

# Business Booms At Record Pace For DRC

If the opening day can be used to predict the remainder of the 90-day meeting, then the new Detroit Racing Association, owners and operators of the Detroit Race Course, can look forward to a record making season.

Following the trend of the Hazel Park season which ended Saturday with an average daily handle of more than a million and a total attendance of over a million — each a first — the DRC started off with an all-time high opening day handle of \$1,098,458 and a turnout of 14,660.

The wagering bettered the opening days of a year ago when the mutual machines counted a total of \$1,061,826.

The new owners didn't have to wait long to learn the mile track plant was headed for a record first day. The daily double pool pointed to a million dollar day and by the end of the third race, officials were freely predicting a new high.

It was a case of new faces, new horses and a new look to the infield in front of the grandstand which was decorated with colorful floral arrangements.

Although the new lighting system, which will be used later in the year to light up the track when dusk settles in the early evening, wasn't used this time, spectators were well aware of the seven huge standards that were erected shortly before the start of the season.

There was a new pleasant atmosphere and all seemed struck by the different appearance of the racing plant under the new owners.

THERE WAS THAT EXCITED cry spreading throughout the stands when the announcer said "They're Off" and the field left the starting gate for the first race over a track which was rated good at the start of the afternoon and gradually changed to a fast strip by the time of the twin features.

Jockey Ron Campbell sent Les Win to the front down the backstretch but he started to wobble on the turn as Bornastorm and Pappa's Toy moved up quickly on the inside.

Then it was a tight duel between the pair all the way to the wire with Pappa's Toy trying desperately to catch the leader but falling a head short at the wire.

There was a full field of 12 in the second race, second half of the daily double, and few in the crowd gave much thought to Skepoona getting up when he trailed as far back as eighth to the head of the stretch.

Then the 7-1 longshot took the overland route and literally flew by the entire field to hit the wire a length and a half in front. He paid \$16 and the daily double was worth \$38.80 and the DRC racing season was officially underway.

THE OPENING DAY Curtain's Up Handicap, for three year olds, attracted 18 entries and Racing Secretary Norris Gwin split it into two divisions. As it turned out, there were only eight in each but each was a sizzling battle from start to finish.

Fleet Surprise, who won a couple of stakes against the best at California's Hollywood Park before P. L. Grissom and son Chuck brought him back to Detroit, was the heavy favorite.

Buy Fleet Surprise surprised all by failing to beat a horse while Zuke's Bad Boy and Abreast staged a hot duel for the top money. The victor was Zuke's Bad Boy by a head with Abreast second.

In the second division, Fast Hilarious, who has won more than \$125,000 in his short career, was the choice by the bettors. He just did hold on to beat off Retaliator for the victory by a nose after a head and head battle in the stretch.

It was a tremendous welcome for the thoroughbreds to the DRC after the successful Hazel Park meeting. Now all will be watching to see what takes place during the next 89 days at the which stages the state's richest race — the Michigan Mile in October.



TYPICAL OPENING DAY scene is this of the rail birds who check over programs and racing form statistics while watching the horses go postward for the first race of the DRC's 90-day campaign (Observer photo)

## 2 More Deadlocks Cause Sandlot Pilots To Moan

If managers in Greater Livonia's Connie Mack League have their ways next season, they'll do something about ending all the "tie" games.

Seldom has a week passed in which two or three tie contests marred the league's schedule. In several instances, darkness intervened before teams could even get in the regulation seven innings.

"What we need is daylight savings time or more lit field," one manager said. Another groaned:

"We should do something about playing games to a finish and determining a winner."

But how? The crowded schedule makes it difficult to make up games and to try and stage double-headers would be difficult especially since the daylight hours now are so short for action beginning at 6 p.m.

THERE WERE two more deadlocks Saturday. Fortunately, for league officials, the deadlocks didn't involve any of the teams involved in the hot chase for the Mack's National League crown.

This time it was Phillippi 4, Ratigan 4, while Garden City's McKay Martville ended in a 6-6 tie with North Farmington's Coleman Moss.

Phillippi and Ratigan were fortunate to get in just five innings.

And Phillippi staged a three-run rally just before the action was called to at least engineer the deadlock.

Phillippi scored once in the first inning when John Grills singled and tallied on Brad Lyon's single.

THEN RATIGAN built up a 4-1 lead when Don Opland, Tom Waring and Rich McKay combined for one run in the first. Phil Kupras, Randy Lee and Opland singled for two more in the second and Mike Red-outy walked and moved around on a wild pitch and an error in the fourth.

Phillippi finally pulled even in the fifth when Grills got things started with another single.

After Mike McGowan walked, Bob Hollandsworth singled, Dennis Hopkins was safe on an error and Dan Frank Kasparek doubled to get the game even.

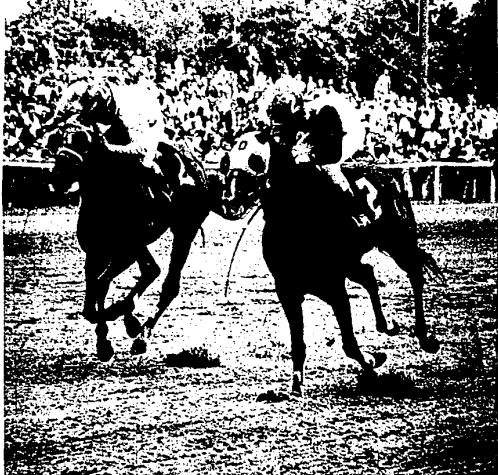
Dennis Fisher hurled for Phillippi while Lee went the route for Ratigan.

McKAY'S STRUCK back with four runs in the third inning and two in the sixth to finish tied with Coleman Moss.

Coleman Moss scored in the first inning on a hit by Mike Ellis and counted twice in the third on hits by Ellis, Gary Carr, Scott Lentz and David Thomas.

Then McKay's broke loose for four in the third on a hit batsman, error and hits by John Chute, George Lettiss and Mike Kelley, the latter's blow knocking in two of the runs.

Back came Coleman Moss to tie the game in the fourth on Continued on Page 28



TIGHT FIT between Bornastorm (2) and Pappa's Toy (4) but the nod went to the former by a long neck as the season opened at the DRC Monday Jockey Jerry Santage kept the heavily backed favorite going in the stretch drive and just did hang on for the victory (Observer photo by Vince Witke)

## Play Ends In Legion Flag Race

The curtain was to fall this week on action for Farmington's American Legion baseball team.

Manager Harry Kujawa's comparative "youngsters" ran into problems throughout the campaign. For the most part the Farmington team managed to hang close for four or five innings before bouncing out of contention.

It was that way against Waterford which came up with a five-run outburst in the sixth.

inning to salt away a 7-0 victory.

Farmington was held to four hits—two by Stan Kouris and one each by Jay Hazelroth and Pat Hickey. Kouris was the losing pitcher.

Only Catcher Mark Kujawa was picked off the Farmington team to play with the 18th District All Stars at Tiger Stadium on Tuesday.

The selection of Kujawa was made by managers of the other 18th District teams. No manager was permitted to vote for any member of his own team.

## Garden City Girl Swims To 3 Titles

Carol Rusis of Garden City won three events and set two state records during the 13th annual three-day Water Wonderland swimming meet at the Brennan Pools in Detroit.

Miss Rusis in the 11-12-year-old age bracket came in the 100-yard freestyle (1:05.9) and 50-yard backstroke (34.8 seconds). She also won the 50-yard freestyle in 30.2 seconds.

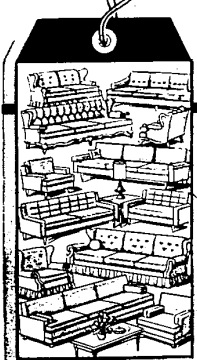

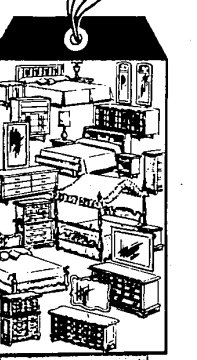
Team honors in the meet went to the Ann Arbor Swim Club with 1,039 points. The Sparta Club was second with 459 points, six more than Garden City.



BIG FIELD gets off in perfect alignment as starting gate lies open for the second race of the opening day program at the DRC. More than 14,000 wagered a record high \$1,098,458 on the nine events. That total shattered the previous mark of \$1,061,826 set a year ago on an opening Monday. (Observer photo)

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