

IN THE POCKET

By W.W. EDGAR

Jim St. John, the former Mamramack youth who grew up to be one of the nation's top professional bowlers, came back to the Metropolitan area last week and left a calling card that will be remembered for a long time.

With a new ball he engaged in an exhibition at Westland

Bowl and rolled a 754 on games of 242, 289 and 243. He had 29 out of a possible 36 strikes. James and 5 and admitted that it was the best series he had bowled in a year.

Not only was the best, but it is the best that has been bowled in the area during the young season.

Opposing St. John in the exhibition, George Goodwell posted a 543 and Don McKay fashioned a 525 when he slumped to 142 in his final game.

The exhibition was part of St. John's nationwide tour and he confided that "from what I see, there will be more interest in the game this year than ever before."

"The women have a lot to do with this," he said, "because they take up the daytime hours and then join in the mixed leagues in the evenings to build interest that benefits the game all over."

By George Mackin observing sports

If you're among the older fogies — like a certain, paunchy, grey-headed guy who hits these typewriter keys — maybe you haven't been keeping up with the times.

You sit at work, or at home, or drive the family auto...and tell yourself: "Things are like they used to be..."

Only they aren't.

If Goose Lake or what happened out in Royal Oak-Birmingham in the past few weeks weren't enough to strike home, then maybe the remarks rendered the other afternoon by football coach Bill Doolittle of Western Michigan University.

Doolittle happens to be one of Michigan's best college coaches and several of the former schoolboy stars from Observerland have been — or are — playing for Doolittle.

He said he didn't mean to turn to preaching, until WJW's Don Kriemer brought up the subject about long hair and current behavior patterns of schoolboy athletes.

"What's more important than anything else," retorted Doolittle, "is that the coach commands respect and that he maintains discipline on his team."

"That's the real big thing — discipline."

"Maybe us older fellows don't want to give in, but the kids we have coming to our colleges these days are different than those who attended schools, say five years ago. Or ten."

"There are a lot of things different now...like the hair styles, etc."

"So as a coach, you talk the matter over and try to get an understanding. True, you have the last say...and most the boys are very understanding."

WHAT DOOLITTLE implied was that when he first came to Western seven years ago and if a football player showed up with a shabby hair do, he immediately said:

"Get that hair cut, or get off the team."

Today, the coach takes a more cautious approach. If the hair is within reason, why make an issue?

Even if the players grows a mustache, you don't make too great a fuss.

Discipline comes first, then playing ability...then some of the other things.

MOST OF THE FOOTBALL coaches we've talked to as they get their high school teams ready for the start of the 1970 season tell us they've had little trouble with their athletes when it's come to appearance and dress.

"We tell the boys how we think they should look...and almost to a player they react the way they're told. Here and there you get the odd troublemaker...but then you always have had that happen before. So it's really nothing new."

There was some difficulty in Farmington last spring when an athlete showed up for a sport and was told he couldn't play because he had long hair.

The matter became an issue which went to the Board of Education, which seemed to side in favor of the boys.

But the coaches, as well as other faculty members, struck up with a blast...claiming that if they couldn't get their players to follow instructions...their teams might crumble.

We now understand how the athletes, how the bandmen, how the cheerleaders and others dress and look is pretty much up to what the coach or their leader thinks.

And, from all reports, there have been no new incidents.

BY AND LARGE in our long association with schoolboy athletes, we have found them the cream of the crop.

Most are gentlemen. Most, even in a moment of anger or bitterness because a play has backfired against them, know enough to approach an umpire or referee and say:

"Sir."

Most are smart appearing...and this has held true in recent years despite the new hair fads, etc.

A boy...and a girl...learn something when they're part of a team. They discover how important other people can be and how helpful they can be to making you a success.

Somewhat, too, the prep athlete realizes that he's somebody special, because hundreds and thousands of fans come out and cheer what he does for his team.

Therefore, in his position, he must set a good example.

Most do, which can't be said of their older sports brothers, who have reached the professional level and somehow forget they are a symbol to which younger folks look.

Fortunately, for all lovers of high school sports, the cash element plays no part in what the athlete does for his prep team...So his team, his sport and himself can come first.



MOST HAPPY FELLOW was Driver-Trainer Stanley Dancer, as he guided Most Happy Fella, his three-year-old pacer, to victory in the \$25,000 Matron Stake Thursday at Wolverine Raceway. The brilliant speedster was clocked in 1:59 over a slow track, beating arch-rival Columbia George by more than a length.

U-M Trainer Urges Use Of Cold Packs

The use of cold packs or ice in treating athletic injuries was recommended as a general rule by Lindsay McLean Jr., one of three speakers at the Athletic Training Clinic sponsored by Schoolcraft College.

McLean contends that cold, as opposed to heat treatment, is safer and more effective in treating most kinds of injury. "When in doubt," he said, "use cold."

He reported the effectiveness of a cold whirlpool, using water cooled to 45 degrees.

The audience of 146 included coaches, physical education teachers, and athletic directors. They attended the clinic at Bentley High, where it was moved due to a faculty strike at the college.

McLEAN IS HEAD trainer at the University of Michigan. He was joined by Kent Falb, head trainer for the Detroit Lions, and Dr. Larry Meyer of the Schoolcraft staff.

Dr. Meyer's demonstration of the use of a universal gym machine, located in a small room at Bentley, was televised by closed-circuit to the audience in the gymnasium.

A large contingent was present from the Livonia Schools which view the clinic as the fall refresher course in emergency treatment and first aid for athletes.

Many metropolitan area Little League coaches attended.

MARK BARBER set the opening day pace in the new Ten Classic at Merritt Bowl when he linked games of 217, 177 and 213 for 607.

His nearest rival, Cary Driessell, toted together games of 19w, 183 and 222 for 597, while Gary Gaylor landed third with a 596 on games of 213, 202 and 181.

POSSIBLY the most satisfied bowler in Observerland during the week was Julius Brodie, 66-year-old member of the Senior Citizens League at Livonia Lanes.

He capped his 40 years of bowling with a 600 series that was significant in that he didn't have an open frame.

But this was only a starter. He fashioned a 617 in the Travelling League and duplicated that count in the Friday League.

Gene Cochrane took single game honors in the Livonia Lanes Classic with a 237, while Jimmy Cooper was high man in the Elks circuit with a 595.

Peg Warner had a 534 to take high series in the Ladies Classic. Her big count was made possible by a finishing game of 232. Other high single games included Mary Lord's 213 and Darlene Cook's 216.

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

Never before in Michigan have harness racing fans watched so many outstanding performers in a single week as they did at Wolverine Raceway during Grand Circuit activities.

For years the management has talked of the great two and three-year-olds eligible for the rich early closing stakes but seldom did they appear.

But the big mile track made the difference this time as it is attested to by the appearance of Most Happy Fella and Columbia George, the top contenders for the Brown Jug.

Laverne Hanover, prime candidate for No. 1 horse of the year; and the juvenile speedsters, Albatross and Springfield.

Thursdays deal between Most Happy Fella and Columbia George has to go down in the books as one of the best ever in Michigan.

It reads one wonders how many will be entered for next Thursday's renewal of the Little Brown Jug. When two pacers can rip off a 1:59 mile under the track conditions Thursday...

...then any others who think they have a chance in the Brown Jug are doing some wishful thinking.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE a few months can make in an owners' thought about a horse. During the standard bred sales last fall and during the winter, Bert James, of Windsor, was trying to peddle a yearling with the odd name of Albatross.

The youngster had terrific breeding by Meadow Skipper out of a Dancer Hanover mare.

In the first sale, James had visions of picking up a check of more than \$10,000 for the yearling. When the bidding stopped around \$ 6,000, he bid in himself and took the horse back.

McLean suggested they, as well as high school and junior high coaches, look into having a field telephone installed for the season.

The phone would be available for practice as well as game emergencies. The cost is low, and he pointed out it eliminates the problem of locked schools where phones are available.

Schoolcraft Athletic Director Marv Gans expressed pleasure with the attendance and presentation. He said many ideas and helpful hints were given which otherwise might not be available.

He also agreed to send printed materials handed out at the clinic to any who request them. Gans can be reached by phone or mail at the college.

Then he had a firm offer from a buyer for \$6,500 and decided to take it. The only thing was that the buyer never showed up to complete the sale and he must be the saddest individual in the land right now.

Albatross has become the most talked-of two-year-old pacer in the land with 10 starts, two seconds and a third in 13 starts and earnings of more than \$83,000 to date.

He was an easy victim in one division of the Matron Stake during Wolverine Raceway's Grand Circuit meeting, winning by three lengths. Thus far he has paced six miles in less than 2:00 and has a mark of 1:57.4.

James is still thanking his lucky stars that the buyer didn't show up. He would have had \$6,500 and someone else would have had the \$83,000 plus a pacer now worth more than \$100,000.

One would have to call that the luck of the Canadians. THIS 'N THAT. Those close to the harness racing picture are still talking about the owner of a four-year-old mare he kept eligible for the Matron stake for four-year-old trotters scheduled for Wolverine Raceway.

As it turned out he was the only one to make the final payment to keep trotters eligible for the rich stake. The result was that the event had to be cancelled but he picked up all of the money in the pot, more than \$3,000.

Incidentally, while writing about the four-year-old Matrons, there is a strong feeling among horsemen that the two events will have total values of more than \$80,000 each in another year.

The reason track owners and trainers were a bit reluctant to keep their

horses eligible for races over the old half-mile strip but when the announcement spread through the industry that Wolverine had changed to a mile...it was amazing how interest picked up.

With slightly more than three weeks remaining of the 60-night meeting, Wolverine officials already are receiving requests for stalls for next year.

Horsemen throughout the land have heard of the mile track and how much it has improved clockings of all horses. Where they were skeptical last spring they now know and they like what they have learned and what they have heard.

The big mile track has done more to boost harness racing in one single season than any single thing in the past 20 years. Just think what lies ahead.

THOSE ATTENDING the Grand Circuit races at Wolverine may have seen three Little Brown Jug champions in action.

Lawrence Hanover was the 1960 winner. The Nation's best two-year-olds competed in the two divisions of that stake and there is a distinct probability that either Columbia George or Most Happy Fella will be in the winner's circle in Delaware, O., next Thursday.

One thing is certain, the Timothy T., the 1970 Hambletonian king, won't be here for the Matron stake on Oct. 2, for three-year-old trotters. He isn't listed among the eligibles.

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