

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

From Lansing come reports the dog racing bill has suddenly become a reality again and may be before the lawmakers within a reasonable time.

The bill "suddenly" emerged from committee in the Senate and you can bet your last dollar the pros and antis are getting busy already to get their licks in.

It will be recalled the bill, which provides for a total of 10 dog racing tracks across the state, came within an eyelash of passing a year ago.

Matter of fact, it probably would have made it but for the fact that several legislators made holiday trips to Florida, presumably for other things, but all at once they were showing up at the dog races accompanied by those lobbying for the dog bill.

These facts were brought to the attention of the reading public by metropolitan newspapers and apparently had an effect on the final vote in Lansing after the holidays. The bill failed, just barely, in the final voting.

Now it's up again for deliberation and chances are more than even that it will get approval this time. Despite the work of the lobbyists for the race tracks, harness and thoroughbred, which are definitely against any additional competition, there seems to be a feeling that the pro group will get the job done this time.

It will be interesting to see how the Senate votes when the bill finally reaches the floor for a vote. It was defeated by the Senate last time out but this is a different year, a slightly different bill and no heat on legislators from the metropolitan press. Don't be surprised if dog racing is approved.

A Legislature which has approved a state lottery, the return of bingo and is still looking for other painless ways of bolstering the state treasury, probably wouldn't have any compunctions about passing another type of gambling.

The dog racing lobby has become stronger and stronger through the years and this could well be the year in which all of the work in the past finally pays off.

NORTHVILLE DOWNS will present one of the best races of the early season Saturday when a field of six tangles in the \$4,000 Yale pace.

Action, which provided most of the action a week ago when it took the lead at the halfway point and held it, will be back in quest of its second straight triumph.

Star of the Jackson - at - Northville meeting in December, Action was rested through the month of January and then came back when Northville opened its 39-night season.

Since then Driver Mark Grismore has guided his speedy veteran to two triumphs in three starts.

The fact that there are only six entries Saturday could make the going even rougher for Action since

there's very little chance of any getting boxed in.

As it is Action faces five of the top speed merchants in the top class. Heading the list is Chief Nugget, a wire-to-wire winner in the second feature a week ago; Daddy O Ranger, Spanish Mac, Knox Abbe and Ritzie Range.

Ritzie Range, which roared to victory in the \$9,400 finale of the Jackson winter pacing series, will have the services of Charley Smith, sensational young driver from Parma, and that could make a difference.

Pistons having shirt night

Free Detroit Piston's T-shirt night is just around the corner at Cobo Arena. All boys and girls, 16 years of age and younger, who purchase lower-arena reserved seats for the Piston's game with the Seattle Supersonics on Friday, March 1, will receive a T-shirt.

'71 North grad is splashing on

Dan McLean, 1971 graduate of North Farmington High, is in the splash of an outstanding season on the Western Michigan University swim squad. McLean has

note the times you'll find that tenths and hundredths of a second separate the first several finishers.

Tennis is very similar only it's a game of inches. A ball hitting a line is good. If it's a half inch outside someone loses the point. When your top professionals are playing for a \$10,000 first prize, inches can mean thousands of dollars.

With the new tie-breaker rule, two equal players can end up with the same number of games won or lost and have match point at 4-all and have a ball drift half an inch over the line which may mean a difference of \$10,000 in prize money.

You may end up seeing this at the Virginia Slims tournament at Cobo Hall on Sunday, Feb. 24. My guess would be Billie Jean King against Rosie Casals in the finals. Rosie recently signed a contract to play for the Detroit Loves in the soon to be inaugurated World Team Tennis league. If not Casals it could be any one of a number of gals - Nancy Richey Gunter, Virginia Wade, Betty Stove or Wendy Overton.

Ladies, if you're not satisfied with your game and you think your strokes leave something to be desired, I'd recommend you visit Cobo Hall the day that Francoise

Dear readers - I wish I could tell you about the fantastic - snow - conditions up North, but, the fickle flu laid me low for a few days and I missed out on my sojourn to Boyne Country. It is probably just as well; several people told me it was cold, icy and windy - typical mid-west conditions.

At this point, the best bet for an interesting trip North is the weekend of Feb. 15.

Even if you don't ski you can watch the pros performing down "Hemlock" at Boyne Mt. This type of race is interesting because the racers compete on side by side courses against each other and of course the clock. It's a grueling two days of competition for the racer, physically and mentally exhausting, with tenths of seconds separating the winners from the losers.

The average layman doesn't realize the difference in whether a ski racer comes in first or fifth, or even 10th. If you look at the results and

five individual wins and has been on six winning relay crews.

In his last meet against Bowling Green, McLean was first in the 200 yard butterfly.

North tips East; Glenn wins 4th

Westland John Glenn remained unbeaten in wrestling competition with a 42 - 6 victory over Franklin pushing its mark to 4 - 0 in the Northwest Suburban loop.

Jim O'Leary's crew from North Farmington whipped the Panthers from Garden City East, 30 - 16. Results:

JOHN GLENN 42 FRANKLIN 6
100 - Roger Olwezen (JG) dec. Mike Kuipers (LF), 7-5
107 - Agon Vasha (JG) dec. Jim Olsha (LF), 15-2
114 - Don Cicotte (JG) dec. Mike Goodsky (LF), 13-0
121 - Scott Davis (JG) dec. Paul Muscat (LF), 7-2
129 - Bill Fycyk dec. Ken Milne (LF), 8-2
134 - Mike Karf (JG) pinned Darryl Gunter (LF), 1:20
140 - Steve Pacciocco (JG) dec. Jim Goodsky (LF), 12-0
147 - Bill Fanyard (JG) dec. Brian Sullivan (LF), 12-0
157 - John Howe (JG) dec. Steve Gordon (LF), 3:26
160 - Bill Roan (JG) was dec. by Randy Epley (LF), 3-0
187 - Dennis Bellitto (JG) was dec. by Tim Nannis (LF), 9-5
HVV - Pat Maloney (JG) pinned Tim Hollandsworth (LF), 1:52

N. FARMINGTON 30 GCEAST 16
100 - Dard Lackey (GCE) dec. Miller (NF), 14-0
107 - Dimitri Michalak (GCE) dec. Vikland (NF), 9-1



Ski Heil

By

BILL CAMERON

Durr plays a match. This lovely French gal has the most unorthodox strokes in tennis but she keeps the ball in play and is capable of beating anyone. The experience should buoy your spirits!

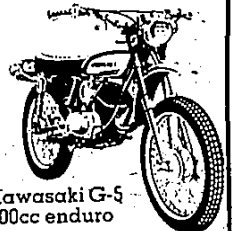
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