

## Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

Art Hagan, the genial publicity director at Hazel Park Racing Association who has been in the business of publicizing sports for so long that even he doesn't care to remember, is the author of one of the most amusing, interesting books published in a long time.

At least it will be interesting and amusing for those who follow the thoroughbred because it tells a tale of "The Day The Bookies Took A Bath" and does it so well that the reader doesn't have the slightest desire to drop the

book until he has reached the final page.

Hagan writes as only one who has been connected with sports, and particularly the Sport of the Kings, for a long time can.

"The Day The Bookies Took A Bath" has nothing to do about showers as the term "bath" infers, rather it is an intriguing story of a publicity director of a struggling race track (perhaps Hagan in one of his earlier jobs) and a confidence man who just has to be the greatest ever.

And there's enough truth going through the story that leads one to believe that Hagan may have encountered just such a person during the years he was handling publicity for small and large city programs in the Motor City.

It has the touch of a master in describing how the "con" artist gradually built the framework for one of the biggest betting coups ever put over in the history of the banglows.

The story evolves around the con artist, Dan Devan, and the publicity director, Gus Scott, who have been longtime friends since the days when both were involved with fighters.

Dan suddenly appears on the scene with a couple of

horses, forces his friend to get out of the track and then begins to make loud noises about the chances of one of his horses in the Colt Stake, richest and biggest event of the season at the track.

From the moment of his arrival to the day of the big race when he puts over the tale that one should read.

The manner in which Hagan puts together everything possible to make the "coup" a sure thing is most intriguing. It's just as if you were there, watching the maneuvers, awaiting with baited breath for the big payoff and the finale which finds everyone coming up with big smiles except the bookies—they were all busy getting out towels after taking a big "bath."

Incidentally, the novel is on sale at all area book stores.

THANKS to co-operation and permission from Racing Commissioner Leo Shirley, youngsters in Metropolitan Detroit and surrounding areas will have an opportunity to see the fabulous Albatross, generally considered the greatest pacer of all-time, perform in the \$25,000 Matron for three-year-olds next Friday at Wolverine Raceway.

Vice President and General Manager Richard Wilson asked for and received permission for a series of family night programs on Fridays for the remainder of the meeting which ends on Oct. 30.

The series starts on Friday, Sept. 17 when the track stages its traditionally greatest event of the entire season—the three-year-old pace one week in advance of the Brown Jug classic in Delaware, O.

The Jug is pacing's counterpart of the Kentucky Derby and the winner is considered the champion sophomore of the year.

The family nights will be held on Fridays Sept. 17, 24 and Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29. Children 12 and under, accompanied by parents, will be admitted free to the grandstand.

"We believe youngsters should be given an opportunity to see the great pacers and trotters," said Wilson. "There isn't any question that Albatross is the greatest in modern times. By having the programs on Friday, it will not interfere with school since the kids will be able to sleep in on Saturdays. We thank the commissioner for granting our request."

The exodus from Wolverine

to the harness racing wars in California has started and will continue for another week or so but for every stable that goes west, Racing Secretary Bill Connors will have new ones coming in from the east and south.

The first stable to ship in will come from Scioto Downs near Columbus, O., and will bring such standout outfits as Gene Riegler and Dick Burton to the attention of fans.

Then two weeks from now, the Meadows, located near Pittsburgh, Pa., closes and Connors is looking forward to new stables with new names and faces.

All of which means that Wolverine will be able to maintain its high level of pacers and trotters for the remainder of the meeting.

Gone from the local scene is Dwayne Fletcher and slated to follow are Joe Marsh Jr. over the weekend and Doug Ackerman. The last mentioned will go directly to Hollywood Park in California.

Doug has many west coast owners in his huge public stable and they are anxious to see their horses perform. More than that, Doug has been a regular on the southern California circuit for years, doing his winter training at Del Mar track near San Diego.

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ART HAGAN

## Chargers Open Action With 8 Lettermen

"Feast or famine" might be the way to describe the football story from one season to the next at Churchill High School.

A year ago, the Chargers were well stocked with seniors and experienced players.

But now most of the old faces are gone. There are only eight lettermen returning and only two of them—linebacker Greg Smith and back Mick Crom have had two years of varsity experience under their belts.

Thus, for the most part, coach John Kaestner must go with young faces, but he doesn't seem to be disturbed. A year ago, with a flock of veterans, his team won only twice while losing three and tying three.

Kaestner feels that Churchill can go places in the now tougher Western Six League which has expanded this season to include Noville from the Wayne-Oakland League.

THE BIG thing, as he sees it, is for Churchill to get off on the right foot in non-league action—next Saturday at Thurston and the following Friday against Grosse Pointe South at Churchill.

Then Churchill starts its league slate against Farmington Harrison, hailed by many as the team to beat for the crown.

Crom is a 160-pounder speedster who likely will be teamed with Bob Blaise (quarterback), Phil Damanska or Jim Powell (right half) and Kevin Arnold (fullback), in the starting offensive backfield.

Except for Crom, the other quartet are all juniors.

Bob Galloway, Kevin Reans and Brian Kremer are all back at tackle for the Chargers while Serge Guillott returns at center.

OTHER VETERANS are Jim Reynolds, a linebacker, and Roy Henriksson, a defensive halfback.

Juniors who figure to see considerable action include Doug Lloyd at guard, Paul Black at linebacker, Jim Foster, a defensive end, and Gary Konte, an offensive end. Rich Barker, a defensive halfback, is another senior who has impressed Kaestner.

The weight change shows that Churchill probably will give away a lot of poundage to its rivals. There's not a 200-pounder on the above list.

Galloway and Reans are the big men at 195 pounds each.

## SHS Golf Schedule Announced

The fall golf schedule at Southfield High School has been announced. Tom Rildley will again coach the linksmen who will be competing for the first time in September and October.

The schedule:

September  
13 - Ferndale, 16 - at Royal Oak (Kimball), 20 - Berkley, 27 - Birmingham (Seaborn), 30 - at Ferndale.

October  
4 - Kimball, 6 - at Waterford, 11 - at Berkley, 16 - Regionals 23 - State meet, 28 - Waterford.



By W.W. EDGAR

Metropolitan Detroit again proved its right to a place in the bowling sun last week when two of its entries—Fred Vitall and Mrs. Penny McLean—won six out of a possible eight medals in the world championships rolled in Milwaukee.

Penny, who is well known in Observerland for her bowling at Garden Lanes, won four of the six as she was a member of both winning teams—the four-women group and the five-member class—and gained second place in the doubles and third in the all-events.

Vitall, one of the leaders in the Classic at Westland, was a member of both winning teams in the men's division, but could do no better than eleventh place in the singles. No other area was able to match the performance of the Detroiters.

STEVE Mesmer who recently was discharged from military service, lost no time in getting into the swing of things in the Westland Classic.

As a member of the Milosevich team he put together games of 247, 187 and 226 for the first 700 of the season in the circuit.

The big count helped his team roll 1107 for high single and 2958 for high series.

Other high scores on opening night included Larry Kellogg's 668 that came on games of 254, 225 and 189.

Third place went to Harry Fill with a 246 in 663 and Eddie Lufanski celebrated his birthday with a 257 start in a 646 series.

In the Ladies Classic, Bobbi Hensley showed the way with a 225 single and Linda Granger earned top series with a 558 and Bente Rostgaard added a 549.

ONE OF THE oddities of the new season made its appearance at Country Lanes when three generations of one family registered for the Thursday Morning Suburban League.

Mary Mead, the aunt, came with her niece, Ann Grant, and her grand-niece Denise Herd. It is doubtful if there is another such combination in one league in the state.

While this trio was taking the spotlight Kon Knight, carrying a 171 average, started his season with a 254 game—then slumped.

WHAT STARTED as a little friendly league, known as the Odd Couples, at Mayflower Lanes, has now bloomed into one of the largest circuits in Observerland.

Thirty-two teams now comprise the circuit that takes over the lanes on Sunday night.

Mayflower also boasts another 32-team league in the Junior House category.

FRED HAMLIN, genial host at Farmington Lanes, opened his teenage program Saturday morning and from all appearances it may even be larger than a year ago.

Included in the program are daily after school loops, the Saturday morning YBA and a Teenage Classic.

LARRY Ledwidge sent the Businessmen's League off to a flying start Tuesday night at Vel-Aire.

He opened with a 257 followed with a 220 and closed with the first 700 for 659 to lead his closest rival, Dale Etherington, by 10 pins.

Other high scores included Tom Kinjorski with 608, Russ Fraser 608 and Mickey McGee 600.

In the Senior House League Jim Sherwood showed the way with a 617 that included a 225 finishing game. Gelle Deplidiasian was next with a 244 in 614 and Erv Watson Jr. landed third with a 606.

ALL RECORDS for opening night were shattered in the Wonderland Classic when the sharpshooters posted three 700 series, 34 above 600 and two teams over 3100.

Mike Mathis paced the pack with a 727 followed by Jim Grinnod with 728 and Jim Macomber with 707.

Ron Sharples team registered a 3181 and Bill Walker's Standard Composite combination had a 3113.

Jim Knoll had high single for the night with a 279, while Dan Fauer collected a 287 and Emil Wansa tied with Karl Cantrell for third place at 258.

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