

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

Thursday, March 6, 1975 THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC (7-48-39)(3) 19

Things may change for Northville Downs now that the runners are finally getting under way with the 1975 season but up to this time the 'Downs has enjoyed sensational luck.

Attendance is up more than 15 per cent and wagering is at an all-time high for a winter meeting with climbing of better than 21 per cent and climbing.

All of which makes one wonder if Executive Director John Carlo feels as bad about losing summer dates as he did last fall when the racing commissioner announced his plans for 1975.

Northville's business reached a high during the past weekend when record crowds poured into the half-mile track Friday and Saturday and set new highs both nights.

With a \$530,000 total on Friday, the track came right back with a crowd of 8,459 Saturday and a handle of

\$681,000. That was the largest turnstile count and the most wagering since winter racing started in Michigan.

BUT THAT'S only part of the story, wagering soared to \$508,000 Monday and that was another record.

Who would have believed back in 1944 that Northville Downs would handle more than a million and a half in three nights? The track has had better weekends during the summer but seldom three consecutive nights with a record for each.

Probably some of the reason for the success during the three nights is the fact that Racing Secretary Harry Peterson has been able to arrange better than average programs on Fridays, Saturdays and Mondays. Mondays because it is the night the 'Downs operates without competition. It has the

only game operating in the entire area. Windsor Raceway is dark and for the better there's only one place to go—Northville. That's where they are going.

Saturday's program proved another point. A fast track can make a lot of difference in the performance of horses.

AFTER WHIPPING all of the fast class pacers on "off" tracks, Spanish Mac ran into a real tartar on the fast strip and lost to Good Boy. It was the second time the six-year-old had beaten Spanish Mac on that kind of going.

It will be interesting to see what develops this week when the same pacers tangle again. If the track is fast don't overlook Springs Pride or Good Boy, they should be able to get the job done.

From the stable area at the 'Downs one hears that Stu Oldford of

Plymouth turned down an offer of \$100,000 for his speedy Kool King. The trotter generally is rated the best in the area at this time and showed his ability by whipping his competition handily in last Friday's open event.

Oldford told us earlier that he had an offer from New York interests for a similar amount but rejected it also. He prefers to see his best horse perform and doesn't want to go to New York City or Chicago to see it.

It may be that Kool King will run out of opposition at the 'Downs in which event Oldford will either have to move it or allow it to rest until the start of the Hazel Park meeting in April.

NOW THAT things are back to normal at the Detroit Race Course and the runners will officially open the Michigan season Saturday, plans are

being made for the remainder of the season.

First announcement is that the \$100,000 Michigan Mile and an eighth will be raced on Saturday, June 21.


It will be the 27th running of the "Mile" which again will headline the race season at the DRC. The purse is guaranteed and is expected to again attract distance stars, three-year-olds and up, from all parts of the land.

Tom Talle beat Rastafarian by two and a half lengths in the 1974 running. Dates and purses for three rich Michiganbred stakes were announced at the same time of the "Mile."

The Michigan Futurity, a mile test for two-year-olds, is slated for Saturday, July 13. The Frontier Handicap is slated for Saturday, June 7 and the Dowling Memorial for Saturday, June 28. The Frontier is for Michiganbred three-year-olds and up and the Dowling for homebred three-year-olds.

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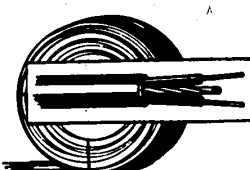
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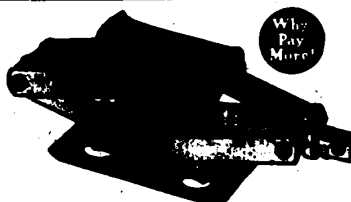
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