

Top Stars Clash in Matron Pace

Facing competition from the thoroughbreds for the first time since it opened a 58-night meeting on March 25, Wolverine Raceway plans to fight fire with fire Friday when it presents the \$30,000 Matron Pace for three-year-olds.

It is the earliest date for a major stake in Wolverine annals and was picked by track officials because it was a weekend on which no other stand-out three-year-old racing event was scheduled in the United States.

With a total of 29 nominations including 26 from last year's two-year-old pacer of the year, Racing Secretary Bill Connors is looking forward to a field of eight to 10 starters. Eight will give the stake a value of more than \$30,000, making it the richest harness racing event ever held in Michigan.

Three of the nominees finished preparations last week with impressive victories in tuneups over the half-mile strip. They included: Max Thorpe, a Thorpe Hanover colt owned by James Ray of Columbus, O.; Time Clock, a Good Time colt, from the F. E. Ross stable of Milan; and Queen's Adios colt owned by the Mill Acres stable of Muskegon.

Others expected to start: Toledo Hanover, who sold for \$81,000 as a yearling; Mighty Ad, an Adios colt who cost \$55,000 as a yearling when bought by Stan Dancer; El Picador, King's Regent, Honest Story, Judges Choice and

Schatzie. It will be the 46th renewal of the Matron and promises to be one of the best even though being presented at a time when many of the better three-year-olds have yet to make their season debuts.

Meanwhile, the capricious Michigan spring weather caught up with Wolverine last weekend when rains, high winds and tornado warnings held down Friday's crowd to 7,316. Then the thermometer dropped 30 degrees in a matter of four hours on Saturday and limited the turnout to 7,509, the lowest for a Saturday in

the weeks of the meeting. Saturday's wagering dipped to \$536,908, least for any Saturday of the meeting, and left Wolverine with a nightly average of \$443,623, a hike of 125 per cent over the \$359,457 of a year ago.

Saturday's chilled crowd witnessed the finest race of the first 25 nights when Philip Brian, a four-year-old owned by Jerry Mijal of Westland, finished in a dead heat with Key Code in the \$5,000 Open Pace.

It was the first dead heat to win of the meeting and resulted because of some spectacular driving by Joe Marsh.

Philip Brian, who loves to move to the front and go as fast as he can for as far as he can, dueling Craig Creed, the 10-year-old star of the Elmer Conrad barn, for three-quarters of the mile.

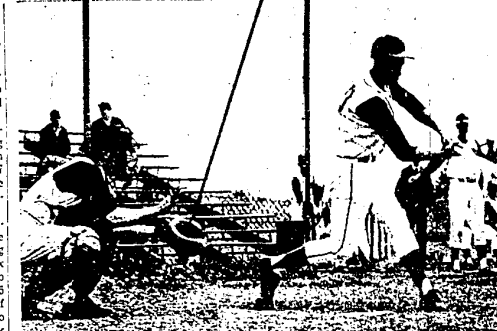
The two had a sizzling clocking of 29 seconds to the quarter and 1:00.1 to the half mile. That was the fastest first lap of the season. Then Craig began to wilt under the pressure as Key Code, driven by Marsh, and Eileen's Keith, handled by Wally McIlmurray began to move.

Philip opened a length and a half midway through the stretch with Key Code coming up fast on the outside. It

was a combination of Key Code moving fast and Philip starting to fade that resulted in the dead heat in 2:07.4.

Kendelwood Elby, Michigan's three-year-old trotting king of 1966 when he won 18 of 23 heats, made his 1967 debut in spectacular style with a wire victory in a 52-500 trot.

Meanwhile, Marsh continued his runaway in the race for the track's driving championship, winning six times during the week to boost his total to 24 in 23 nights. That's far ahead of his record of three years ago when he set an all-time mark of 49 wins for a meeting.



TAKES HIS CUT: Leland Bjerke of Redford Union swings away against Thurston Holmes. In annual township battle, Rally by Thurston.

Franklin Thinclads Gain Split

The track week ended on a 50-50 score for Franklin High. The Livonians showed power in turning in a victory over Stevenson and Crestwood.

But in his Northwest League opener against Groves, Franklin was turned back, 65-53.

Two Franklin records were tied in the triangular meet. Gene Rogalski was clocked in 15.5 seconds to tie his own standard in the high hurdles.

In the low hurdles it was John Appicelli who won in 20.8, thus equalling the Franklin mark set a year ago.

Rogalski's younger brother, Bob, also came out a winner with a jump of 19 feet, 4 inches in the long jump.

Despite the loss against Groves, Gary Rogalski and Appicelli salvaged extra glory for Franklin as each rated a new school record.

Rogalski stepped the high hurdles in 15.4 seconds while Appicelli cleared the Jaws in 20.6 seconds.

The results: FRANKLIN vs. STEVENSON 50-50, CRESTWOOD 50-50. (Franklin and Stevenson winners) Shot Put: Dettler (H). Distance: 42 feet 10 inches. High Jump: Dettler (H). Height: 6 feet 10 inches. Pole Vault: Hultquist (F). Distance: 10 feet 10 inches. Long Jump: Hansen (F). Time: 10:14. 80-yard relay: Franklin, Lucas, Telle, Basso, Hart, Time: 1:53. Mile: Callan (F). Time: 4:02. High Hurdles: G. Rogalski (F). Time: 15.5 seconds. Toss Rogalski's school record. 40-yard: Neely (F). Time: 11.5 seconds. 80-yard: Clark (F). Time: 2:07. Low Hurdles: Appicelli (F). Time: 20.8 seconds. (New school record). Mile relay: Franklin (Lucas, Callan, Clark, Neely). Time: 5:21. Shot Put: Dettler (H). Distance: 42 feet 10 inches. Shot Put: Dettler (H). Distance: 42 feet 10 inches. High Hurdles: G. Rogalski. Time: 15.4 seconds. (New school record). Low Hurdles: Appicelli. Time: 20.6 seconds. (New school record). Mile relay: Franklin (Lucas, Callan, Clark, Neely). Time: 5:21. (New school record).

Too Much for RU: Thurston Rally Pays

As long as there's life, there's hope... How true Thurston High's baseball team discovered last week in beating Redford Union 12-8.

After two innings, Thurston trailed by a 5-0 score. But then came an eight-run explosion in the third for Thurston and the game took on an entirely different aspect.

Thurston jumped on RU ace Dale Bjerke in staging its comeback.

Mike Turner started matters in the third with a single. An error giving Paul Santangelo life and a walk to Bob Holmes loaded the bases.

Another error put Reg Baringer aboard and he admitted one run. Dan Harris and Barry Simescu followed with singles. Holms a double, Turner a single and Santangelo a triple before the inning ended.

Simescu with three hits led the victory. But at such a time, Holmes and Denny Syrios had two each for Thurston while Rod Ferguson and Glenn Buckingham paced the losers.

Syrios worked until one was out in the seventh and was touched for all eight RU runs. Bob Durand came in with one out and two on and preserved the victory.

The victory followed a 2-1 loss for Thurston against Farmington as Dan Wolfman checked the Townshippers with five hits.

Loser Tim Carr, a sophomore, gave up only three hits and deserved a better fate.

Dana Kitteridge singled along with Joe Himmelspach to start Farmington's two-run rally in the third. The pair then pulled off a double steal for one run. After a wild pitch Himmelspach came home on an error with what proved the winning run.

A single by Turner and a double by Baringer accounted for the lone Thurston run.

Farmington had bowed, 3-0, to Royal Oak Kimball in a game limited to five innings because of the weather. Mike Thompson was the losing

pitcher as all Kimball runs resulted from errors. Himmelspach with a triple and Thompson with a double topped the Farmington attack.

Excellent relief pitching by Kevin Fox paved the way for Redford Union to squeak past North Farmington High, 7-4.

Taking over with the score tied at 4-4, Fox blanked the Raiders the rest of the way and picked up the victory.

A single by Rod Ferguson, two stolen bases and an error giving Bill Fahey life broke the deadlock in the bottom of the fourth. Fahey then scored to make it 6-4 and RU added another run in the sixth.

The victory had counted four times in the first inning on a walk to Ferguson, a double by Fahey and singles by Glen Buckingham, Leland Bjerke and Henry DeLong, who finished up with three hits.

Hits by Copp, DeCourcy and Lichtner, a walk to McCoy and a three-base error accounted for North Farmington's runs.



STANDOUT TRIO: The Williams twins, on this year's Farmington high school track Larry (left) and Gary (right) flank ace team sprinter Chris Brown. They're the standouts

RAIDERS BOOST A STAR:

Thanks to Australia!

The foreign exchange program agrees with North Farmington high school — especially in athletics.

Two years ago, the Raiders came up with a football kicking sensation in Bengt Hansen from Sweden.

During the current school

year, Ross Smith, 18, who hails from Australia, has made some major contributions to North Farmington in football last fall and now on the track team.

Although the American way of football was new to him, Ross earned a job on

the North Farmington varsity as he played end, half-back and also was used in the defensive backfield.

Playing rugby in the land under undoubtedly helped Smith adapt quickly to the U.S. style of football.

That he is a standout in track is no surprise. He was a star at home and last week he came through with the only double victory as North Farmington lost to Thurston, 68-50, in a Northwest League meet.

Smith won the long jump in 20 feet, 2 1/2 inches, very excellent distance, and came back to win the 100-yard dash. He also anchored the Raiders' victorious 880-yard relay team.

Thurston displayed too much balance for North Farmington. The Townshippers captured nine events with as many different performers.

The results: Shot Put: 1-Kitteridge (F). Time: 10:14. Long Jump: 1-Smith (NF). Distance: 20 feet 2 1/2 inches. High Jump: 1-Hansen (NF). Distance: 20 feet 2 1/2 inches. Pole Vault: 1-McKewen (F). Time: 10:14. 80-yard relay: Franklin, Lucas, Telle, Basso, Hart, Time: 1:53. Mile: Callan (F). Time: 4:02. High Hurdles: G. Rogalski (F). Time: 15.5 seconds. Toss Rogalski's school record. 40-yard: Neely (F). Time: 11.5 seconds. 80-yard: Clark (F). Time: 2:07. Low Hurdles: Appicelli (F). Time: 20.8 seconds. (New school record). Mile relay: Franklin (Lucas, Callan, Clark, Neely). Time: 5:21. Shot Put: Dettler (H). Distance: 42 feet 10 inches. Shot Put: Dettler (H). Distance: 42 feet 10 inches. High Hurdles: G. Rogalski. Time: 15.4 seconds. (New school record). Low Hurdles: Appicelli. Time: 20.6 seconds. (New school record). Mile relay: Franklin (Lucas, Callan, Clark, Neely). Time: 5:21. (New school record).

MOVING UP FAST on the outside is Key Code, driven by Joe Marsh Jr., to gain a dead heat for first with Philip Brian, owned by Jerry Mijal of Westland. It was the \$5,000 Open Pace at Wolverine Raceway Saturday. It was the first dead heat to win of the month-old season.

Former Redford Union Great Wins for Los Angeles Club

Redford Township's Rick Clark has gone west to write his success story. The former Redford Union pitcher chalked up his first major league victory last Saturday with three innings of shutout work in relief as the California Angels rallied to win at Cleveland.

Clark originally was signed by the Tigers. The Angels obtained him in the pro draft last winter.

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