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DOWN THE OUTSIDE TO score a stunning victory in a preferred pace at Wolverine Raceway speeds Gaviland (3), piloted by Merrit Doh-

ey, to beat Noble Knight Time (1) in 2:00. The win boosted Gaviland's season earnings past \$45,000.

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

From a hopeless cripple as a four and five-year-old to one of the fastest and best pacers at Wolverine Raceway for the current meeting.

That's the story of Gaviland, now a seven-year-old owned by the Sid Lockhart family of Pontiac. The listed ownership is to the three Lockhart children, Lyndel, Lowell and Layton, but actually he is the property and the prize pet of the entire family.

Why a story on Gaviland? It just happens that the Bye Bye Byrd pacer sped to a clocking of 2:00 Saturday while beating many of the top horses at the track.

It wasn't so much the fact that Gaviland whipped such standouts as Noble Knight Time, Sammy Key, Right Honor, High Ideal and Record Time as it was the way he did it.

Out of the running and far back in the field of six when it turned into the long stretch at the big mile track, Driver Merrit Dohkey went to the outside and sent Gaviland home with such a rush that he passed all of his rivals and nipped the leading Noble Knight Time at the wire.

The huge crowd knew it was a fast race but it wasn't until the vicissitudes time flashed the time of 2:00 that it realized it was again seeing a miracle of the races.

Gaviland was Michigan's best as a two and three but then he fractured a bone in a foreleg in training for his four-year-old campaign and many thought a brilliant career had ended.

The horse underwent an operation and then came back just fall in excellent condition only to encounter another break in the other foreleg.

SO BACK to the veterinarian, another operation, another year and this time those who are experts in the field were certain that Gaviland's racing days were over.

But his owners didn't quite go along with this and in the fall of his fifth year they sent him to Florida to take advantage of the hot sun and workouts in the ocean waters.

It was a new Gaviland who made his first start there last year at Pompano Park. It wasn't long until all knew the horse was just as good as ever and probably faster.

His record as a six-year-old shows earnings of \$57,181 with five wins, six seconds and four thirds. . . not bad for a horse that had a bone removed from each of his front legs.

It will be recalled that Gaviland and Johnny G, both Michigan-owned, paced to a near world's dead heat of 2:00 last fall at Wolverine.

Thus far, the supposedly fad-legged Gaviland has won \$43,000, picking up \$2,700 for last Saturday's 2:00 victory.

He just has to be the Joe Namath of harness racing. The only difference is that Joe has to prove he'll be able to come back after his shattering knee injury while Gaviland already has proven his point.

WOLVERINE had two big back-to-back nights, as far as handle and crowd, are concerned, over the weekend. There were almost 11,000 in the stands Friday and the handle soared to \$751,000 and the turnstile count went to almost 13,000 Saturday but the handle didn't reflect the additional customers. . . it was \$751,000 again.

Incidentally, there were five races Saturday in the 2:00 or less category with Knox Patch, holder of the track record of 1:58, winning in 1:59.3, fastest of the meeting. It may sound strange, but it was a year ago almost to the night that Knox Patch set the track standard.

FARMINGTON'S Bill Longo, who stole all the thunder in the rich overnights at Northville Downs, with Special Boy and Breadman George, hasn't been in the winner's circle yet at Wolverine.

Special Boy is resting at the farm and probably won't start for another week or so and Breadman George came up lame Saturday and probably will rest for a couple of weeks.

Observerland Youths Win Honors In Meet

Thirty Observerland youths were among the 132 between the ages of 10 and 17 who placed first, second and third in the 44 events of the 13th annual novice swimming meet recently.

About 250 participated in the meet at Lower Huron Metropolitan Park near Belleville.

Art Freshan, 12, of 18932 Whitby, Livonia won the 80-yard freestyle for boys 11 and 12 with a time of 1:09.8. He also took second place in the 80-yard backstroke.

Other Observerland ribbon winners were: Diane Powell, 8, of 33126 Oakland, Livonia, second in the 40-yard freestyle for girls 8 and under; Dianne Dechape, 10, of 17725 Denby, Redford Township, first in the 40-yard freestyle for girls 9 and 10; Kathy Merritt, 14, of 17347 Centralia, Redford Township, first in the 80-yard freestyle for girls 13 and 14; Louise Dickinson, 13, of 16399 Kinloch, Redford Township, third in the 80-yard freestyle for girls 13 and 14; and Rose Tindall, 16, of 33452 Melon, 14.

Westland, third in the 80-yard freestyle for girls 15 to 17. Others were: Karen Adams, 8, of 16415 Country Club Drive, Livonia first in the 40-yard backstroke for girls 8 and under; Lauri Dahlstrom, 12, of 33976 Glenview, Farmington, first in the 160-yard individual medley for girls 11 and 12; Heide Sento, 7, of 33717 Six Mile Road, Livonia, second in the 40-yard backstroke for girls 8 and under; and Evelyn Reid, 8, of 15221 Blue Skies, Livonia, third in the 40-yard backstroke for girls 8 and under.

Also winning were: Laurie Dahlstrom, 12, of 33976 Glenview, Farmington, first in the 80-yard backstroke for girls 11 and 12; Janet Freshan, 11, of 18932 Whitby, Livonia, third in the 80-yard backstroke for girls 11 and 12; and Ellen Henry, 14, of 17603 Glenmore, Redford Township, first in the 80-yard backstroke for girls 13 and 14.

Other area winners were: Anne Martinuzzi, 14, of 26081 Dow, Redford Township, third in the 80-yard backstroke for girls 13 and 14; Karen Adams, 8, of 16415 Country Club Drive, Livonia, first in the 40-yard butterfly for girls 8 and under; Evelyn Reid, 8, of 15221 Blue Skies, Livonia, second in the 40-yard butterfly for girls 8 and under; Lisa Ross, 9, of 33510 Cherry Hill, Garden City, first in the 80-yard butterfly for girls 9 and 10; and Dianne Dechape, 10, of 17725 Denby, Redford Township, second in the 40-yard butterfly for girls 9 and 10.

Additional winners from Observerland are: Kathy Merritt, 14, of 17347 Centralia, Redford Township, second in the 80-yard butterfly for girls between 12 and 14; Mike Belnaves, 11, of 3708 Gary, Westland, second in the 80-yard butterfly for boys 11 and 12; Brad Bateman, 14, of 34009 Casewell, Westland, first in the 80-yard butterfly for boys 13 and 14; and Dan Huff, 14, of 34325 Britany Drive, Farmington, second in the 80-yard butterfly for boys 13 and 14.

Others were: Brad Bateman, 14, of 34009 Casewell, Westland, third in the 160-yard individual medley for boys 13 and 14; and Dan Huff, 14, of 34325 Britany Drive, Farmington, first in the 80-yard backstroke for boys 13 and 14.

Others were: Mike Morisset, 14, of 36856 Heatherton, Farmington, third in the 80-yard backstroke for boys 13 and 14; Pat Ross, 6, of 33510 Cherry Hill, Garden City, second in the 40-yard butterfly for boys 8 and under; Mike Belnaves, 11, of 3708 Gary, Westland, second in the 80-yard freestyle for boys 11 and 12; and Fred Beattie, 12, of 21567 Birchwood, Farmington, third in the 80-yard freestyle for boys 11 and 12.

Additional winners included: Peter Simon, 14, of 25733 Florence, Redford Township, first in the 80-yard freestyle for boys 13 and 14; Jim Beakley, 14, of 17654 Fox, Redford Township, second in the 80-yard freestyle for boys 13 and 14; Kurt Martinuzzi, 10, of 26081 Dow, Redford Township, first in the 40-yard backstroke for boys 9 and 10; Romulo Bada, 11, of 14299 Randlewood, Livonia, third in the 160-yard individual medley for boys 11 and 12; and Pat Ross, 6, of 33510 Cherry Hill, Garden City, first in the 40-yard backstroke for boys 8 and under.

13-Year-Old Gets An Ace At Brooklane

It didn't take 13-year-old Jeff Bonar to get into the groove. He made his first hole-in-one at the Brooklane course in Northville recently and that's quite a feat when one considers he has only been playing for two years.

Jeff used a three-iron on the 150-yard No. 9 hole and couldn't believe his eyes when the ball hit on the edge of the green and rolled into the cup.

The ace enabled him to score a 35 for the nine holes.

Fed. Mogul Wins Title In Southfield

In the Class B, Division A & B championship playoff series, R.C.A. took the first of the best two out of three game series easily, beating Federal Mogul, 10-5.

In the second game Federal Mogul came back with a 4-3 win to make the third game necessary. In the third game, Federal Mogul became the champions, defeating R.C.A., 7-6. Federal Mogul scored one run in the first, five in the third and one in the sixth, and held on to defeat R.C.A.

By George Maskin observing sports

Come on, Michigan! Why not pattern our high school football after Kansas...at least, the move out there to eliminate tie games?

Kind of makes sense what they're going to do in Kansas.

If you missed the item in the papers, after the regulation four periods end in a tie out in Kansas, each team would be awarded the ball on its rival's 40-yard line and given four downs in which to score a touchdown or make a field goal.

Granted, this might prolong a game for some but it certainly would add to the excitement of high school football.

IT ALSO WOULD eliminate situations whereby yardage systems are used to determine a winner when a tie results and one team must advance into a championship competition.

Gone would be the need for our character friend, Morris Moorawnick, who annually is employed in Detroit to keep tab of yardage at City and Catholic League playoffs.

Who'll forget the year Morrie "worked" a game at the University of Detroit Stadium, which is being knocked down for a parking lot.

It was for the Catholic League title and the winner would go on to the then-existing Goodfellow City title game. They had to have a winner.

And, when the teams played to a tie, everybody's attention turned to Morrie M. And, what a moment it was for him.

Never before had a decision he was about to render been so important!

Morrie added his figures. Outside of the press box, fans waited impatiently. Down on the field, the players and the coaches were nervous.

Reporters congested around Morrie M. Whatever he said would make headlines. He'd be on TV, on radio, etc.

Morrie double and triple-checked his figures. It was too close for comfort.

He turned his findings over to the Catholic League's athletic director. The announcement was made.

The losing team protested. In no way did their figures agree with Morrie's. They had their team winning, naturally.

The athletic director of the league said Morrie's work was official.

The losers protested. They had taken films of the game. They would show that Morrie was wrong.

Well, their efforts only substantiated what Morrie had said. He never makes a mistake.

WHAT WE'RE DRIVING at is the Kansas system would eliminate such methods for settling on a winner.

Sure, it's a bold move, but I remember that they said it would never work when the Detroit Catholic League adopted a two-strike, three-ball rule for baseball...that a batter would be out with two strikes and walk with three balls.

Many said it would never work. But it has. The Catholic League teams like it. It has some merits, because you'll recall that in the first state tournament last spring, Catholic League teams dominated in Class A.

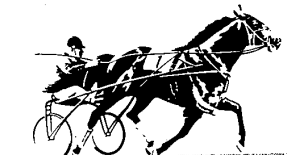
Which brings up another point: Why not a post-season football tournament in Michigan? How's that for crowning a state champ?

Of course, these thoughts may be academic if citizens balk at millage requests and schools have to cut into their athletic programs.

Maybe, we won't have to have any kind of tournaments...if we have no teams.

One dad told us the other evening in Farmington: "They'll have football and basketball regardless of how the millage votes go."

Will they?

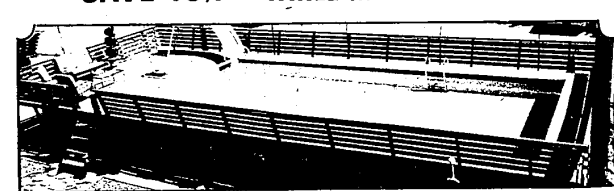


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