

# They'll Be Off Monday At DRC

The cry of "They're Off!" will echo and re-echo through the vast grandstand of the Detroit Race Course Monday for the inaugural program of the Detroit Racing Association's 90 day meeting and there'll be a brighter, new look for the new season.

Determined to make 1973 a successful year in contrast to the sad meeting last year, Vice President and General Manager Dick Wilson has taken several steps to turn drab, darkness into what he hopes will be a bright future.

With its face renovated and the daily racing program moved up an hour each day and to 1 p.m. on Saturdays

and holidays, the big mile track opens its 24th annual thoroughbred season with predictions of a banner year.

Post time for opening day will be 2:20 p.m., contrasted to the 3:20 p.m. start last summer. That's racing new. Then there are a new racing surface, a new outdoor peddock in which fans will be able to see the jockeys mount up, a team of champion Belgian horses will haul the starting gate from one post to the other and a brand new atmosphere.

The big mile track will present nine races daily with 10 on Saturdays and holidays.

"We hope to eliminate the dead period between races and to have something interesting going on at all times," said Wilson. "A good many of the trainers have expressed a desire to work out their horses between races instead of in the early morning."

"We believe this is the first time a track has presented the regular workouts during the daily program. It should keep patrons interested in what's going on. They'll have a chance to see new horses "blowing out" in preparation for races later in the week."



THEY'RE OFF AT THE DRC - The 24th season for thoroughbreds at the Detroit Race Course begins Monday with daily starting time at 2:20 p.m. and Saturday post time at 1 p.m.

## Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

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## Wrestling Clinics Set At Eastern

The seventh annual Huron wrestling clinics for high school students will be given at Eastern Michigan University from July 23 through Aug. 3 and from Aug. 5 through Aug. 10. Erik Pedersen, wrestling coach at Eastern, will serve as director of the clinics.

Students in grades eight through 11, are eligible. NCAA rules do not permit enrolling of graduating seniors. Students, grouped according to size and experience, learn and improve basic wrestling techniques.

A health form must be submitted with the application. An experienced athletic trainer is available at all instructional sessions.

Coaches are encouraged to participate and a limited number of board and room scholarships are available. Complete cost of the clinic is \$70 which covers room, board, instruction, and insurance. Commuters may pay \$40 which includes lunch. Register with Director of University Conferences, Division of Field Services, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Mich. 48197.

The big move of the runners and trotters gets underway next week in the Metropolitan Detroit area with the trotters moving from Northville Downs to Hazel Park Wednesday and the Detroit Race Course opening its 24th season Monday for the thoroughbreds.

Those residing in Detroit's east side will have their first view of the standardbreds and fans on the west side will have their initial chance to wager a bob or two on the runners.

At the moment more than 750 horses are quartered at the big mile track plant in Livonia and pacers and trotters are checking in from the east, midwest and south for the Hazel Park opening.

There'll be a new post time at the DRC where Vice President and General Manager Dick Wilson has decreed that the daily nine-race program will start at 2:20 p.m. and the Saturday and holiday cards at 1 p.m.

The track started an early post for the daily races last summer but gave up after two weeks when wagering and attendance hit all-time lows. Despite that experience, Wilson has a firm belief that Detroit area customers will accept the earlier start.

He plans on following that policy for the entire 90-days but has to report to his board of directors after a month and they may order a change back to the later daily post of 3:20 p.m.

"We realize we're taking a big gamble," says Wilson. "But anything will be better than last year. It is my firm belief that the earlier post will be accepted. It means patrons will be getting home in time for dinner on week days and they'll have plenty of time to get home and still go out for dinner on Saturdays and holidays."

"The early post has been in vogue at Canadian tracks for a long time and management there reports no complaints from its fans. Michiganers are accustomed to the late afternoon start which started in the late '30s and then continued during World War II to give factory workers a chance to relax."

"There isn't any need for such starting times any more. Practically all get to the races in their own cars. With our new post, all can get home earlier and avoid the nightly complaint of the wife about having to hold up dinner."

Today (Saturday) finds Hazel Park closing its meeting with attendance down but wagering at a near record pace.

Heading the finale is the \$15,000 Au Revoir handicap with nine starters including two entries from the Basso stable and the P. L. Grissom and Son barn.

Prince Knox, a seven-year-old which has been close in all recent starts, is the early choice. The Prince was shipped last Saturday by Ark Time in a tight deal.

Ark Time is taking this week off to get ready for the Hazel Park campaign, making Prince Knox the top performer in the invitational.

Others in the field are: Easy O, H. T. Luc, Whirlaway, Erlana's Victory and Dave Butler.

Northville's meeting continues through next Tuesday and management has announced free admission to the grandstand and reduced prices for the clubhouse for the final two nights.

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