

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

That ancient saying "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away" could well apply to two members of the Northville Downs staff, a pair that has been with the half-mile harness racing plant ever since it opened 30 years ago.

Each is equally prominent in the development of the Downs from a county fair operation to one of the finest half-mile parimutuel operations in the Midwest. A plant that is entirely changed from the ancient wooden grandstand of 30 years back to a modern glass enclosed, air conditioned facility attached to an ultra-modern clubhouse.

Of the pair, Executive Manager John Carlo has no intention of retiring, any more than years ago when it became apparent the Downs was going to be a profitable outfit.

Dr. Lincoln Snow, long-time president of the Northville Driving Club which leases the grounds to Northville Downs, was ready to call it quits after the 1972 meeting. "Doc" in his 74th year was on the ailing list, didn't feel up to par and decided to retire and move to Florida.

He made such an announcement around Northville's winter meeting in February and March. He was enjoying the sunny south and decided to stay there until the weather broke up north.

That happened just a week or so before the current Downs season opened on June 20.

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and then sulking and winding up the track in the next.

Erlana's Valley, with Morgan in the sulky, was the star of the winter meeting and set off fireworks during the Wolverine campaign.

The horse showed signs of regaining his top speed in recent races and could be the one to best.

Others starting are Dave Butler (Stanke) and H.T. Luca (Wilbur).

"It's still open if you'd like to end your retirement for this meeting," said Carlo.

Nothing has been changed in the first aid room.

Just like that Dr. Snow was back in the harness, looking over the equipment, checking the bandages, pills and other medicines needed for the track hospital.

Thus when the first race started on June 20, "Doc" was watching on the closed circuit television set in his office.

It was business as usual and he couldn't wait until he had his first patient ... not from an accident on the track but one of the hundreds who have visited him for years for a pill, a bit of medical advice and some personal counseling.

One could almost see the big smile and relaxed look as "Doc" settled down to what had been his way of life for 29 years at the track and even more years as Northville's leading physician.

"Doc" Snow is back and all's right with the world again.

MEANTIME, Northville has been more than holding its own with competition from across the Detroit River in Windsor.

Racing Secretary Harry Peterson has arranged an attractive program for Saturday as the track nears the first third of its 36-meeting.

It is an all-pacing card headed by a \$5,000 invitational with a field of 10 and a \$1,250 preferred with six facing the starter.

The invitational could be one of the best of the first full week of the season. The field represents the best pacers on the grounds with Easy Irv in the role of favorite.

Easy Irv, the brilliant four year old from the Charley Farmer farm near Brighton, had a string of four straight victories at the Wolverine meeting, one in less than 2:00.

This time Irv will have the services of Mrs. Beatrice Farmer, lone woman driver at Northville and currently one of the best feminine pilots in the land.

Bea appears to thrive on competition and will have plenty of it this time.

She'll be sending Easy Irv against such top reinstems as Eddie Morgan Jr., Al Stanke, Charley Norris and Tom Wilburn.

Perhaps the best of the lot will be Prince Knox, handled by Norris. The Prince has been a bit erratic this spring, winning handily in one race

Churchill High Grad Tosses No-Hit Southfield Gem, 1-0



It was lucky No. 7 night for Gordy Miller.

The Livonia Griffin left-hander hurled seven innings against Southfield Lathrup in Friday action, walked seven and struck out seven and came up with a no-hit gem, 1-0.

It was Livonia's second win in the second round.

Miller, a '72 Churchill High grad, chalked up a 6-1 record for Milligan College, Tenn.

The lone Jelfy Waterstone in Friday action, walked seven and struck out seven and came up with a no-hit gem, 1-0.

It was Livonia's second win in the second round.

Southfield pitcher Bob Bodan uncorked another wild pitch that again hit the plate and Waterstone trotted in with the win.

Miller wasn't without his anxious moments on the Livonia mound.

In the third Miller couldn't find the plate and walked the first three Southfield batters. With none out, Livonia catcher John Siehn picked Mark Hackberry off first base to ease the pressure.

Miller walked Rich Ferrel after striking out Keith Hakala to again load the sacks. Miller bore down and retired Jack Booth on strikes.

The lone threat to Miller's pitching gem came on the last play of the game when Southfield's John Wenzel laced a shot down the third base line. Livonia third baseman Mick Cron backhanded the ball and threw to Howard Schryver with Wenzel out by a half a step.

Farmington Legion Tops Auburn Heights, 7-3

Farmington's American Legion baseball crew came up with five runs in the second and five in the third to defeat Auburn Heights, 7-3.

It should be interesting since all have been flirting with a 2.00 mile land the winner could make it this time.

GEORGE SHOLTY, the diminutive driver-trainer who learned the fine points of the business years ago from Tommy Wynn, in the metropolitan Detroit area, is the key figure in an unusual story making the rounds in New York City.

George purchased a yearling colt at the 1972 Harrisburg, Pa. auction for \$20,000. The handsome youngster was Boyden Hanover, a son of Little Brown Jug winner, Best Of All.

It seems the man Sholty was commissioned to buy the colt had a real eye on him and George was stuck with a \$20,000 yearling.

"I liked Boyden but not \$20,000 worth," said George. So he sold a half-interest to two of his Long Island neighbors, Catherine Picciano and Frank Albeita, their first venture into horse racing.

Recently Boyden Hanover became the fastest juvenile pacer in North America with a 2:01 victory in a \$9,300 division of 14 in the American-National in Chicago. Sholty drove Boyden.

Incidentally, Sholty is a brother-in-law of Tom Wynn, who has learned the fine points of the business years ago from Tommy Wynn, in the metropolitan Detroit area, is the key figure in an unusual story making the rounds in New York City.

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Rich Stringer picked up the fourth victory behind no defeats. Stringer worked the first five innings, gave up no runs, three hits and struck out nine.

Don Hunt hurled the final two, allowed three unearned runs on three hits and struck out two.

Mark Miller went the distance for Auburn Heights, allowing seven runs on seven hits, walking two and striking out three.

Farmington exploded in the second for five runs on three hits.

Dennis Hagen was safe on an error. Tom Celani singled in Hagen stole second and was wild pitched to third.

Rich Stringer singled to score Celani. Dave Washburn walked and both moved up on a passed ball.

With one out, Bill Wilson squeezed in Rich Stringer and Rob Helton singled in Washburn with Helton scoring run No. 5 on a wild pitch.

Farmington added two runs in the third and after two were out, Rich Stringer and Washburn singled and Mitch Thomas singled in Stringer. Washburn scored on a wild throw to the plate.

Auburn Heights picked up its three runs in the seventh off Hunt. Tim Schmanke was safe on an error. Mike Delvin singled and John Cornell singled in Schmanke.

After two outs, Mark Miller drew a walk and Jeff Knudson bounced a shot off the third baseman's glove. Hunt bore down; and struck out the next batsman and it was win No. 7 for Farmington.

The advanced beginners lessons are for the swimmer who has learned the beginning skills but needs more work.

The intermediate swimmers are those who have passed the advanced beginners skills and can swim around the deep end of the pool.

The fee for these classes is \$12.50 for two weeks.

The Mercy Center Aquatic Club swimming team is open to all deep water swimmers. Children will compete in age group swimming meets.

First sessions for all classes are from June 18-24; second sessions from July 2-9; and third sessions from July 16-23.

Beginning swim classes will be offered anyone over the age of six. Classes are limited to 10 swimmers.

Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington made a name for itself in junior golf.

Orchard Ridge golfers placed 10th in the U.S. Junior College national championships at Rosewell, N.M.

The Ridge Runner's No. 1 golfer in Mark Bortolotti was forced to drop from the match after shooting two rounds of 75. Rick Vershure led the Raiders in Mark's absence with a total of 301.

Here's advice for bicycle riders: from Michigan State University's Highway Traffic Safety Center.

There's a place for you and your vehicle on the street; but, be sure to stay in your place. Ride with traffic, near the edge of the road or curb. The sidewalks are for pedestrians and traffic lanes are for motor vehicles.

Mercy Center Offering Varied Swim Program

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Keen Elected 'M' Club Head

James C. Keen, an Ann Arbor businessman and 1963 graduate of the University of Michigan, was elected president of the 3,300-member graduate "M" Club, an honorary organization of Michigan athletic letter winners.

Keen earned two letters in wrestling under the coaching of his father, Cliff Keen, former Wolverine wrestling mentor.

He succeeds Jack Tompkins of Detroit as president of the group.

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