

Wolverine Sets Betting Marks

It will be a long time before harness racing fans in the Detroit area and surrounding sections in Michigan forget the second week of April in 1967.

It will go down in harness racing annals as the week of the big fog, that completely blanketed Wolverine Raceway on Thursday, April 13, when a 10-race program was staged successfully despite the fact that spectators saw none of the races and only the white discs of sulkeys could be seen.

It will also be remembered as the Saturday, April 15 when the track rewrote most of the all-time betting marks for the state.

Business continued to boom at an astronomical figure when a crowd of 11,100—second largest of the season—wagered an all-time high of \$879,712, shattering the record set just a week earlier of \$559,924.

And in the process the previous mark for a daily double pool went by the boards with a total of \$37,074 contrasted to the \$54,276 of March 25 and a state record \$47,372 went through the mutual machines on the perfecta. That smashed the previous mark of \$38,852 set the night before, Friday, April 14.

As a result, Wolverine boosts an all-time high nightly mutual handle average of \$444,935, a hike of 13 per cent over the \$393,311 of a year ago.

And this is all reflected in the attendance which is up 18 per cent over 1966 with a nightly average of 6,416 and a total of 122,491 for the first 19 nights.

But most of the talk has been centered around the big fog which found a crowd of 4,955 checking in early and staying for the entire program. They couldn't leave because the blanket was so heavy that one could hardly see more than 15 feet in any direction.

Only in the first race could the spectators see the start and finish of a race—they saw nothing in between as the field vanished on the first turn and wasn't in sight again until almost at the finish line.

After the opening mpe, the fog became so dense that it was impossible to read the odds-board from the grandstand. The film patrol and photo finish cameras were blacked out almost from the

start of the evening.

This resulted in the track officials taking every possible emergency measure to follow the course of the races and to keep the crowd informed of the progress of each through Announcer Jack Calvert.

Patrol Judge George White was stationed in the starter's car which followed the field in the middle of the track. White was equipped with a walkie-talkie through which he kept in contact with the announcer and the presiding judges with the progress of each event.

The placing judges deserted their posts high in the upper levels of the grandstand for positions on the finish

line where they were barely able to discern the numbers of the horses as they went by.

Meanwhile, Announcer Calvert made things sound interesting with the information from White. No one knows how accurate it was and no one will be able to contest any of the calls—no one in the stands including Calvert could see as much as the inside rail around the racing strip.

It was a strange scene—Calvert would announce

"They're off" and the only visible thing was some white wheels vanishing into the fog.

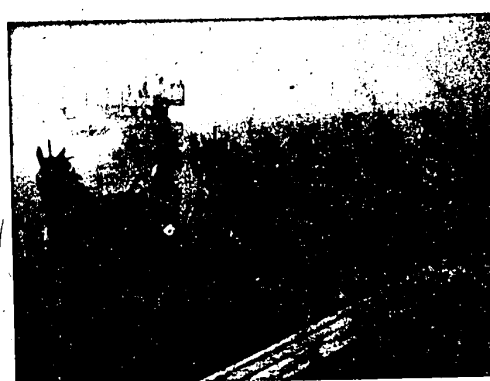
Stranger yet, the crowd wagered \$310,838 on a night when it couldn't even see the odds board and had to depend on the announcer to make the pay off prices known.

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ONLY LIGHTS on the starter's car are visible as field passes grandstand during the heavy fog that closed in on Wolverine Raceway last week. The starter, accompanied by a patrol judge, followed the horses around the track for the entire mile

Trojans Up Fortunes In Sports

The sports picture has made an upward swing at Clarensville high school.

After some gloomy campaigns in football, basketball, etc., the Trojans are making their presence felt all-around the Wayne-Oakland League and in non-conference action.

In track this season, coach Ralph Temby is looking forward to Clarensville's best record in several years.

He's not just talking. Temby has facts to substantiate his remarks—facts like a pair of victories last week to start the season and also new victories, records.

The Trojans bounced off on a winning note by running up 56½ points to best North Farmington with 53 points and Lufheran West with 37½ in a triangular meet.

Then Clarensville turned to Wayne-Oakland League competition and swamped Northville, 74-43½.

Names like Tom Harbourne, Ron Ray and Jim Amick have soured the Clarensville spotlight.

Harbourne won both the hurdles and the long jump and ran on the winning 880-yard relay teams in both meets for Clarensville.

Meanwhile, Amick scored to a new varsity record of 12 feet, 3 inches in the (Continued on Page 3B)

Observer Sports News

Page ★ 2B Wednesday, April 19, 1967

Observing SPORTS

By George Maskin

The oldsters among us hesitate to admit that times have changed too much since we were in our teens.

Our 13-year-old daughter insists they have, as she and her 16-year-old brother and argues that he's entitled to special late permission so that he can date, etc.

Have times really changed? Are our kids today enjoying and doing things which we didn't do at a comparable age?

Take television alone. We see news films today within moments after they were taken. Twenty, thirty and forty years ago, we delighted at seeing such news action a week or two late at our favorite movie.

But, forgetting TV, we must confess that the student today finds himself (1) attending better equipped schools and (2) working under teachers who are far better groomed for their profession than predecessors of a couple decades ago.

Heavens, no. We don't mean to slam that old guy who made Latin so interesting for us for four years at Northern High in Detroit, or our geometry or English instructors. In their days, they were tops.

So were the coaches we had at Northern.

It's just that the techniques have improved so much in the years that have rolled past since we were in school.

It's just, too, that special programs have been installed for the teachers and the coaches, so that they can learn more and, in turn, pass along more to the students under them.

In this regard, there are the coaching schools and clinics which have become so popular on the athletic scene.

There's one coming up this weekend in Detroit which will attract upwards of 500 schoolboy coaches (Continued on Page 3B)

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Race Beauty To Appear On Dragway

Paula Murphy, one of the nation's most beautiful and talented auto racers, will appear in one of two feature match races making up a "supercharged rodeo" at Motor City Dragway, 26 Mile, east of Edsel Ford Freeway, Sunday afternoon.

Paula is the only woman pilot ever to drive on the Indianapolis race track. She had the added thrill of driving a jet car over the Bonneville Salt Flats.

She is also the only woman auto racer in the United States who drives a blown, super-charged stock car, a Mustang she will pit against Bob Sullivan and his new Chevy Camaro this weekend.

The co-feature pits Doug Nash, Wyandotte's "wonder boy" and his Ford-powered Bronco truck against "The Kingfish" from Charlotte, N.C., in his supercharged Ford Plymouth Barracuda.

Dragsters, super stocks and other competition cars will also be in action. Time trials begin at noon. The first match of the feature series starts at 2:30 p.m.

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 Res. JO 4-5785

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LADIES' LEAGUES
 Singles (145 Avg. up) Mon. 7:30 P.M.
 5 Man Team Tues. 8:30 P.M.
 5 Man Team Thurs. 8:30 P.M.

MIXED LEAGUES
 4 Team Wed. 8:30 P.M.
 2 Ladies—2 Men Fri. 8:00 P.M.

Ladies Day Leagues
 4 Man Team Wed. 10:00 A.M.
 4 Man Team Tues. 1:00 P.M.
 4 Man Team Thurs. 1:00 P.M.

MOTHER and DAUGHTER or FATHER and SON LEAGUES
 Mother & Daughter Thurs. 7:00 P.M.
 Father & Son Mon. 7:30 P.M.

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