

Top 2-Year-Olds To Vie At DRC

The richest race in Michigan for two-year-old thoroughbreds will be presented at the Detroit Race Course on Saturday, July 25, and 49 of the nation's foremost juveniles have been nominated for the contest.

This will be the sixth running of the DRC's \$25,000 - added Graduation Stakes and T.A. Morrison's She Is Gorgeous, a swift filly who stormed from behind to score a two-length victory in the Ladies' N' Lassies Stakes here early in May, could register a rare sweep by posting a victory in this one, too.

Last year the honors, in these two highlights of the DRC season for two-year-olds, were

divided between Oh Fudge, who topped the Ladies' N' Lassies, and Roman Crooner, victor in the Graduation with Oh Fudge third.

Among the top challengers to the Morrison filly will be another winning filly over the same strip, S.C. Gray's and Sam Paragon's Gray's Little Girl who scored impressively here July 11 at a five furlong sprint. The Graduation will be six furlongs, but the come - from - behind victory by She Is Gorgeous in the Ladies' N' Lassies indicated the added distance will do nothing to hurt that horse's chances.

T.A. and J.E. Grissom's Tribal Line, a recent winner in near-record time for five furlongs, G & M Stable's Run Thief, I.C. McMahon's Better Wine, Maguran Stable's Muzzy Moo, W.D. Finney's Noddy Miss and Mrs. T. Sarpy's Port Sall are among other winners who are considered likely starters in the Graduation.

For sheer strength of numbers, Texan W.A. Lofton has outdone his rivals by nominating a three-horse entry for Saturday's attraction. These 2-year-olds include Jere Jet, Jet, Flash O Light and Mr. Fixit.

Saturday's 10-race program, with the first post parade scheduled for 2:10 p.m., will leave the track with only one week remaining of its 1970 thoroughbred racing calendar. The final day of racing will come Saturday, Aug. 1 when the card will be headlined by a pair of stakes offering a combined \$5,000 in added stakes prizes. These will be the \$35,000 Detroit Handicap for three-year-olds and the \$20,000 Futurity for Michigan-bred two-year-olds.

year-old colt who never before had won a stakes race, led all the way last Saturday to shatter the Detroit Race Course track record for a mile and 3-16ths in capturing the \$12,450 Lake Huron Handicap as fifth waging choice in a field of six.

For 49-year-old jockey Robert R. Baird who was aboard Mark Leach's Greenacre Farm's Second Counter, it was his third stakes triumph of the local season. He won the Mielte Handicap with Peace

Movement a week ago and brought Sunny Sal, a stablemate of today's winner, home in front in the Danzels Stakes June 27.

Second Counter went into this race with only one win in six starts this season - a sprint at Arlington - but never was headed. His time of 1:54 3-16ths clipped almost a full three seconds off the old track mark of 1:57 2-5 which was set originally in 1959 and then equaled in 1962.

At the wire Baird had Second Counter two and a half lengths in front of Marion Van Berg's imported triple stakes winner Zorba ZDC, who in turn was two lengths to the good over George Schmiedekamp's Etory, whose earlier victories this year included the Michigan Mile Trial and New Orleans Handicap.

It was Zorba's 2nd, recent winner of the King's Handicap at AK - Sar - Ben and ridden here by defending nation

riding champion Larry Snyder, who gave the Baird-Second Counter duo their only contest. They went in that order most of the route, but Second Counter never faltered. Etory made a drive in the stretch to catch Brunswick Farm's El Diabolo for third money.

The victory was worth \$21,417 to the Green Acres stable which compared with only \$13,215 in earnings in the stretch to his previous 14 starts in 1969 and 1970.

By George Maslin observing sports

There ARE ways to keep a marriage from going sour—even after almost 24 years of attachment.

One is NOT to serve as your wife's bridge partner too often. When you do, the best thing is to keep your mouth shut. Let her do the talking.

Secondly, don't volunteer to serve as her semi-caddie in golf. It can be amusing, but it might stir up some friction, unless she happens to have a good sense of humor.

Just look at what can happen on a trip over to the Whispering Willows golf course—one of the finest public golfing establishments anywhere in the country.

No sooner do you arrive at Whispering Willows in Livonia and meet pro Gary Whitener, than the conversation turns away from golf.

"I brought our first baby home today," Gary reports. Jon Gary Whitener checked in at eight pounds, two ounces.

Now, that's all the other half of the Maskin household had to hear.

"You know I'm a grandmother...five weeks now...Tricia weighed nine pounds when she was born...She's up to around 11 pounds now...what a doll...and she's even over at our house now for a few days while her dad and mother are in the east where he's racing his drag car...."

Gary cuts in. "It sure makes a difference around our house already and Jon has only been home a day."

SO, THE CONVERSATION goes another 10 minutes...and finally, it's time to head out to the first tee.

Gary reminds Mrs. M. that the course record for women is in jeopardy with her out there playing. The mark is 42.

But after one shot, the caddie (riding around in an electric cart) is certain there'll be no record today...not by the lovely one.

That initial shot carried only about 40 yards. It was straight, though.

"What went wrong?" we asked.

"Quit talking to me when I'm concentrating on my shots," retorted the lovely one.

Three shots later and still only halfway to the green, she asks:

"Where's the green?"

Afraid of talking too much, you merely point, rude as that may be.

One thing you do notice, the lovely one keeps using wood clubs...off the tee...her third and fourth and even fifth shots.

"I'm not much good with irons," she retorts. (She can handle the steam iron at home, though.)

Finally, she gets her putt down on the first and it takes a wild goose chase to find the second hole.

A COUPLE SHOTS into the second hole, we laughed when we shouldn't have.

"You're making me nervous," came a cry...

Another bad shot.

"What am I doing wrong...?"

After her putt on the second hole sailed merrily past the cup:

"I just don't read the greens right."

On the next hole, she gets off what looks like one of her best shots so far. We ride over and find it buried literally in the woods.

Now what do you do?

The answer is simple: She picks the ball up and tosses it onto the fairway.

"We'll play winter rules," she laughs.

Winter rules with the temperature in the high 80's! Oh, well, it's best to say nothing.

Actually, her play did improve as the round continued.

Around the eighth hole, she complained. "My arms are getting tired."

"Since she had played golf the day before, we asked: "Too much golf, honey?"

"Oh, no, it's carrying the baby around. She's really heavy, you know."

Heading down the homestretch, we really caught it for riding the cart through a sand trap.

"Now look what you have done," she hollered.

"Stop the cart," and out she popped to grab a rake and smooth out the mess we had caused.

"Don't you know better? You have to stay away from traps...They'll be on our necks."

What else could we do but apologize.

AND, SO IT WAS...back to the club house for one of the chocolate-gingerale specialties they serve.

Pro Whitener came by...and the conversation now stuck pretty much to golf...and his course.

"It's really something the City of Livonia has made possible...and we're just three years old," Gary says. "We're working on changes already. We want to make some holes a little longer."

"The course is going to get some more trees and we have other improvements in mind."

Meantime, more players kept arriving and teeing off.

"This has been a fine summer for us," Gary relates. "We have as many as 300 playing here in a single day. Most players respect the course. There are a few who are careless."

About then, a quartet approached the first tee. They went through all kinds of warmup exercises.

"They look like pros," somebody said...well, they were until they took their first shots. One dubbed the ball, the other missed it entirely, etc.

Whitener laughed.

"It's usually the guy who comes out here with three or four clubs looks and acts the least like a golfer who really is great out there."

But golf has to be a fun game...if not a nerve-wrecker. It's a game for all ages...from five and six-year-olds up to the retirees and senior citizens. You see them all at Whispering Willows.

Try it some day, where ever you happen to live in Observerland. You'll have to agree.



ROARING UP on the outside to win by a length is Ark Time, sensational Ohio pacer, to whip Blaze Pick, the speedy six-year-old from Canada, in the \$5,000 Invitational at Northville Downs. The Ohioan was sixth and last

turning into the stretch when he unleashed a burst of speed that netted him an easy victory in 2:02.1 over a track rated no better than good. It was the sixth win in seven starts for Ark Time.

Ohio Pacer Is Early Favorite In \$20,400 Michigan Derby

Corker Bill, an eight-year-old invader from Ohio who will be piloted by one of the most competent women drivers in the land, looms as the early choice in the 20th renewal of the Michigan Pacing Derby Wednesday at Northville Downs.

The stake which has a value of \$20,400 making it the richest racing event in Northville history, attracted 12 entries...thus those who like to wager a bob or two will have a real bargain with five horses for the price of one. The Downs only has eight numbers on the mutuel board, still all entries over eight go into the mutuel field.

CORKER BILL a winner in

2:02 a week ago in Cleveland, will be handled by Mrs. June Weller. As June Dillman she was a regular at the Downs for years, driving some of the fastest pacers to race there. Then she wed Jay Weller and has been the driver for the stable ever since.

Also shipping in from Ohio for the rich event is Spicy Dream, a five-year-old mare driven by Wendell Kirk. She has a mark of 3:01.1 and won at Scioto Downs two weeks ago in 2:03.2.

The Michigan contingent includes: Golden Castle, Johnny G. El Barb, Ebony's Bachelor, Shikawase Squire, T.J.'s Sharon, Merry Ruler, Pangle, Knight Desire and General Knox.

The five in the mutuel field are: Merry Ruler, Pangle, Knight Desire, General Knox and T.J.'s Sharon.

It will be recalled that the Michigan Trotting Derby two

weeks ago had six in the mutuel field and the victory went to Justly Ann, one of the six.

ARK TIME, a four-year-old Speedy Time gelding, who built up quite a reputation in the Cleveland, O. area with five victories in seven starts, stormed down the outside 94-yard before a crowd of 7,079 to win the \$5,000 Invitational pace by a length over past-setting Blaze Pick.

It was the second time in many weeks that the Ohio invader had whipped the six-year-old Canadian star, who equaled the track record here three weeks ago with a 2:00.4 triumph.

Ark Time measured Blaze Pick a week earlier in Cleveland when the Canadian loitered in an invitational there, clocking then was 2:01.3 as Blaze Pick wound up fourth.

This time Blaze Pick, bridled by Pat Corcoran, moved to the front from the start while Driver Joe Adamsky dropped Ark Time in the No. 6 spot and stayed there while Blaze battled Philip Brian for the lead.

Blaze Pick and Philip Brian tore the half in :59.3 but the latter faded out of contention shortly thereafter as The Bear and Cashing Beauty bit after the leader.

Then with a quarter to go, Ark Time started his big move on the outside. He was flying as the field entered the stretch and finally overtook Blaze Pick in the final 25 yards to go under the wire in 2:02.1, an excellent time over a racing strip rated no better than good after afternoon and early evening rains.

Ark Time went to the post as the 21 second choice and paid \$6. Blaze Pick was second

a length in front of the fast closing Cashing Beauty in the third spot.

SNOWMOBILE

Drag Race

Set Sunday

Sunday, July 26, is going to be a big day for snowmobilers. This is the day the Wayne County Sportsmen's Club is sponsoring its first annual summer snowmobile drag race.

It will be held on the club grounds at 18102 Inkster Rd., between Pennsylvania and Sibley Rds. in Huron Township.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. and continue till noon, with a drivers meeting at 12:30 p.m. and the race starting at 1 p.m.

With seven stock and 8 modified classes to run.

There will be items of interest for all ages. Some of these events are: Four powder puff events with some of the top women drivers in the state competing. Modified snowmobiles burning nitro and alcohol capable of speeds to 100 MPH in the quarter-mile strip; a junior event for kids 12 and 13 years old; and mayors and supervisors competing in a two-man relay race for a revolving "Grass Cup."

For a finale, a motorcycle will be matched against a snowmobile in the best two out of three.

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