



Tom Klausner, left, winner of the Bahamas Grand Prix at the Waterford Hills Raceway discusses some pre-race strategy with Bill

Traflor, whose firm, Traflor Engineering sponsors Klausner's Lola T360.

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

With slightly more than three weeks remaining of the harness racing campaign at the big mile track, Wolverine

Raceway will turn its facilities over to the Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association for eight championship

colt stakes this week.

The two and three year old pacers and trotters have been going at each other ever since the first week in July and now the top nine in point standings will tangle for \$10,000 in the grand finales.

The action starts tonight (Monday) with the two year old filly trot and pace, with the trot listed as a non-betting affair between the fourth and fifth racing and the pace going at the seventh event on the program.

There's a bit of reasoning behind the non-betting stake. These are two year old trotting fillies who haven't shown that much all season but do have a right to appear on the championship program.

So the top nine are matched and the race goes on with any close follower of the trotters knowing that the one which stays flat for the entire mile will win. The only problem is that about half of the field will be jumping on the first turn and bettors just don't care to take a double risk. They know they're gambling the filly will stay on gait and they're also betting she will get out in front and stay there. It doesn't happen that often with two year old trotters.

The three year old fillies will have the spotlight Tuesday with the nine best trotters and the nine best pacers tangling in the \$10,000 stakes.

Wednesday will be devoted to two year old colts with the pace and trot on tap and word from those who have been following the colt stakes is the juvenile colt will be a real wingdinger all the way. There are some classy youngsters and they should take the big mile track like a duck does to water.

The really big stakes are slated for Thursday and Friday with the \$10,000 three year old colt trot Thursday and the \$10,000 pace the following night.

We don't know that much about the trotters but we do know the three year old pacers have been banging away at each other all season and Malcolm J. generally considered the best of the lot, is not the top ranked in points.

The appearance of Malcolm J. should be worth the price of admission since we haven't seen such a spectacular pacing colt since the days of Rusty Range, Russel Hal and Knox.

Malcolm J. showed he likes the mile track when he won a rich overnight a couple of weeks back in a mile that went in less than 2:00. . . and we still maintain that's probably a record for a Michiganbred three year old at Wolverine.

Since there are at least three others with more points than Malcolm J. then it stands to reason they must have defeated him somewhere on the fair circuit. That's why the race stacks up as a real duel. . . Malcolm J. appears to be at his best right now. His mile in less than 2:00 should be proof enough to the others that he's the one, but is he? That will be answered next Friday to the satisfaction of all. We hope it's one of those delightful Indian summer evenings and not one with snow flurries.

Big Bob Kalish, of Southfield, has one of the better stables at the track and has won his share of races in all classes. But would you believe he has yet to make an appearance in the winners' circle?

Seems Bob has a fetish against such things and it makes no difference to him how many races Tom Merriman wins for him, he just won't go down for the picture taking.

This is true at all tracks and has been one of Bob's "things" for a number of years. Pictures and winners' circle don't mean a thing to him. All

Tigers up ticket prices

The day of the dollar baseball ticket has passed forever for Detroit baseball fans.

Inflation, alas, has finally caught up with the local representatives of our national pastime as the Detroit Tigers have announced an across-the-board price hike for tickets.

Bleacher seats, which have been selling for \$1 since 1963, will be upped

50 cents as will grandstand seats which will now run \$2.50.

Box seats and reserved seats were boosted 25 cents each to \$4.50 and \$3.50 respectively.

Tiger executive vice-president and general manager Jim Campbell, blamed the sagging economic scene for the increase.

"We have to face the fact that we are living in an inflation economy," he said.

"Everything the Tigers pay for has to be paid for at inflated prices and some of the increases are almost astronomical.

"It is regrettable, but there is no way the Tigers can avoid this reasonable increase in ticket prices. And it should be stressed that, even with this increase, a baseball ticket remains the lowest-priced sports ticket in Detroit," he said.

Return of Howes

Literally and figuratively, it'll be homecoming at Detroit's Cobo Arena on Thursday evening, Oct. 10.

Gordie Howe will be returning to the city where during a quarter of century on the ice he became its greatest hockey player.

With Howe will come his two sons, Marty and Mark, both of whom grew up in the Detroit area, played their first hockey hereabouts and now have joined their dad in forming hockey's No. 1 family.

Pop Howe and his sons will be at Cobo Arena to lead the Houston Aeros, the defending World Hockey Association champions, against the Michigan Stags in a pre-season game.

The game between the Aeros and the Stags also will mark the first appearance of the Stags in their new home at Cobo. The Stags moved to the Motor City from Los Angeles and will open their regular season on Oct. 17 at Indianapolis and then play at home on Oct. 29, facing the Minnesota Saints.

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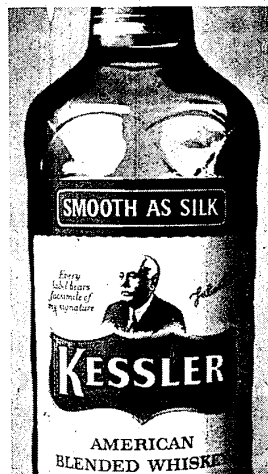
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