

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

The curtain falls on the first phase of Michigan's harness racing activities in 1974 Saturday, the final night of the Jackson - at - Northville midwinter meeting.

It will conclude with a big bang as president and general manager Leon A. Slavin presents the finale of his late closing pacing series which has entertained fans each Saturday throughout the month of January.

There will be nine going postward this time because of a two - horse entry from the stable of Gordon Norris, veteran Northville driver. Initially listed as an eight horse finale for the top money winners in the four qualifying legs, Norris stretched it to nine when he entered both of his pacers. Each was a winner during the series.

Thus the championship should be even more interesting than that in December when Easy Tom grabbed the top money on the final night.

In the first place Merritt Dokey, the clever driver - trainer from Pontiac, returned from California early in January and took over the driving chores for Blazer Chip, a five - year - old from

the Frank Alexander barn of Howell.

It appears as if the horse reached top form at the same time the area's top driver arrived and the combination has been unbeatable since. As winner of three legs, Blazer Chip is the early choice to grab all the marbles.

However, it isn't going to be a case of just putting in an appearance since all eight challengers are capable of upsetting the favorite.

Tiger Jet and Ritzie Range, the pair in the Norris entry, will have the services of Norris and youthful Charley Smith. Both pacers are known for speed in the stretch and each could make it rough for Blazer Chip.

Then there is Arden's Rader, the import from Windsor, who won his first start in the series by a good seven lengths and has been close in the past three weeks. He could reach that same peak again.

Kimber R. Range showed a great deal of speed in winning one of the qualifiers and will be handled by John MacDonell. It was that same driver who guided Easy Tom to the championship of the December series.

Others in the field are: Steve N.Z., the Australian import owned by Bob Kalish of Southfield; Golden Major, driven by Duane Dilworth; A. Susan Knox, Gerry Banfield; and Knox Abbe, with

George Davis in the cart.

Then with the championship decided, Northville Downs will take over the operation Monday for the first of 39 nightly programs.

Racing Secretary Harry Peterson arrived on the scene 10 days ago and supervised the draw for Monday's opening card on Thursday morning. Peterson is looking for some new stables to check in from the Chicago area and a few from the south ... other than that the cast will be just about the same as presented by Jackson - at - Northville.

Jackson's official family paid tribute to Track Supt. George Rattenbury Wednesday night for his great efforts in keeping the racing strip in top condition for the December and January meetings.

Rattenbury, 75, a longtime driver and trainer, took over the trackman duties at Jackson and then continued through the two meetings at the 'Downs. He is the son of the late William Rattenbury, of Northville, who served as trackman for more than 50 years before his retirement several years back.

Rattenbury and his wife Dorothy, were called into the winner's circle where they received a blanket, a horse shoe mounted on a plaque and covered with velvet and other mementos of the occasion.

Key loop games set for tonight

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ished 27 of 62 from the floor and made good 18 of 28 from the charity line.

Waterford Kettering made short work of Farmington Harrison in 83 - 50 fashion as the Hawks slipped to a 2-10 showing.

Kettering took off to an 18-12 first quarter lead and upped it to 45 - 23 at the half and 65 - 37 after three quarters.

Another Farmington club, the Farmington Falcons, also took the brunt end of a lopsided score. Westland John Glenn crushed the now 3-10 Falcons 84 - 51.

For the surging Glenn Rockets it was win No. 11

against three losses that came by way of a total of 21 points.

"I was really impressed with Glenn," commented Farmington Coach Bruce Brown. "They (Glenn) really taught us a few things."

Glenn took off to a 15 - 9 first quarter margin, increased it to 38 - 21 at the half and 64 - 40 after three quarters.

Farmington hit 23 of 64 for a 36 from the floor percentage and Glenn shot 31 of 69 for 45 per cent.

Stevenson grad paces Ocelots

Ken Avis, a Stevenson High product, finished with 32.15 points in all-around competition in Schoolcraft College's opening gymnastic meet at the DuPage Invitational in Glen Ellyn, Ill.

Prep cage box scores

BISHOP NORCROSS (64)
Dryden, 8-4-5-20; Kelly, 3-0-1-8; Gerpel, 8-4-4-20; Bulger, 4-0-1-8; Pearce, 1-4-5-8; Clark, 0-2-2-2; Preppa, 0-2-2-2. TOTALS, 24-16-20-64.

THURSTON (62)
Roy, 6-1-1-13; Fernandez, 7-5-5-19; Beadle, 6-5-5-17; Rodriguez, 2-0-0-4; Spillard, 2-0-1-4; Kraywada, 1-2-2-4; Farquhar, 0-1-2-1. TOTALS, 24-14-17-62.

SCHOOLCRAFT (61)
Brittain, 5-2-2-12; Johnson, 0-1-3-1; Kelzany, 4-4-8-12; Polvino, 2-3-6-7; Kholman, 12-4-6-28; Jenson, 1-7-8-9; Tedoroff, 0-0-1-0; Altmich, 2-0-0-4; Thwait, 2-0-1-4; Hengsbach, 2-0-0-4; Bamyak, 2-1-1-5. TOTALS, 31-22-34-64.

FARMINGTON (61)
Dlyski, 1-1-2-3; Tyler, 4-0-1-8; Cavline, 3-0-0-8; Drake, 0-1-2-1; M. Schultz, 1-0-0-2; Thomas, 7-0-0-14; Herman, 3-0-0-6; McHally, 1-0-1-2; Walton, 2-0-1-6; Finnet, 0-0-2-0; Freude, 1-1-2-3. TOTALS, 23-9-15-61.

WATERFORD (63)
Wareck, 8-2-5-19; Arkes, 1-0-0-2; Cumberworth, 3-0-0-8; Webb, 0-2-2-2; Collaro, 1-3-7-5; Starnes, 3-2-2-8; Olson, 4-2-6-10; Reed, 1-0-0-2; Weiss, 8-0-1-16; Gorte, 1-0-0-2; Maxwell, 1-0-2-2; Kurtz, 4-2-3-10. TOTALS, 35-13-28-63.

HARRISON (60)
Brozek, 2-1-1-5; Styles, 2-2-3-8; Mason, 5-2-5-12; French, 3-0-0-4; Wick, 3-1-2-7; Lopez, 0-0-1-0; Otto, 1-1-3-3; Steider, 1-0-1-2; Spoutz, 1-0-0-2; Uphoff, 0-1-2-1; Deboel, 1-0-1-2; Holman, 2-0-0-4. TOTALS, 21-8-19-60.

WATERFORD (61)
Denning, 3-3-5-9; Jeake, 4-4-5-12; Foell, 3-6-7-13; Peterson, 3-2-2-8; Fremuth, 2-1-3-5; Watson, 4-7-8-15; Farquhar, 0-0-1-0. TOTALS, 19-23-31-61.

LATHROP (61)
Denning, 3-3-5-9; Jeake, 4-4-5-12; Foell, 3-6-7-13; Peterson, 3-2-2-8; Fremuth, 2-1-3-5; Watson, 4-7-8-15; Farquhar, 0-0-1-0. TOTALS, 19-23-31-61.

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Schoolcraft cagers fall

Monroe Community College mauled Schoolcraft in junior college basketball, 105 - 66.

Monroe, which is undefeated and in sole possession of first place in the Eastern Conference, was paced by 6-foot-7 forward Glen Stewart who tossed in 33 points.

Mike Dolan scored 20 for the Ocelots, with Brian Dinsmore and Bob Bartolomeo adding 16 apiece. Tim Snabes and Clay Tefft popped in 10 and six points respectively. Schoolcraft now stands at 3-10.

Falcons topple Waterford

It was all Farmington High in its Inter-Lakes wrestling match with Waterford. The Falcons came up with six pins in defeating the loop foe, 53 - 6. Results:

88 lbs. - Pat Rence(F) defeated Neal Parker(W), 23-5.
106 lbs. - Bob Houchins(F) pinned Don Tillingham(W).
112 lbs. - Dave Longline(F) won on forfeit.
119 lbs. - Vince Eysed(F) pinned John Fin(W).
126 lbs. - Earl Hall(F) pinned Chris Tippen(W).
132 lbs. - George Oentock(F) defeated Max Phelps(W), 11-4.
138 lbs. - Brian Mearley(F) pinned Dennis Hilder(W).
145 lbs. - Mark Passmore(W) defeated Kevin Koop(F), 6-4.
166 lbs. - Mark Churella(F) pinned Chuck Brown(W).
167 lbs. - Brad Bergman(F) pinned Dan Young(W).
185 lbs. - Greg Hatcher(W) defeated Ken McLellan(F), 9-3.
HWT - Jim Moore(F) defeated Greg Drohn(W), 11-3.

Ocelot tankers suffer 1st defeat

Schoolcraft College swim coach Jim Millen had known for a long time that last week would be a rough one, but, he admits, he had not expected it to be quite as tough as it was.

Millen's defending state community college champion swim team suffered a 68-45 loss to Grand Rapids Community College. On Wednesday they had to pull out a victory in the final event of the meet - the 400 yard freestyle relay - to secure a 59-50 triumph over Flint's C.S. Mott Community College.

"I knew both those teams were shooting to take our state champion away from us," commented Millen. "But I was a little surprised at just how much they've improved."

The Ocelots now have a 5-1 dual meet record.

All-American Steve Leclair and backstroke Tom O'Hagan paced Schoolcraft in the loss to Grand Rapids. Leclair accounted for half of Schoolcraft's six firsts as he won the 200, 500, and 1,000 yard freestyle events. O'Hagan won the 200 yard

backstroke in the school record time of 2:13.5 seconds.

Other first place finishers were Tim Orians in the 200 yard breaststroke and Gary Wales in the three meter diving.

Leclair was the big gun in the 59-50 triumph over C.S. Mott.

Mott won the opening 400 yard medley relay and led until the next to last event when the Ocelots finally edged ahead 52-50. With the outcome of the meet dependent on the outcome of the 400 yard freestyle relay, the quartet of Leclair, Mark Lawless, Jim Osborn, and Dave Cravens clinched the win.

In addition to his role in the freestyle relay, Leclair, also won the 500 and 1,000 yard freestyle races. Wales also was a double winner, copping honors in the one and three meter diving events. Orians won the 200 yard breaststroke. O'Hagan won the 200 yard butterfly and set a school record in finishing second in the 200 yard individual medley.

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