

## Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

With 34 nights of Northville Downs' midwinter meeting still ahead, it is apparent that the two months of darkness, from the closing of the Jackson-Northville meeting to the opening of the current campaign, has had a drastic impact on attendance and wagering.

When Racing Commissioner Leo Shirley allowed the track to remain dark while Windsor Raceway was operating as the only game in the metropolitan Detroit area, he gave the Canadian plant an impetus that is going to be hard to check.

It was pointed out to the commissioner more than once that momentum gained keeps going up if the races continue but a period of idleness could cause a big drop in crowds and betting.

Inasmuch as it takes both to make a successful season, then it figures that if one shows a big drop then it will affect the other.

This is true of the Northville meeting.

Downs got a real taste of winter weather at its absolute worst during the first three nights. There was a four-inch snowfall on the first night, a heavy downpour that started in late afternoon and continued through the next day on the second night and then the third night was marked by high winds that discouraged all but the most hardy followers of the pacers and trotters.

THE RESULT was that Executive Manager John Carlo couldn't help but show a big financial setback for his

first three nights of the state's first midwinter harness racing campaign.

In addition to these woes, members of the Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association, who pressed hard for winter racing, are not cooperating as fully as one would suppose.

In the first place, many of the better stables and drivers shipped out after the end of the Jackson campaign for racing in Illinois and West Virginia.

There was a reason—none knew whether the Racing Commissioner was going to grant winter dates shortly after the first of the new year or whether he would delay the opening until late February or March.

So, if you were a horseman with a lot of pacers and trotters who were eating regularly and costing money with no income and all outgo would you prefer to sit still and await the commissioner's decision or go elsewhere to try and get some "eating money" at another meeting?

"Eating money" during the winter has long been a big problem for those who handle their own horses generally wintering at Northville Downs, Imlay City, Fowlerville or Adrian.

Few, if any, of the small stable owners are able to build a bankroll during the summer racing season to handle expenses during the winter. We have long wondered just how they did exist and haven't yet received an answer.

THUS, many of the larger stables take off for meetings in operation but generally the management of these tracks insists that stalls be issued only with a promise of staying for the entire season.

Once committed a driver or trainer must stay at that track or receive an ultimatum that no stalls will be available in the future. This isn't anything unusual in track management where the horses to remain ones are allotted.

It's one of those deals you scratch my back by staying and we'll scratch yours by giving you stall space.

Gerry Banfield, who is developing into one of the better drivers, had a strong outfit at the Jackson campaign. He's now in Chicago and can't come back.

Chris Boring had horses at Windsor racing and some in training at Adrian. He is able to ship in from Adrian but still has horses in Canada. The same is true of Merrit Dokky and Terry Buter.

They are committed to Windsor and probably won't be able to ship back to Michigan until the Hazel Park meet opens in late March.

Jack and John Curran, of Jackson, shipped most of their stock to Windsor where they are doing very well. They also are honor bound to stay there.

THE POINT is that the two months of darkness forced these stables to move and thus placed Northville in a position where it is minus a goodly number of the top horses that competed in the Jackson meeting.

There isn't any question but that the opening of Northville has caused a dip into the business at Windsor. But as of the moment it isn't that great—Windsor isn't feeling the impact that much while Northville is struggling to build momentum.

Northville's attendance and handle is starting to climb but the break even point is a night waging of \$250,000 and it hasn't reached that yet.

The introduction of the Big Q has helped and the addition of a Perfecta on the 10th race is proving its value.

The momentum is slow in building up and Northville's impact on the Windsor operation probably won't reach its peak for another two weeks. That means two weeks for Carlo to ponder on the wisdom of midwinter racing and all of the problems that go with it.

It leads one to wonder if it was a wise move. Two months of darkness can result in a dim picture for a long time thereafter.

## Ocelots Make Most Of Lead

After building an eight-point lead in the first half, Schoolcraft College cagers made a strong second half to defeat Washtenaw Community College, 82-78 for its 11th victory against nine losses.

Denham, Johnny Jetelich and Jerry Hopkins were the top gunners for the Ocelots in the opening frame with Denham tossing in five field goals while Jetelich and Hopkins had four each.

Washtenaw threatened

throughout the second half but never did catch up with Schoolcraft.

Wally Suchara had a hot hand in the half, whipping in five two-pointers to wind up as the evening's top scorer with 19 points.

Three other Ocelots were in double figures including Denham with 16, Hopkins 16, and Jetelich 11.

Washtenaw was paced by Jim Gatewood's 25 points and 22 by Ernie Slater.

## Camper-Travel Show Opening

The fourth annual Detroit Camper and Travel Trailer Show opens Saturday (Feb. 13) with more than 150,000 visitors expected before the doors close on Sunday night, Feb. 21.

Dan Dowsett, director of the show, said exhibitors will display some 800 recreational vehicles and accessories.

The show will be held in the Detroit Artillery Armory on W. Eight Mile near Northland.

For the family interested in the purchase of a trailer or other recreational vehicle, the show will provide an opportunity to see all makes, sizes, and models and to talk to those who own them and sell them.

FOUR MAIN types of vehicles will be on display—travel trailers, the most popular; motor homes, which are rapidly gaining favor; pickup campers, which fit on the beds of pickup trucks;

and tent or camping trailers, model-priced units.

Vehicles from the major automotive firms will be shown. Of special interest to Motor City residents will be the new Discoverer motor homes built by Rectrans, of Brighton, the firm headed by Simon E. (Bunkie) Knudsen.

Show hours are noon to 10 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. 2 to 10 p.m. weekdays.

## North Tops Pontiac In Swim Meet

With victories in seven of the 11 events, North Farmington swimmers whipped Pontiac Central in a non-league dual meet, 64-41.

The Raiders won all but the 50 and 100-yard freestyle, the 400-yard freestyle and 100-yard backstroke.

B. Peterson was a double winner for North, taking the 200-yard individual medley in 2:19.2 and the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:08.6.

200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY. Won by North Farmington (Mike, Zacher, Munro and Smith). Time 1:51.8.

200 FREESTYLE. Won by Griswold (N): 2, McLean (N): Webster (N). Time 2:18.8.

200 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY. Won by Peterson (N): 2, Johnson (P): 3, Miller (N). Time 2:19.2.

50 FREESTYLE. Won by Post (P): 2, Shukata (N): 3, Bartsch (N). Time: 22.8.

DIVING. Won by Carr (N): 2, King (N).

100 BUTTERFLY. Won by Munro (N): 2, Johnson (P): 3, Conklin (N). Time: 59.9.

100 FREESTYLE. Won by Post (P): 2, Griswold (N): 3, Shukata (N). Time: 53.2.

400 FREESTYLE. Won by Webster (N): 2, McLean (N): 3, Pate (P). Time: 4:18.7.

150 BACKSTROKE. Won by Post (P): 2, Mike (N): 3, Sharp (P). Time 1:51.2.

100 BREASTSTROKE. Won by Peterson (N): 2, Parker (P): 3, Zacher (N). Time 1:08.8.

400 FREESTYLE RELAY. Won by North Farmington (Bartsch, Smith, Weaver and Smith). Time 3:42.9.

## Wayne Routs Eagle Matmen

Thurston wrestlers suffered their third loss against seven victories when they were thumped Tuesday by Wayne Memorial, 31-16.

The host team won seven of 12 events and there was one tie in the non-league meet.

The Thurston winners: 101 pounds—Jim Matheny, dec.

108-Jim Roy, pin.

141-Dave Poma (T) and

Jerry Carter (W), tie. 148-Dave Kroll, dec. Heavyweight—Jim Wiebeck, dec.

## Cats' Choice

Michigan State assistant football coach and former Spartan All-America performer Al Dorow has been named head coach of the Canadian Football League Hamilton Tigercats.

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IN THE POCKET

By W.W. EDGAR

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One of the most peculiar puzzles has developed on the bowling front.

It is the sudden falling off of entries in major tournaments that had become accustomed to establishing records.

The first example came when the Michigan Women's State Tournament dropped close to 400 entries below the record of a year ago in Benton Harbor where the event drew 3,081 teams. This year, at Ark Lanes West in Southfield, it drew only 2720 combinations.

Next came the biggest surprise of all when action of the ABC front suddenly slackened and there are prospects that the big event, scheduled to open on March 6 at Cobo Hall, may not fill.

When entries were opened several months ago the rush was so great that several weeks were added to the schedule. At the time a warning was sent out to the effect ABC entries would hit 6148 teams and that the ranks would be closed before the deadline.

"I guess there is something to the story that bowlers prefer bowling in out-of-town events," Tom McKay, secretary of the Greater Detroit Bowling Association, remarked in trying to explain.

"They want to make a weekend of it and mix bowling with fun. They don't do that when the event is held here."

MRS. LILLIAN JACOBS, president of the Detroit Woman's Bowling Association, was the victim of a most peculiar accident a week ago.

On the day of the big wind a lusty gust lifted her off of her feet and blew her into a nearby pole. She suffered a double fracture of her arm and was hospitalized for most of a week.

GARDEN LANES took most of the scoring honors during the week, though scores in most of the area classics took a dip.

Four bowlers hit the charmed 700 circle, with Hugh O'Neil with a 763 in the Classic on games of 243, 243 and 271. His closest rival was Bob Greiner, who fashioned an even 700. It was his second 700 in as many weeks.

Then, in the Senior House League, Steve Wolf had 744 on games of 208, 248 and 288.

The fourth to hit the mark was Jerry Fisher, of the Traveling League who had games of 258 and 226 in 711.

Meanwhile, Bill Collet's Trio Grinding team posted a 3286 series with a closing game of 1231 that was a high for the season.

Only one 700 series was posted in the Classic at Wonderland and that was the work of Bill Gignac who put together counts of 235, 266 and 235 for 740. At this figure he had a 54 pin edge on Harold Bateman who finished with a 245 and 267 for 686.

AT BEL-AIRE most of the fancy scoring was done in the

Senior House League where Howard Zaskie had a 254 in 680 and Jim Burkenne a 257 in 649.

The big share of the honor, though, went to Ery Watson who had his second 277 of the season to post a 675.

The teen-agers also got into the high scoring act. Keith Suda, a 15-year-old fired a 605 and Don Trombly, a lad of 16 years, had a high single of 254.

John Wadorski showed the way in the Westland Classic with a 659 and Randy Rehendorf had a 257 in 649.

TWO OF THE happiest women bowlers in the area are Kathy Darley and Irene Blum, each of whom earned a century patch for being 100 pins over average at Garden Lanes.

Kathy, with a 115 average, turned in a 219 game and Irene, with a 156 average, had a 266 in 640.

Joining them was Joan Turchin, with a 103, who hit 499.

A trio of double century figures marked the bowling in the Newcomers League at Plymouth Bowl. Dave Ahlgreen was high with 221 while Mel Babeen was next with 219 and Ann Canafax topped the women with 204.

Keen competition among the auto dealers in Farmington has now turned to the bowling lanes where Russ Gilbert's Dodge team is showing the way with 38 points.

In close pursuit are Jack La Court's Capital Tire with 35 and Dameron's Chrysler-Plymouth with 31 points.

ALL OF THE area's top bowlers are entering in the Michigan Major's monthly event scheduled at Mayflower Lanes Feb. 20-21. The first day is set aside for qualifying and the head-to-head matches are set for Sunday afternoon.

LEE SCHUYLER took top honors in the Livonia Lanes Ladies Classic with a 564-72 636. She also had high single with 205-24-222 to beat out Lois McAllister who had 204-23-227.

Darlene Cook landed third with 214-11-225. In the Wednesday Ladies Classic Joyce Hintz was high with a 238.

In the Whirlwind League Jerry Pollard had a 235 in 622, while Dick Mantle posted a 224 and Jack Wall a 233.

YOUNG BOWLERS in the school leagues continue to set a fast pace.

In the high school circuit, Don James had a 210 in 537 and Bruce Belcure a 219 in 530.

Dom Bay was high among the junior high boys with a 207 and Kathy Allen paced the girls section with a 191.

In the Prep division Craig Kennedy was high with a 197 and Jim Kopins next with 186. Kim Harrington showed the way to the young girls with a 191.

## Sorrows Wins Over Rita In Wrestling

Farmington Our Lady of Sorrows' wrestling team, tuning up for the regionals next week, captured its eighth meet of the season against two defeats and a tie in downing St. Rita, 45-5.

John Osenoski, Nick Hofsees and Pat Van Dusen pinned rivals while Jeff Main won on a decision. In five events, Sorrows won because St. Rita had to default.

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