

# Northville Opens Its 27th Meeting

After an absence of 20 years, during which period he gained a reputation as one of the best drivers in the east, veteran Canadian Morrie MacDonald has ambitions of turning his return to Northville

Downs into a victory in the \$2,500 inaugural Race that opened Wednesday's opening program. He'll drive Walvis Bay, a Canadian speedster, against seven rivals.

MacDonald was one of the top drivers when Northville pioneered night racing back in 1944. He handled a stable for Detroit industrialists C.P. Chamberlin and John Toner in these days and raced until the late '40s when he transferred to the tracks in Metropolitan New York City.

In semi-retirement now with a large farm in the London, Ontario area, MacDonald confines his driving to Detroit area and Toronto tracks.

NORTHVILLE, the state's pioneer night harness racing track, officially opens its 27th season Wednesday and this will be an auspicious occasion. The Downs will unveil its new multi-million clubhouse to the public for the first time.

With interest in harness racing at an all-time high, as was manifested in the Hazel Park meeting which closed Tuesday night, Executive Director John Carlo is expecting a crowd of more than 6,000 for the inaugural.

Racing Secretary Harry Peterson arranged the \$3,500 pace as the choice tidbit for the opening menu, pitting eight of the better pacers against another eight.

Heading the list is MacDonald and his Walvis Bay, a stand-out at the winter meeting in Windsor which is returning to action after a long rest.

The Inaugural presents a stiff assignment for Mac. Included in the field of eight are: Ivan Sugg's Swift Duke which has been in the money in eight 10 starts; Bob Knudsen's Dick Dorwood (2:01.4); Grove Stimer's Chunky Grattan, one of the best at the recent Jackson meeting; Pat Crow's Gunner Creed (2:01.4) another Canadian star; Sweep Up (2:02.3), who carries the colors of John Langford of Chatham; Gordon Norris' Compass Point with earnings of more than \$13,000 this season and a win in 2:00.1; and Gordon Norris' Prince Knox with two victories in six starts.

The secondary feature, a \$1,600 trot, matches: Alshire's Abbe, El Darno, Margaret Adie, Mainland, Highland Pick; Jimmy The Kid and Prince Billy.

Post time for the first race will be 8:30 p.m. nightly.

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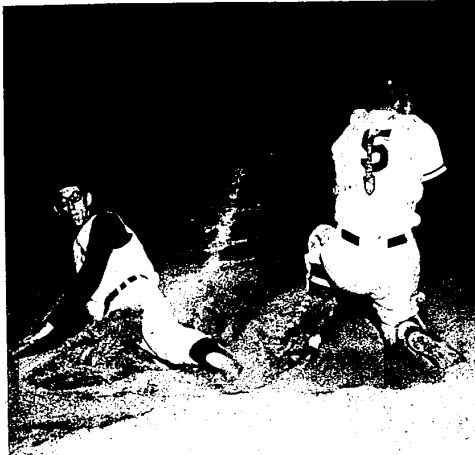
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Heated Clubhouse and Grandstand. Going to the races is real fun in April and May when the crowds are smaller. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays are good track days. Dress for the weather and enjoy yourself. Also, bring a camera. Thoro-bred horses and great jockeys make terrific subjects.

The DRC is easy to get to by car... by bus... or cab. It's located at Schoolcraft and Middlebelt. The DRC has 12,000 parking spaces. Parking is just 50¢. If you need more assistance, call us at GA 1-7170 and we'll mail you a Visitor's Guide which has a large map. Try to come out to the track early and get acquainted with our 240 acres. You will find just walking around and bumping into old friends can be very relaxing.

Tip sheets, racing programs and the daily racing form are available at the track. They are inexpensive. Racing has a language all its own. Take a few minutes to ask questions about these new terms and you will enjoy yourself more and more each visit to the DRC. Every Thursday is Ladies' Day.

Ladies are admitted for half-price in the Grandstand. ... bring a friend.



CLOUD OF DUST marks the slide of Northville's Tom Singer who scores to clinch the three-run rally. Catcher Bruce Van Wagner, of Churchill, reaches for the ball too late. Singer's liner to right went for the circuit with two on when the ball curved away from the outfield. (Observer photo by Vince Witek)

## N'ville Crowned Champ

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in the seventh, Mills singled, went to second on a sacrifice and wheeled home on an error. Dick and Dan Boehm and Gary Battle accounted for the only Bentley hits in the game.

CHURCHILL TALLIED once in the second when Mickey Crom walked, stole second and registered when Jack Hachigian singled. Then in the fifth, Sobkowiak walked along with Pat Welch. When Steve Chilenko was safe on an error, Sobkowiak scored. Then Danny Kolakowski followed with a single that chased in Wech and Chilenko and wrapped up the scoring.

IN QUARTERFINAL action, St. Agatha went eight innings to beat Farmington, 7-3, while Churchill pulled off the biggest upset of the tourney by defeating Stevenson, 3-1.

Dennis Blazok went the route for St. Agatha and was locked in a duel with Vic Foerster of Farmington until the eighth inning when St. Agatha

tho broke loose with a four-run explosion. In the eighth, Pat Reich was safe on an error to get matters started. Then John Chako singled along with Pat Brown and Paul Walker to account for three runs. Walker was flagged stealing, but Blazok helped his own cause by socking a burner to put the frosting on the cake.

St. Agatha had to rally to pull even, scoring twice in the sixth inning when Tom Nemes singled, Chako walked, Brown singled, Urbain walked and Walker squeezed in a run.

CHURCHILL PICKED on crossstown rival Stevenson, the winner of the Inter-Lakes Conference crown, to engineer the surprise of surprises.

It also had to make Churchill catcher Bruce Van Wagner an especially proud young man. His dad is the Stevenson coach.

Ray Miller and Mike Keller did the pitching for Churchill while Bob Biely fanned 11, while Miller whiffed four.

Churchill scored in the third when Pat Welch singled, went around to third on walks to Steve Chilenko and Danny Kolakowski and came home on a wild pitch.

Stevenson equaled matters on a walk to Bob Ficano and a double by Stu Rose.

The teams then fought until the seventh when three errors, and a walk, produced the two runs Churchill needed to emerge on the winning side.



There's a storm brewing across the land in women's bowling circles, and it may bring about a change in the eligibility rules for the Women's International Bowling Congress tournament.

It all started several weeks ago when Dorothy Fothergill, of New York, whom many consider the best woman bowler in the country, led a team of professionals in the WIBC event at Tulsa, Oklahoma, and proceeded to make a shambles

of the standings. This pickup pro team consisted of five pro bowlers from five different states. Some didn't even have sanction cards until they purchased specials at the tournament site.

With a team average of 1002, second highest ever entered in the WIBC, the "pick-ups" noted a 300 series to top the closest rivals by more than 200 pins.

From there Miss Fothergill went on to top the singles with a 675 and easily went to the top in the all events.

No sooner were the totals posted than complaints were heard, charging that it was unfair for a regular league combination that has been bowling as a unit all year, should be asked to face an all-star pick-up in the biggest tournament of the year.

The American Bowling Congress, the men's association, was confronted with a similar problem some years ago and solved it by initiating a "classic" division. The WIBC may be forced into the same thing.

The present WIBC rules that permit the entry of pickup teams is a throwback to the days when entries for the national tournament were scarce.

With the growth of women's bowling now it may be time for another look at the regulations.

While many of the Michigan teams are joining in the protest of the all-star pickups, they are mindful of what the fact that some years ago they profited by the rule.

That was back in the years when Marion Ladewig, the all-time, all-star, teamed with LaVerne Carter to win the national doubles several times though they never had bowled together any place but the national tournament.

THE ANNUAL tournament of the Michigan Women's State Association will be held next year in the metropolitan Detroit area for the first time in years. And in 1972 it is coming this way again to the 300 Bowl in Pontiac.

The 300 Bowl was chosen at the annual meeting last week in Benton Harbor when the district time was used for the first time.

The state has been divided into five districts, with Detroit designated as No. 1 and Pontiac-Flint, Port Huron as No. 2. Where there were once no bidders from Area No. 2, 300 Bowl was chosen automatically.

MOST BOWLERS suffer a letdown when the long winter season closes—but not Ann Setlock, instructor at Garden Lakes.

She finished the regular season on a high scoring note, went on to average more than 200 in the WIBC at Tulsa, and did the same thing in the Timber Lane singles in Saginaw after her return.

THE GREATER DETROIT Bowling Association will ignore tradition next season and hold its annual city tournament at the same time it is playing host to the big ABC event in Cobo Hall.

It long has been the custom to forego a tournament during the year the ABC is held in the city.

But because the GDAB is experimenting with a new format, it has been agreed to hold a city tournament, regardless of the ABC.

THE BOWLERS in metropolitan Detroit paid high tribute to Herbert C. Pach, the 36-year old insurance man from Harper Woods, last week.

## observing sports

My, oh, my...how a guy can get himself into such a jam.

Sure, you read here...right here... how with a runner on first and second and less than two out... a batter pops up.

The umpires rule it's an "infield out" which makes the batter automatically out.

The ball plops down and hits the runner standing on second. Yep, you read it here... we said that would make the runner on second out, too.

Well, we got nailed on that one. A very fine Little League manager called to say they were confusing matters out in Southfield.

How could we say what wasn't true? How could we!

The manager knew that as long as the runner was touching second... or it could have been first... he was safe. But had he been off the base, well, he'd have been out, making it a double play.

THAT SAME MANAGER also took us to task about what we said about a walk entitling a batter just to first.

"Not so," our good friend pointed out. "He was right again as we later found out by huddling with Hank Soar, the dean of umpires in the American League."

"The runner, who gets four balls, is free to run as far as he can," Soar asserts.

All of which means, it's up to the defensive side to be on the alert and make certain the runner stops at first.

By merely getting the ball back to the pitcher, who might be standing on the rubber, can't prevent the batter-runner from continuing past first and trying for second and maybe third.

Enough said for the present about baseball rules. Play ball, kids, and enjoy yourselves.

LET'S PASS OUT a flock of orchids...to the people who have had anything to do with the staging of the Les Anders Memorial Baseball tournament these past two weeks in Livonia and also the Pontiac Press' annual Invitational.

Here are two tournaments which attracted something like 40 teams.

Except for a bad break or two from the weatherman, the two meets ran pretty much on schedule. There was only one game in the entire contingent that might be described as "a runaway."

The interest was high as reflected by the crowds which turned out to watch the preps in action.

Once more it proved that THERE IS INTEREST in school baseball. A lot of interest.

The future of both the Anders and Pontiac Press tournaments appears a question mark now that it's almost certain that Michigan will have a state high school baseball championship meet starting next spring.

As we've said before, we'd like to see the Anders and Press tournaments continued. They're good things for the communities they serve.

We'd like to suggest that the preps follow the NCAA pattern used in basketball and baseball.

Permit the regular league seasons to serve as the basis for determining who qualifies for the regionals. In other words, a league champion automatically goes to the state tournament.

For schools not in a league, provisions could be made for electing those with outstanding records. That's what the NCAA does.

ON THE SUBJECT of prep baseball tournaments, don't miss this weekend's regional playoffs at Ford Field in Livonia.

They should be something with the winners of the Livonia, Wyandotte, Pontiac and Macomb Invitationals involved.

## Northville Entries

THURSDAY'S ENTRIES	
First Race, One Mile	Coloel Cobb, Reddy Wheat, Kelly Haven, Steve Daversa, Seventh Pace, One Mile
Gleason Lady, Lutz a Fan, Rosale Gem, McElmurry, Kuhn Shoe, Steve Ensign, Louise Chief, Victoria Chaire	McDonald, O'Mara, Sattler, Sattler, Foster, Foster, McElmurry, McElmurry, McElmurry
Second Race, One Mile	Coloel Cobb, Reddy Wheat, Kelly Haven, Steve Daversa, Seventh Pace, One Mile
Shawney, Nible, Tony Driver, L. G. G., D. Carter, D. Ackerman, J. McGary, H. McVey, D. Cameron, L. G. G., D. Carter, D. Ackerman, J. McGary, H. McVey, D. Cameron	McDonald, O'Mara, Sattler, Sattler, Foster, Foster, McElmurry, McElmurry, McElmurry
Third Race, One Mile	Coloel Cobb, Reddy Wheat, Kelly Haven, Steve Daversa, Seventh Pace, One Mile
Trish Dale, Cash in Creed, Rockette Tean, Shaway Fries, Sequins Heel, Larra Lady, Cottasnow Shadow, One A Day, Fourth Race, One Mile	McDonald, O'Mara, Sattler, Sattler, Foster, Foster, McElmurry, McElmurry, McElmurry
Fifth Race, One Mile	Coloel Cobb, Reddy Wheat, Kelly Haven, Steve Daversa, Seventh Pace, One Mile
Taliter, Jay Kaye, Bobby Ired, Napier Road, Home Place Rod, Kim Truder, Pat See, Sixth Race, One Mile	McDonald, O'Mara, Sattler, Sattler, Foster, Foster, McElmurry, McElmurry, McElmurry
Rhythm Billy, Green Melodicy, Irene Ensign, McElmurry, David Ray, Volante George, Hawk Pace, One Mile	McDonald, O'Mara, Sattler, Sattler, Foster, Foster, McElmurry, McElmurry, McElmurry
Upland Queen, Home Place Rod, Kim Truder, Pat See, Seventh Race, One Mile	McDonald, O'Mara, Sattler, Sattler, Foster, Foster, McElmurry, McElmurry, McElmurry
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## Farmington Golf Bays Hole-In-One

It was a long time coming but the big moment arrived for John Lezotte, 24889 Colchester, Farmington, when he locked in a hole-in-one at the Brookline Golf Course. It was his first and came on his second outing of the year.

Lezotte had a perfect five hours shot on the 146-yard, No. 2 hole... the ball landed on the edge of the green and then rolled into the cup.

It was the fourth ace of the young season for the Northville Township course.

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