

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

Michigan's long, thoroughbred racing season ended on a high note Saturday at the Detroit Race Course with a crowd of 8,969 wagering a scant \$871,654 one of the lowest handles for a closing day in recent years.

Thus ended a campaign that found business off during the late winter, spring and early summer at Hazel Park. It never did pick up and continued the downward trend when the DRC opened its 108 day meeting in early August.

In fact, the DRC season was one of the poorest since 1950 when the facility first opened.

Wagering for the first 78 days of the meeting averaged \$726,512. The late meet which opened Oct. 31 averaged a scant \$469,753. Overall, DRC averaged \$670,312 for the 100 days it raced. Two years ago the track wound up with an average of \$988,025 and then the handle dipped to an average of \$651,711 in 1971.

Saturday's gathering pushed the total attendance to 769,880 for an average of 7,698 daily. The turnstile average was 8,361 during the main meet and 5,349 for the late days.

AVERAGE attendance two years ago was 11,453 and 9,646 last season. The previous two meetings were conducted in late spring and early summer, generally considered the most lucrative dates. But many comparisons between the DRC and the fall meetings at Hazel Park during the past two years only proves that this was a sorry campaign for the Livonia plant.

None can explain the tremendous dip in business at both Hazel Park and the DRC this year. The latter was plagued by road work on Schoolcraft and Middle Belt Roads that made it difficult to

Hawks Swim Past Plymouth

Farmington Harrison opened its varsity swim season on a winning note, splashing past Plymouth, 65-30.

The Hawks sported two double winners in Mike Radt and Greg Arnoldy. Radt captured the 100 yard and 200 yard freestyle and Arnoldy the 200 yard individual medley and 400 yard freestyle.

Radt's time in the 100 freestyle of :51.8 was a pool record.

Plymouth's Matt Kraay established a Harrison pool record in the 50 yard freestyle with a time of :23.3.

Meet results:

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200 medley relay: 1-Churchill (Siefeld, Riffe, Dove, Corrali); 2-Bentley (Mayes, Vandenhout, Lacy, Caylor); Time 1:54.3.

200 freestyle: 1-Bryan (C); 2-Duprey (B); 3-Oliver (B); Time 1:58.7.

200 individual medley: 1-Dove (C); 2-Trox (B); 3-Reemole (C); Time 2:11.3.

50 freestyle: 1-Turner (C); 2-Kenette (B); 3-Coy (B); Time 24.8.

Diving: 1-Diamond (B); 2-Hendon (B); 3-Murphy (C); Points 62.3.

100 butterfly: 1-Siefeld (C); 2-Lacy (B); 3-Vandenhout (B); Time 1:01.1.

100 freestyle: 1-Kenette (B); 2-Turner (C); 3-Adam (B); Time 52.5.

400 freestyle: 1-Bryan (C); 2-Trox (B); 3-Oliver (B); Time 4:18.9.

100 backstroke: 1-Dove (C); 2-Mayes (B); 3-Wint (C); Time 1:01.3.

100 backstroke: 1-Siefeld (C); 2-Lacy (B); 3-Mashall (B); Time 1:08.7.

400 freestyle relay: 1-Churchill (Truener, Bryan, Riffe, Corrali); 2-Bentley (Caylor, Vandenhout, Kenette, Duprey); Time 3:44.2.

Churchill Swimmers

Churchill captured both relay and boasted three double winners en route to a season opening swim victory over Bentley, 55-40.

Randy Siefeld, Ken Dove and Doyle Bryan chalked up two firsts apiece for Churchill with Bentley taking firsts in only the diving and 100 yard freestyle competition.

MEET RESULTS

It was a rough road back for Cherry Hill East with the end result a \$5-50 loss to Cherry Hill.

The East cagers were down by 14 points midway in the third quarter, regrouped their forces and came charging back only to end up on the short end of the score.

"It was a real heart-breaker," said East Coach Billy Joe Young. "We had our chances at the end but just couldn't put it in the hoop."

If accepted, Hazel Park would go five days a week starting Nov. 14 through Dec. 22, closing each Tuesday.

Although indicating they would accept the additional dates, Tyner and Hartman gave themselves an out in case there are signs of another sag in crowds and waning interest.

The harness racing dates won't be announced until Dec. 15. The commissioner has until that date and apparently plans on waiting until then.

MICHIGAN MACK, the aged sprinter from the Ralph Maps stable, is the one to beat in the early winter packing series at the Jackson-Northville meeting.

Mack captured the fourth leg of the five race series Saturday in the fast time of 2:03.4, finishing ahead of Sid Lockhart's Knight Desire and stablemate Grumpy Gabe, handled by Joe Mapes.

It was the third triumph for the Maps star and stamped the outliner as the fastest and best on the grounds.

There isn't any question as to who will be favored in the \$10,000 finale next Saturday. Just ask Ralph Maps and he'll quickly inform you that Michigan Mack is the best on the grounds. Three firsts in four series.

Incidentally, the meeting had one of its best Saturdays with a crowd of 4,912 wagering \$380,501 for the second highest mutual handle of the meeting.

ALBATROSS, the four-year-old pacer rated as the greatest in harness racing history, ended a brilliant career last Friday at Hollywood Park near Los Angeles with a five length victory in the \$100,000 American Pacing Classic.

EAST ENJOYED a short lead in the second, 18-16, but fell behind at the half, 26-22.

Cherry Hill took off in the early moments of the third stanza to a 42-38 margin.

"They started hitting from the outside and we weren't," explained Young.

East had the ball eight times and scored only twice while Cherry Hill popped it in seven straight times.

Panther Paul Hayden found the range and the margin was back to two. With 11 seconds remaining, Cherry Hill missed on a one-and-one situation. East got the rebound, missed three shots at the basket and the final horn sounded with Cherry Hill hit on 22 of 50 from the floor for 44 per cent while East popped in only 24 of 67 for 35 per cent.

Cherry Hill also controlled the boards, outrebounding East, 42-22, with sophomore Fowler and Joe Cichon hauling in 10 apiece. Mastako at 5-10 led East with 10 rebounds and scored 17 points, while John Grigal added 15 to the Panther cause.

Cherry Hill had four players in double figures.

BOB DUNSMORE hit eight from the floor for 16 points. Cichon added 11 and Fowler and Rick McNally scored 10 each.

It was a tough opener for Young's basketballers who took on Franklin Friday in the



CHURCHILL 200 MEDLEY RELAY -- Jeff Riffe goes diving into the water as teammate Randy Siefeld touches. Churchill toppled Bentley in its opening meet, 55-40. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

CHERRY HILL (55)

	FG	FT	TP
Cichon	3	5	11
Fowler	4	2	10
Nickerson	1	0	2
McNally	4	2	10
Dunsmore	8	0	18
Taylor	1	0	2
Grigal	2	0	4
Easton	0	2	2
Totals	32	11	75

GC EAST (53)

	FG	FT	TP
Hayden	2	0	4
Taylor	1	0	2
Grigal	1	2	15
Mastako	7	3	17
Anna	1	0	2
Soye	4	1	9
Antler	2	0	4
Totals	24	5	53
Cherry Hill	12	14	11-55
GC East	10	12	14-53

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