

Small Crowd Views Initial Winter Racing Card

Things will have to take a turn for the better in the remaining nights of the Jackson-Northville Downs winter

harness racing meeting—first in Michigan history in December.

The campaign, which opened Monday with a small crowd of 2,152 patrons in the glass-enclosed grandstand and new clubhouse, continues until the end of the year.

The opening program can't be considered a huge success for the mutual handle was \$178,485, considerably below the predictions of a \$250,000 total.

ONE WOULD HAVE to doff his hat to Leon Slavin, long-time president and general manager of Jackson Raceway, for his courage in accepting the challenge of staging the state's first winter meeting.

Racing Commissioner Leo Shirley awarded the winter dates to get some idea of how much competition a Michigan

would furnish for the Windsor Raceway campaign.

On the basis of the opener, the Jackson program didn't take many customers away from Windsor.

The Canadian track was down 500 patrons with a total of 4,655 and handled \$300,554, a dip of about 10 percent for each figure.

The Northville opener wasn't much better than a normal Monday at Jackson Raceway where Slavin re-

ported an all-time high average handle of \$150,000 for a session which ended Saturday.

"WE WERE A BIT disappointed by the opening turnout," said Slavin. "But don't forget we are pioneering winter racing and we didn't expect patrons to beat down the doors for a brand new venture."

"We believe things will pick up considerably as the meeting progresses, especially after we iron out the rough spots that

cropped out Monday. Openings always point out faults and we had our share. Now we can settle down to building up impetus and believe the business will reach our expectations of a \$250,000 nightly average."

And for the longest devotees, they were pleasantly rewarded in the featured Northville Inaugural Race when Clarence Bennett's contender out of Pinckney, Mich. scored a three-quarter

length upset over Isoslas Bill in the eighth race.

The eight-year old Jasper Hammer gelding trained for a quarter, was fifth at the half-mile and then took dead aim on Isoslas Bill in the final quarter.

Contender, winning for the fourth time this year, finished the mile in 2:15 3/5 to return \$43.80, \$13.00 and \$3.80. Isoslas Bill, driven by Fred Keener, could not withstand the winner's string close but saved

the plane three-quarters of a length before Nibble's Storm. Isoslas Bill was worth \$2.20 and \$4.20 while Nibble's Storm paid \$2.80.

Gerry Banfield fashioned the first driving double winning the first race with J.S. Black Bart and scoring in the seventh race behind Princess Pennina.

J.S. Black Bart, racing for Herb Pierpont of Eaton Rapids, Mich., and Sam Hutchinson of Detroit, held off Corn Chips

in the final quarter to win for his third victory of the year. The three-year-old gelding covered the mile in 2:16 4/5 and returned \$9.20, \$4.40 and \$3.60.

J.S. Black Bart coupled with Top Shelf, winner of the first race, for a daily double payoff of \$132.60 on the combination 6-4. Don Don Irvine Jr. took top shell to her fourth win of the year, returning \$19.40, \$6.40 and \$7.60.

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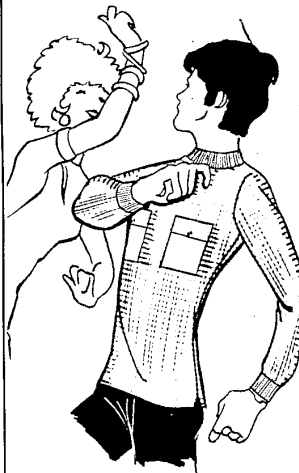


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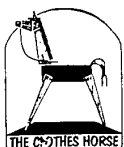


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Last year's starting five is gone, but Coach Bob Visser is optimistic about the Franklin High basketball outlook for the 1969-70 season which starts Tuesday at Romulus.

He has seven returning senior lettermen who boast previous game experience and some fine additions from the junior varsity.

"We will field a small, aggressive team and will rely on tough defensive tactics to compensate for the lack of height," says Coach Visser.

He also feels that Franklin, which had an overall 8-10 record last season and finished third in the Northwest Suburban League, "will surprise several opponents during the coming season."

The seniors who'll form the nucleus of the Franklin team are: Gary Allan, 5-7; Wayne Florida, 6-0; Frank Kasparek, 5-11; Jeff Kind, 6-0; Dick McAdam, 6-0; Dave Mulikin, 6-2, and Jim Portner, 6-2.

Randy Lee, who played hockey last year, has cast his lot with basketball this winter and should help the cagers, along with Bill Holwig, 6-2; Dan Rykamp, 6-3, up from the reserves; and Bill Sachs, 6-3, a transfer from Clinton.

Sophomore righthander Tom Zahn of Ft. Wayne (North Side), Ind., was impressive in his first start as a Western Michigan University pitcher on May 12, tossing a three-hitter and defeating Northern Illinois, 15-0.

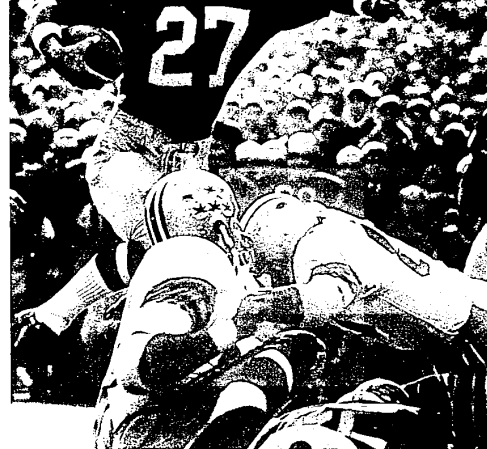
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THROUGH THE LINE goes Quarterback Don Moorhead for a sizable gain through the Buckeye forward wall. The agile junior played a major role in the stunning victory.

(Observer photo by Harry Mauthe.)

Mutch, Griffiths Honored On All-Suburb Selections

More honors have come to Craig Mutch, Thurston High's great running back.

He was named on both the Detroit Free Press and Detroit News All-Suburban teams this past week.

The Free Press selections also included guard Chuck Griffiths of Redford Union on the first team while guard Bob Clayton of Plymouth and quarterback Gary Devington made the second All-Suburban and guard Paul Sersen of Thurston and back Mike Gow of North Farmington the third team.

Jay Pease of North Farmington was picked as guard on the News' North - Central All-Suburban team. On the same team was quarterback Rusty

Gregg of Stevenson.
Both the News and Free Press All - State teams will appear next Sunday, and it's expected

that at least one Observerland player will be saluted with the highest honor that can come to a prep football player.



CRAIG MUTCH - B
Thurston

Churchill
To Play
All 'Away'

There'll be no truly home basketball for Churchill High this winter.

The school's gym won't be ready until after the season is over.

As a result, Churchill will use Stevenson and Franklin High facilities for home games.

Four games are scheduled at Stevenson, three at Franklin, in addition to eight on the road and an appearance in a Christmas holiday tournament.

GOLDEN GLOVES CHAMP
Michigan State junior line-backer Tom Barnum of Woodland, Mich., competed in Golden

Stevenson, Falcons
Threats For Honors

A good returning nucleus at Stevenson High -- two stand-out returnees at Farmington.

That in a nutshell is the story for Stevenson's two contenders for Inter-Lakes League basketball honors this winter.

Stevenson, the co-champs with Pontiac Northern a year ago, has a fine nucleus back, according to Coach George Van Wagener.

"But we need to improve on our defense," he says. "Only time will tell how good a team we will have."

Ted Exarhos, 6-1, the top scorer and rebounder last sea-

son, returns along with Rusty Gregg, a good rebounder and scorer, and Paul Van Wagener, 5-11, who was a starting guard on his dad's team last season.

The Swift twins, Mike and Pat, who gained all-star football honors as tackles this past fall, are back, so are Randy Hickerson, John Jetchick, Ron Hoeckstra and Pete Grescek.

Over at Farmington, Coach Ray Boyle boasts a pair of standouts in Paul White and Randy Cleveland, plus Mark Manlewski, Dan Steinke, Doug Carvell, John Holappa, and Chuck and Paul Kupferschmidt.

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By George Maslin

observing sports

PICKING UP THE LOOSE PIECES AFTER A WESTWARD SWING:

One can sympathize with Mary Ganz and his Schoolcraft College soccer team.

They had to be dreaming about spending a week in Florida for the national junior college championships.

But there'll be no Miami for Schoolcraft. They were knocked out in the first round of the regional tournament at Bay City.

Still, Schoolcraft has done wonders in soccer over the years.

You must remember that soccer is virtually a non-existent high school sport around here. Stevenson tried it for a while.

Most of the Schoolcraft players are novices at soccer. They've had previous sports backgrounds in football or basketball or baseball . . . or maybe no sports backgrounds at all.

Yet they adapted quickly to soccer . . . which is a tougher sport than it might look to the casual observer.

We'd like to see more high schools go for soccer. It's an expensive undertaking and it can produce a lot of excitement for both participant and viewer.

TO US, ONE OF the greatest thrills of moving about the country comes at the moment when the public address announcer declares:

"Ladies and gentlemen . . . join us in singing our national anthem."

Whether it's a high school football field in Livonia or Farmington . . . or Yankee Stadium or Madison Square Garden in New York . . . or the Forum or Coliseum in Los Angeles . . . or the Orange Bowl in Miami . . . the words of our anthem cause goose pimples to run up your spine.

It kind of makes you realize how united a country we really have . . . when over the great expanse of 3,000 miles and then some, the same song, the same words carry the same impact.

YES, AND HOW THE WORLD has shrunk! You stand in an airport in Seattle, Wash., on a foggy, foggy day. The plane which is supposed to take you to Chicago can't budgie. Nobody can see more than a few yards.

So you wait . . . almost three hours . . . and then the skies clear a little and off you go . . .

You get to Chicago . . . and there's another wait. First to transfer from one plane to another . . . then to have a new part placed in No. 2 plane . . . then for your turn (you're No. 35 in line) to get off the runway.

After a bit, you get to your destination in Cincinnati.

Slow and weary, you say, about the trip . . . until you stop for a moment and realize: Despite the delays, despite the fog, despite the difficulties . . . it took you less than 12 hours from the time you walked out of a hotel in Seattle to check into a hotel in Cincinnati.

Back in our younger days, we'd have been happy if the same trip were accomplished in 48 hours by train . . . in 24 hours by slow plane—the DC-3 version

ON THE SUBJECT of planes, weren't those new 747 Jets something to behold sitting there at the Boeing plant in Seattle?

Here are the new birds that can accommodate more than 300 passengers at one crack.

What an ugly thought, though. A full load of passengers on a long trip means more than 700 bags and suitcases. Imagine, waiting for yours?

Ouch.

If we had our choice, we'd pick San Diego as our next home.

It strikes us as a paradise, every time we've been there.

THE RED WINGS find the hockey rink in Livonia a happy place to work every time Olympia isn't available to them.

Which pops the subject: Why not some high school hockey in these parts?

THE DECISION WHICH knocked Redford High out of the Detroit Public School League's football battle makes sense . . . despite the penalty which may seem a little too harsh.

There are rules which the schoolboy officials have laid down. They are there to be followed.

Someone, besides the young football players, had to know that the two boys involved were not living with their parents, who had moved away from the Redford area.

Having been close to prep sports for something like 40 years, we know that the one thing state and area officials don't want to see happen is a precedent which could lead to more troubles in the future.

Had the City League bowed to Redford, something on a similar scope could have popped out in several other schools in the years to come.

Then, what?

This is why we have argued herewith for years that adults should not try to cover up for schoolkids. Don't try to flout the rules by giving them awards that are barred under state and league regulations!

After all, you can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool 'em all, all the time. And when you do get caught in such instances, a great many innocent bystanders must help pay the penalty.