

Finally A Favorite Wins Michigan Mile

By ARTEE

With the season's largest crowd on hand, the 23rd running of the historic Michigan Mile added a different twist from most of those in recent years...a lukewarm favorite won and for the \$100,000 added stake that's something new and different. The Mile has a reputation for being a race that generally breaks the heart of overwhelming favorites.

Actually there wasn't any reason why Native Royalty, winner by a length and a half, shouldn't have gone off as an odds-on favorite after his brilliant victory a week earlier in a \$5,000 overnight event.

But those who follow the bangtails closely thought others in the field of 11 looked just as good as Royalty and thus allowed the Florida-bred to leave the starting gate as a 3-1 favorite along with Tuxen, another eastern invader.

With a record purse of \$100,000 going to the winner, it was apparent that every one of the 11 starters was going to make a strong bid.

AT THE FINISH it was Native Royalty by a length and a half drawing away in a time of 1:46, just three-fifths of a second over the track and stake record for the mile and an eighth.

Royal Harmony, an entrant a year ago, closed fast in the stretch but couldn't catch the leader. Driven by veteran Tommy Barrow, the Ohio-bred trained by Pat Devereaux was closing fastest of all but never had a chance to overtake the winner.

As it was, Native Royalty paid \$8.40, \$5.20 and \$3 across the board much to the delight of the crowd of 22,058 which wagered \$226,594 on the race and a total of \$1,419,142 for the day. All three figures were below those of a year ago.

It was a day of pageantry with the program starting at noon with the appearance of an oldtime Dixie band. Then the early arrivals were treated to exhibitions by some of the finest show horses in the state.

There was a pony race to keep the day lively followed by an appearance of the famed St. Andrew Kirkie band with its bagpipers. Although a youthful organization, the colorful bagpipers had the place jumping with their tunes and marching maneuvers.

Then with the pageantry over, the crowd settled down to picking winners although there was a constant buzz about the possibilities of the starters in the rich stake.

The afternoon faded into early evening and the buzzing increased as the time for the ninth race - the Michigan Mile - came and the field of 11 paraded in front of the grandstand.

Louisville has its Kentucky Derby and Livonia and

Metropolitan Detroit has a counterpart in the state's richest thoroughbred race - this time with a total value of \$132,000.

MAYFIELD FARM'S Metric Mile, a surprise entry in the final minutes before the entry box closed, darted to the front with Judgable, piloted by Walter Blum who won the Belmont, close behind in second.

Blum got the lead midway on the far turn but Native Royalty and Royal Harmony were charging up on the outside.

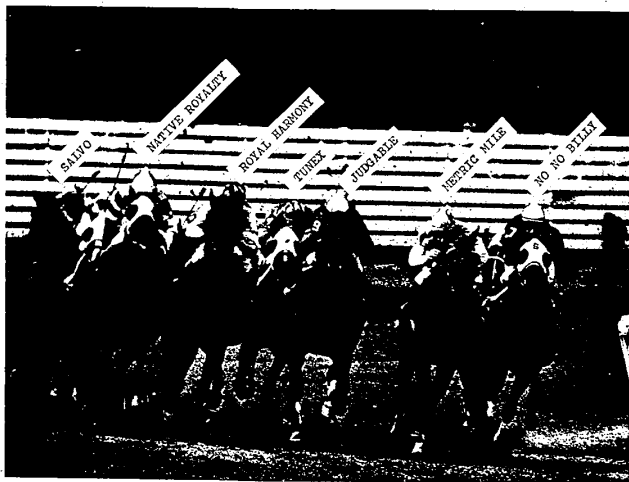
Ron Campbell, astride Royalty, was on the outside in fourth place as the field turned into the stretch. Native Royalty ranged alongside Judgable and was brushed, shutting off what might have been an opening for Royal Harmony.

Through the stretch, Native Royalty and Royal Harmony showed the most speed with the latter making a strong challenge. Judgable hung on for third and Caladride, who won the Mile two years ago, made a belated move to finish fourth.

Mon Chanson, the much discussed South American horse who holds three decisions over Canonero II, winner of the Kentucky Derby and Prekness wound up sixth in rather unspectacular style.

Native Royalty just about doubled his 1971 earnings. He entered the stake with three victories and \$86,003 to his credit.

Now the DRA settles down to its final month with only the major stakes over July 4 left on the program.



THIS IS THE WAY the Michigan Mile field looked as it made the turn into the long stretch at the Detroit Course. Native Royalty, the eventual winner, is on the outside and just making

his move with Royal Harmony alongside. The two dualed in the drive to the wire with Native Royalty winning by a length and a half. (Photo by Tom Donoghue)

Observing Sports

By George Maskin

Happy Day For Two Golfing Dads

It was a happy Father's Day for two golfers who devoted the afternoon to play at the Hilltop Course in Plymouth and recorded aces...the fourth and fifth of the season for the layout.

A.B. Hoffman, 29891 Roberts Drive, used an eight-iron on the 117-yard fourth hole and watched in amazement as the ball landed on the edge of the green and rolled into the cup. He wound up with a 48 for the nine holes.

Dick Hackman, 556 Deering, Garden City, made his hole-in-one on the 140-yard. No. 6 hole with a nine iron. He had an 86 for the 18 holes.

I never have been one who liked to say: "I told you so."

For every time I have said something that has turned out right, I probably have goofed five or 10 times, especially when it comes to predictions.

But something has happened which makes us proud to be able to say: "I told you so."

I'm referring to Michigan's first state high school baseball tournament which this past weekend reached such a successful conclusion.

IT SEEMS like it must have been 20 years ago I first campaigned on the sports pages of the old Detroit Times for a state baseball tournament.

It was my feeling then, as it still is, that if Michigan can sponsor basketball and tennis and golf and track and skiing state competition, how come there's no place on the agenda for baseball - our national pastime?

The campaign continued after we joined the Observer newspapers over 10 years ago. My

arguments didn't change. Neither did those of the coaches, the players and others interested in state prep baseball.

But somehow the state association couldn't buy a state baseball tournament. When the subject would arise, there were numerous arguments against such a tournament.

Like -

1 - The weather could jam up everything.

2 - Too many things happen for schoolboys in late May and early June... school trips, final examinations, graduations, etc.

3 - Most schools really weren't too interested in tournament baseball.

But along came people like the late Les Anders in Livonia to start an invitational high school baseball tournament in Livonia for schools served by the Observer newspapers and those in the adjacent area.

OTHERS FOLLOWED suit in Pontiac to stage an Oakland County tournament for teams from Southfield, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Troy, Pontiac, etc.

Each and every one of these invitationals was an immediate success. The number of schools interested in entering kept increasing.

Meantime, baseball coaches in the high schools started to sound off a little louder about a state tournament.

"If we can put on invitationals with success, why not a state tournament?" many coaches argued.

They took their pleas to their principals and to members of the state association's representative

council, headed by Farmington's Jack Cotton.

Then a couple years ago, the council acted favorably on a state baseball tournament, announcing the first one would be held in the spring of 1971.

Coaches and teams looked ahead with anticipation.

RUNNING IT would not be like the state basketball tournament where all dates were specific. Teams would be assigned to districts, but they'd have to get in early round games by getting together on their own. And, everybody did.

The weather cooperated.

There were some complications like the afternoon Westland John Glenn played in the district finals at the same time senior graduation ceremonies were being held at the school.

Coach Norm Hennes left it up to his six seniors...did they prefer to play or go back to school for the ceremonies. Four of the players preferred playing for -- and winning -- the district title to the graduation parade.

But all in all everything worked out 100 per cent. Interest abounded and the quote of quotes came from Lansing the other day from Allan Bush, the state director of prep sports:

"I've never seen a tournament take on such great interest as fast as this one in baseball," said Bush.

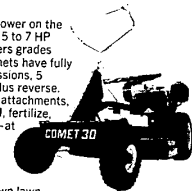
It all goes to prove that prep baseball is big stuff in Michigan, something many of the major league scouts have known for years and years.

And, as for me, well, remember "I told you so" on the Observer Newspapers a long time ago.

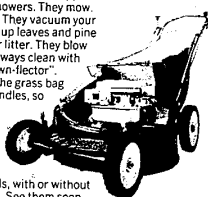
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The Court Jester

Who said women aren't as competitive as men? You should hear the grinning of teeth and the muttering under-the-breath as the girls of the Livonia Tennis Club compete against each other, or against their masculine counterparts.

The Monday night league plays male against female on occasion and it becomes very difficult to play a gentlemanly game. Some of the girls can drive the ball down your throat and will, if given the opportunity. The caliber of women's play is getting better and better.

Watch out for Kathy Crossman, newest arrival to the Club. She played varsity at MSU several years ago and once she gets her timing and rhythm she is going to be unbeatable.

THE LIVONIA Jaycees did their usual fine job of conducting their tournament this past weekend.

For the second straight tournament, Gary Seelock of Clarensville defeated Mike Mikula of Stevenson H.S., 6-4, 6-1 in the 18th singles and Jim Shea, sophomore at Stevenson, defeated Jeff Weinsack 6-3, 6-1 in the 16 age bracket.

Both matches provided a contrast in style, the younger players playing an aggressive, hard hitting, net game, while the "older" players stayed on the baseline stroking softly, each waiting for the other to make a mistake.

Are there any girls playing tennis in the area? I mean the under 18 category.

Trotters Open Thursday For 35 Night At 'Downs

With one successful harness meeting over and the second closing its doors Wednesday (tonight), Michigan's campaign switches to suburban Northville where the state's pioneer pari-mutuel wagering plant opens a 35 night season Thursday.

It will be the 28th summer opening for the 'Downs and Executive Manager John Carlo is looking forward to a better meeting than that of a year ago when all records for wagering and attendance went by the boards.

Jackson Raceway, which will operate the facilities at Northville for a winter session beginning in November, rang down the curtain on a record spring meeting Saturday.

All figures were plus for the 50 nights with the handle up nine per cent with a nightly average of \$145,420 and a total of \$7,270,982. The turnstile average was 3,084, a hike of five per cent with a total attendance of 3,084.

Final figures for the Hazel Park campaign will be available after Wednesday's

closing program and are expected to show slight dips in wagering and crowds.

NORTHVILLE HAS moved its post back to 8:30 p.m. for the first race with daily double wagering on the first and second races, a Big Q on the fifth and sixth and an exacta on the final event.

Racing Secretary Harry Peterson has been busy classifying pacers and trotters for the past week and reports the "Downs has the best horses in several years."

"Many of the slower class horses are already racing at Toledo Raceway," he said. "As a result we have most of the better stock from Hazel Park. It appears that Northville will have its finest racing in years, much finer than at the winter meeting."

With only 35 nights between the Northville and Wolverine Raceway seasons, many of the major stables decided to stay in the area rather than try to get stall space in the east or midwest and then return in a month.

Then, too, the 'Downs dropped its two major stakes, the Michigan Pacing and Trotting Derbies, and will use the cash for rich weekly invitations on Fridays and Saturdays.

"We believe we'll be able to get the fastest and best standardbreds from Chicago, Buffalo, Columbus and Toronto with such programs," said Peterson.

Horses started coming into Northville over the weekend and Peterson expects all of the allotted 71 stalls to be filled by Friday.

Sandlot Schedule

ADRAY LEAGUE

Friday
Northville vs. Redford, Ford, 8 p.m.
Westland Clemons vs. Garden City, Ford, 8:30 p.m.
Plymouth Bidwell vs. North Farmington, Plymouth, 8 p.m.

Sunday
Westland Clemons vs. Plymouth Bidwell, Ford, 1:30 p.m.; Hubert Reilly vs. Garden City, Ford, 8 p.m.; Redford vs. North Farmington, Ford, 8:30 p.m.

CONWAY LEAGUE

Thursday
Novi 8 and V vs. Plymouth, Cass Benton; Thurston vs. Thurston; Livonia Hubert vs. Redford Tooling, Northville, Ford, 8:30 p.m.

Redford Tooling vs. Patrice, Haggerty; Plymouth vs. Harrison, North Farmington; Thurston vs. B and V; Thurston vs. Harrison, Thurston, 8 p.m.; B and V vs. Redford Tooling, Haggerty, 8 p.m.; Patrice vs. Hubert Reilly, Ford, 8:30 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Thursday
Redford Warholak vs. Garden City, East, Redford Union; Cass Reilly vs. Franklin, Plymouth; North Farmington vs. Tom's Service, Ford, 8 p.m.

Saturday

Tom's vs. Franklin, Ford; Warholak vs. Cass Reilly, Franklin; Cass vs. Garden City East, Garden City, 8 p.m.

Cass vs. Cass Reilly, Ford; Garden City East vs. Tom's Service, Plymouth; Franklin vs. North Farmington, North Farmington, 8 p.m.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Thursday
Garden City West vs. Red Holman, Garden City; Northville vs. West Bloomfield, Northville; Livonia Optima vs. Farmington Little Caesar, North Farmington, 8 p.m.

Friday
Little Caesar vs. West Bloomfield, Thurston; Red Holman vs. National Pride, Plymouth; Northville Real vs. Garden City West, Cass Benton, 8 p.m.

Saturday

Northville Real vs. Livonia Optima, Northville; Garden City West vs. Little Caesar, Cass Benton; West Bloomfield vs. Livonia Optima, Franklin, 8 p.m.

Tuesday

National Pride vs. Livonia Optima, Ford, 8:30 p.m.; Red Holman vs. Little Caesar, Plymouth, 8 p.m.; Garden City West vs. West Bloomfield, North Farmington, 8 p.m.