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**Ski Heil**  
By  
**BILL CAMERON**

What did you do last weekend? If you were one of the over 150 people in attendance at the Viking Ski Shop cross-country clinic, you were treated to some excellent films on the sport plus a chance to talk to the experts.


Or maybe you were one of the 1500 at the Ford Auditorium to see the Warren Miller movie, "Any Snow, Any Mountain". Maybe you were adventurous and helped open Mt. Brighton or even traveled north.

I'D HAZARD a guess that the majority of you aren't quite ready to tackle the slopes, probably more from a psychological standpoint than

for any other reason. If you're like me you want to see snow before you can get really excited about the whole thing.

If you didn't participate in any of the above mentioned activities I hope you did what I did, checked your skis. Have you checked to make sure all the screws that hold your bindings to your skis are tight? How about a drop of oil on them? Did you get all the rust off the edges? Are your skis sharp or dull?

If they're dull you'll have trouble skiing on Michigan hardpack (sometimes called ice, or cement); you may as well have a sled. Have you adjusted your bindings (most important)? How are your

  
**GOING STRONG** as a member of the varsity basketball squad at University of Kentucky is Rick Drewitz, all-time great at Garden City West where he won all-state honors. Rick, who led West into the state tournament semifinals in his senior year, is looked on as one of the most promising sophomores on the Kentucky squad.

**Turf Tips, Quips**  
By Doc Minard

A fast stepping Ohio filly is the new queen of pacers for Michigan's winter harness.

Prior to the start of the racing season, clinching the crown Saturday at Northville Downs by winning the fourth straight leg of the Jackson-Northville pacing series.

One has to doff his hat to Thimble, a three year old daughter of Henry T. Adios and to driver-trainer Dr. Fred Hess, for their brilliant performances in the rich series.

Perhaps the most amazing thing of the Thimble story is that the speedy damsel has been able to maintain her top form for such a long time during a winter meeting.

Thimble took over at the halfway point Saturday and then dared anyone in the field accepting the entry of the filly of seven to catch her. Prince Knox made a great try as did

triumphs starting in mid-October in Ohio.

Prior to the start of the string, Thimble, who will seek an unprecedented sweep of the series Saturday, was clocked in 1:58.2 and 1:58.4 in two three year old stakes in Lexington, Ky.

Thimble's owner, General Manager Leon Slavin, didn't realize at the time what a smart move he made when accepting the entry of the filly who now boasts six straight

Michigan Mack, king of the state's four-year-old pacers, and Bedford Jet, but the filly was much the best in the stretch drive to the wire.

The crowd realized it had seen a great pacer win but even then most were stunned when the clock showed a time of 2:03.2. Certainly the track was fast but it was a rather chilly night and one would have to say that Thimble liked every bit of it.

Unless some of the also-rans drop out of the picture, Thimble will face the same field Saturday in the \$5,000 finale.

A week ago folks were wondering if the filly could make it four in a row in the series...Thimble gave them a positive answer and from all indications she'll be the first under the wire this week as well.

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**North Wins Twice In Swim Meet**

North Farmington swimmen won both meets in a triple dual program at the new Plymouth High pool. The Farmers beat Plymouth and Farmington Harrison by identical, 59-46 scores.

Plymouth was the victor in the meet with Harrison, 50-45.

North's John Griswold was a double winner, taking the 200 and 400 freestyle events in times of 1:55.4 and 4:14.2.

Mike Rado, who won two state titles last year when Harrison competed in class B, turned in a brilliant 59.6 in winning the 200 backstroke.

The Tigers will hold the line on ticket prices in 1972, despite steadily climbing costs of operation.

John E. Fetzner, owner-president, announced that while the Tigers might qualify for a small increase under the national price controls program, none will be sought.

"THE TIGERS will support President Nixon in his fight against inflation," the Tiger owner said.

"This is a decision we have made in the face of increased costs of operation, which have been at the rate of seven or eight percent a year for the past several seasons," he added. "However, if we continue to face this problem of absorbing increased costs, we will be forced to increase our ticket prices for future years."

The Tigers' decision to hold the price line pegs box seats at \$4, reserved \$3, general admission \$2 and bleachers \$1 for the 1972 Tiger Stadium season which opens April 11.

The prices are the lowest in Detroit for any professional sport. The price curb also will be reflected in the Tigers' season and combination plan ticket quotations, to be announced soon.

**RED WING HOCKEY DETROIT**  
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**Beating The Tom-Toms**

The Observer salutes three area high school footballers who were honored with first and second team berths on the all-state selections of the Detroit News and the Detroit Free Press.

Each of the Metropolitan newspapers claims its team is the official all-state which matters little since the mere fact that a player has been selected on the all-state of either is a high honor.

From looking at the selections, it is apparent that the Free Press goes more for outstate gridders and the News picks more from the metropolitan area.

One wonders at the differences between the teams when the fact of the matter is that few if any of the players are seen more than once by the selectors and in many instances it's the coach or outstate selector who starts the ball rolling early for a player who gets him on the all-state.

Judging from the selections of the two teams, Overland had two standout performers in Kirk Lewis of Garden City West and Bob Zych of Brother Rice.

Lewis was named at end on the Free Press first team and won an end position on the News' Class A all-state.

Zych was a first team selection of the News at guard but only a third team choice by the Free Press.

BOB GRAUSTEIN, the brilliant Thurston High quarterback, was honored with a second team position by the Free Press but only honorable mention by the News.

The strange part of the selections is that Southfield-Lathrup which ranked second and third in the final ratings with its great undefeated season didn't place a player on any of the teams although several were mentioned for honorable mention by both newspapers.

Honorable mention went to players from Redford Union, Bishop Borgess, North Farmington, Lathrup, Livonia Franklin, Farmington Harrison, Brother Rice, Garden City East, John Glenn and St. Agatha.

Although one hears so much about the superior brand of football at some outstate points, it certainly speaks well for Overland teams with two placed on the first all-state.

It was just a year ago that Overland's North Farmington team was the toast of the state and crowned champion. This year Brother Rice and Garden City West stars are honored...it looks as if some excellent football is played in Overland also.

THE BASKETBALL season is just getting under way but those who make a study of the prep quintets believe Overland will have four of the top class A teams in the state this year.

Many coaches must have the idea that Garden City East, under the coaching of Billy Joe Young, is the best already. East turned down a bid to the annual River Rouge tournament because of the problems there a year ago...problems that forced some of the games to be played behind closed gates with no audience.

Then Billy Joe discovered his team was too strong for the other holiday tourneys and not invited to any.

Billy Joe just added a couple of games to the schedule and figures the team will be better off with a rest over Christmas.

East was rated near the top a year ago and the word is out that the Panthers are loaded this year.

LIVONIA Bentley, with four holdovers and a new coach, figures to give teams in the Suburban Eight fits this year. The team is built around Tim Bollin, third of the giant brothers to play for Bentley.

Bill was the first and went on to play for the Air Force and Toledo U. Ken was the second and now he's on the Harvard campus on an academic scholarship.

Tim is only a junior and perhaps a year away from the greatness of his brothers but he'll be a marked man in all Bentley contests.

Then there's Livonia Franklin with lanky 6-7 Tim Dietz who just may be the greatest in the school's history before he ends his career.

From Birmingham way comes reports that Brother Rice plans to make things interesting for Catholic League teams.

And judging from the early performances of Westland John Glenn and Southfield Lathrup, things will be interesting in every part of Overland.

INCIDENTALLY, Saturday's racing was just about the best since Wolverine's Grand Circuit program of last fall.

The times were fast, the finishes close and just to give the feminine members in the large crowd a big thrill, June Weller won one of the features with Mighty Nig and Beatrice Farber drove Star Throat to a thrilling triumph in the night's finale.

Saturday's program promises to be the best of the meeting if the weatherman continues to co-operate.

A FEW WEEKS ago the railbirds at the Hazel Park race track were conjecturing whether a girl jockey could win a race at the oval. Most answered in the negative.

Now they are asking: "Can a girl rider become the leading rider at the meeting which continues through Saturday, Dec. 18? And the skeptics are conceding that maybe one can."

The gal who has turned it all around is Mary Bacon, a willowy blonde from Elk City, Oklahoma, who has shown she can compete with male riders on equal terms.

After 14 days of the 30-day meeting, Mrs. Bacon is in fourth place in the jockey standings with an impressive 6-5-1 record in 52 starts. In a recent five-day span, she brought in four winners to embellish her reputation as one of the best jockeys on the grounds.

She is the only feminine rider to win a race at Hazel Park. Earlier in the meeting she became one of the few jockeys to bring in both ends of the daily double.

Kim Sawyer has taken a second at the meeting. Karen Schroeder and Sandy Schleifers have had mounts at Hazel Park but neither had been able to finish in the money.

THOROUGHbred owners and trainers and those who have been in the harness racing business for years are mourning the loss of two longtime friends.

Val Walker, a retired Hamtramck police officer and head of plant protection at Hazel Park since the track opened, died suddenly of a long illness recently.

Val was known by every member of the colony in the barn area, from the lowliest groom to the top owner, jockey and trainer. His friendly "hi" will be missed by all who knew him well.

Val was unable to take over his duties at the start of the Hazel Park meeting, suffering a damaging stroke that finally struck him down for the final count three weeks ago.

Out Northville way, Cliff Schutte, plant superintendent from 1944 until retirement two years ago, died of a heart attack.

Cliff was in charge of the plant but that didn't stop him from doing numerous things for the benefit of the horsemen on the back side of the track.

Always willing to lend a hand, Cliff was a friend of all and had hundreds of friends in the harness racing business. He was so well thought of that management had a special night for him and his wife two years ago when he was forced to retire due to illness.

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