 1,700 pacers and trotters and had considerable trouble trimming the list down to the 1,200 for the 58 nights.

Racing Secretary Bill Connors flew in from Florida Tuesday and began the task of classifying the horses and setting up a condition book for the first two weeks.

His biggest task was that of arranging the best opening night card in Wolverine history. He will have a full complement of eight starters for the inaugural Pace and expects to have evenly matched fields for each of the other events.

Wolverine will feature the daily double and the perfecta again this year as it has for the past two seasons.

Owen indicated post time for the first race will be 8:30 p.m. with the popular daily double on the first and second races.

Inasmuch as some officials are busy with assignments in Florida at Tropical Park, there'll be several new faces in the judges' stand.

Jack Stewart, an all-time great with the Detroit Red Wings, has been named presiding judge, filling in for John Broderick, who will miss the Wolverine meeting for the first time in more than 15 years because of similar duties at Tropical.

Jack Calvert, the driver-trainer from Inlay City who also ranks as perhaps the best harness racing announcer in the Midwest, will handle the "mike" for the entire meeting. Calvert filled in for Jack Riggs for two weeks a year ago but the early Wolverines opening forced Riggs to skip the meeting this year.

In the meantime, stables are moving in from all parts of the state, from California, Windsor, Florida, eastern tracks and from training quarters in the Midwest and South.

Heading the list, 36 head, is the powerful Leon and Chris Boring Stable. The Borings have been training in Adrian and report their stock in excellent condition for this early in the year.

Chris, who drove True Duane to a world-record clocking for a mile and a quarter last fall in California, will have his big star on hand for some of the rich weekend overnight events.

Joe Marsh, Jr., last year's driving champion, is expected to bring a complement of 46 across the Detroit River from Windsor Raceway.

Doug Ackerman, Jack Williams Jr. and Chick Evans are en route from California with their usual strong outfit. Ted Taylor, who handles the huge C. M. Saunders stable, will check in within another week or so from Florida.

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# DETROIT RACE COURSE

Schoolcraft and Middlebelt Roads

## Rocks Win First Swim Relay Title

Pat McCord and Chick Porter of Plymouth High rank as the top swimmers of the year on The Observer Newspapers All-Area team. The name of Porter appears in three events, that of McCord twice after they and the Rocks pulled off a major surprise in the recent state Class A championships.

McCord and Porter both swam on the Rocks' medley relay team which copied the state crown. Brian Foust and Bill Leonard also made up the speed quartet which came truly from nowhere to take the laurels.

Porter also was acclaimed as the leading 50 and 100-yard freestyler in the area, while McCord was saluted as the top butterfly performer.

Bentley's Dennis Rogisari also gained two spots on the All-Area team. He was picked No. 1 in the 200-yard free style and No. 1 in the 400-yard free style.

David Kee of Bentley in the individual medley, Tom Bates of Franklin in the breast stroke and John Larson of Plymouth in the diving round out the selections.

## FARC Total Up 5 Percent

A total of 2,750 youngsters attended the Farmington Area Recreation Commissions six week winter program. This represents a 5 per cent increase when compared to last year's number of 2,617. The North playground sites outshone the South in total count 1,604 to 1,146.

The average daily attendance at each of the eight sites was raised from 55 to 59. All schools showed an increase with the exception of one. Beechview school led all schools with a total of 513 for an average of 102. Kenbrook was second and it averaged 84.

## Middle-Aged Unemployed Offer Vast Reservoir Of Good Retail Clerks

EAST LANSING — Retailers would find big profits in filling the growing number of retail clerical jobs with unemployed persons in the 45 to 65 age group, report two business specialists.

Employees in this age group, they point out, have less absenteeism, less job turnover, and do not cost a company more in pensions and insurance than younger people.

Edwin W. Crooks of Indiana University and Raymond M. Haas of West Virginia University, writing in the new issue of Michigan State University's Business Topics, say that the 45 to 65 age group has been ignored by personnel managers.

## Schoolcraft Sets Slate For Tennis

Schoolcraft College's tennis team will begin practice April 1, for a nine-match season to begin in the April 14. Coach Ralph Atchley's squad will meet eight Michigan Junior College Athletic Assn. conference foes and one Ohio school.

Atchley will build his team from among three holdovers from last year's schedule: the Blue and Gold compiled a 1-7 record and eight newcomers.

If the team does nothing else this year, it will have the distinction of being one of the few college tennis teams in the country coached by a Ph. D. Atchley, a chemistry instructor, earned his doctorate last fall.

Returning to the courts this year are three sophomores from Livonia: Jack Custer, 20; Paul Harige, 19, and Larrow Sivick, 21. No. 2 on the 1966 squad, Harige, a soccer letterman, played his first tennis last year and scored a pair of singles victories.

Newcomers who answered Atchley's call for tryouts are: David Eberhart, 18, and Mike Gillion, 20, both of Northville; Herman Gorman, 20, Schoolcraft's All-American soccer player; Al Helisek, 19, former captain of the Franklin High tennis squad; Jeffrey Lillard, 19, and Kurt Lagerquist, 19, a pair of Bentley graduates; Ronald Rhodes, 19, from Garden City East; and Richard Williams, 19, who earned a tennis letter at George Schaefer High, Southfield.

But Rhodes among the newcomers are freshmen.

The schedule: April 16—Cassville, April 16—Purdue, April 21—St. Joseph, April 28—Michigan State, April 29—Michigan State, May 5—Michigan State, May 5—Michigan State, May 8—Michigan State.

Bob Kryvicky established a Wayne State University swimming mark with his 2:30.9 clocking in the breaststroke vs. Eastern Michigan this year.