



THEY'RE OFF. The familiar cry of the pacers and trotters leaving the post will resound through the stands at Northville Downs Friday night when the state's earliest parimutuel betting meeting opens. And

this scene is a familiar one also, catching the horses at the finish line. The standardbreds will perform nightly at the 'Downs for 18 nights.

Observing Sports

Michigan and Michigan State have spring drills going ... while Farmington's Bud Erickson, the assistant general manager of publicity man for the Lions, busts into the Sheraton Cadillac Hotel to host the radio and press and tell them all about the Lions for 1965.

And, from what Senior Erickson had to say ... the Lions should be quite a team in '65. All their sickmen of '64 are healthy again.

The recent flareup in Detroit after a regional game at U. of D. high might have set back the Metropolitan area's chances of landing the state cage finals for several years.

We have a notion that the State authorities might have been in the mood to consider using Olympia, Cobo Arena and the U. of D. Memorial Building for semifinal and final action.

But, after the unfortunate incident at U. of D. high, the outsiders are going to fight harder and longer to keep the semifinals and finals around Lansing-East Lansing, even though the facilities there can't match those which Detroit can offer.

State Director Charles Forsythe admitted to us the other day that the 'stabbings' were not the part of any students, but that he went along with the city's police in NOT scheduling a quarterfinal in Detroit.

As we said a week ago, it's not the majority which rules.

THE MINORITY WINS.

Scores Soar in Meet

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Art, with a 140 average, had games of 172, 214 and 192 for 578 and Gloria added 154, 157 and 169 for 480 and a team total of 1058. They received a 321 pin handicap.

The Livonia duo of Walter and Rose Parkoma, of 27642 Barclay, are holding down fourth place with a 1243. Walt, with a 179 average, found the lanes for an actual 616 on counts of 188, 193 and 235 while Rose tallied 447 with 154, 126 and 107. They received a 189 pin spot along with their 1063 for the 1243 total.

With nine more weekends to go, there are plenty of openings for bowlers but Tournament Manager Goldman urges all to get entries in as soon as possible if they want a choice time and date.

"Entries are coming in from all parts of eastern and southern Michigan," he said. "And we have had numerous inquiries from bowlers in the Toledo and northwest Ohio sectors."

The squads start at 11 a.m. each Saturday and Sunday

through the final day and follow on a one hour schedule with the finale at 11 p.m. on each evening.

Dates still remaining on the schedule are:

SAVINGDAY: March 27, April 3, 10, 17 and 24; May 1, 8, 15 and 22. SUNDAYS: March 28, April 4, 11, 18 and 25; May 2, 9, 16 and 23.

Bowlers may enter as many times as they desire providing they have a different partner each time.

Now's the time to enter and take a crack at the 1219 score. For additional information contact Tournament Manager Goldman or his assistant Doris Maltby at the Merri-Bowl Lanes and they'll be glad to answer all questions and make arrangements for your reservations.

DID YOU KNOW—That Oscar Robertson of the Cincinnati Royals, who met the Detroit Pistons at Cobo Arena on Wednesday, Jan. 20, is running away with the assist championship in the National Basketball Association. He is averaging 11.3 "feeds" per game.

Trotters, Pacers to Open Friday at N'ville Downs

Let it rain, let it snow, it won't stop the trotters and pacers from starting Friday night at Northville Downs for the earliest harness racing opening in Michigan history.

Those followers of the standardbreds, who remember the nights back in the late '40s when Northville was pioneering parimutuel betting and using the old fashioned salamanders for heat, will have a treat in store.

Northville Downs has installed the newest and most modern electric heaters that are guaranteed to boost the temperature more than 35 degrees to all patrons. It will be a case of just sitting and watching the races in all the comforts of a warm night in July.

A total of 350 of the electric heaters have been placed in the upper and lower levels of the grandstand. They are of a new type, developed in the past two years, which operate with quartz tubes and ultraviolet rays. They will provide a constant temperature of 70 degrees for the customers.

There'll be new faces along with the new look and plenty of familiar names and old favorites to hold the attention of fans.

This especially is true of the \$2,500 Inaugural trot on Friday and the \$2,500 Invitational pace on Saturday.

Those who follow the standardbreds will have a chance to see one of their longtime favorites in action in the trot when Charley Horse, the eight-year-old from the Cecil Strock stable in Liberty Center, O., will face a field that is expected to include as many as seven or eight starters.

His chief competition is expected to come from such standouts as Jan Kaye, Seth and Bill G, all of whom have shown excellent form in the winter workouts.

Then on Saturday, the pace has attracted such well-known names as Cold Sunday, the 11-year-old from the Everett Hamell farm in Pinckney; Star Coburn, from the Strock string; and the fast-moving Livonia Boy, who carries the colors of the Jack Richards stable from Livonia.

More than 700 horses were on the grounds last Monday, leading Racing Secretary Harry Peterson to predict the 18-night meeting, which ends on April 15, could be one of the best early meetings ever in Michigan.

Northville shattered 13 wagering records a year ago and Executive Manager John Carlo believes it will start where it left off last summer.

"Records are only made to be broken," said Carlo, "interest in harness racing is at its greatest peak at this time as shown by the tremendous starts in Chicago and New York City."

"Inasmuch as we have three weeks of racing with no competition in the Detroit area, we believe our short meeting could be just about the best ever for this section."

With that thought in mind, Carlo is looking forward to a crowd of more than 10,000 in the stands to greet the pacers and trotters.

The early meeting forced the 'Downs to make several changes in the roster of the official family since several of the regulars are busy at other meetings and couldn't make arrangements to shift to Northville.

Frank Meharg, one of Michigan's two state stewards, will serve as presiding judge in the absence of Loyd "Dutch" German and Clay Hulet, of Mason, will be in the stand as state steward.

Norm Lankin, well-known as the voice of the Toledo Raceway and an aide at Jackson Raceway, will handle the "mike" in place of Jack Higgs, who is still busy with assignments in Florida.

U-M Falls

(Continued from Page 2-C)
nesday and the Wings are "in." It now appears certain they'll play their first two games at home. The opponent will depend on where they finish.

The best bet is that the Wings will go against the Chicago Black Hawks.

There's still a certainty on a date when Charlie Dreesen will return as the Tiger manager. It could be sometime in May. Maybe a little sooner.

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'SNO USE trying to practice in this kind of weather but these duffers from Farmington High got out their clubs and started limbering up for the upcoming season. The three golf aces from Farmington are from left to right, Dick Bayer, Dick Rutherford, and Greg Kelch.

Plan Final Registration For Livonia Jr. Baseball

Registration for the Junior Baseball program, sponsored by the Department of Parks and Recreation and Livonia Junior Football League, will be held Wednesday from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the following locations: Emerson Junior High, Riley Junior High, Whitman Junior High, Bryant Junior High and Clarenceville Junior High; Bentley High and Franklin High (Room 613-615 West side parking lot); and Johnson, Adams, Taft, and Webster elementary schools.

Final registration will be from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 27 at the Recreation Office, 14305 Farmington Road.

Registrations are open to all boys 8 through 13 years of age. Eight-year-olds who will be 9 years-old by September 1, will be eligible. Those 13-year-olds who will be 14 before September 1, will be ineligible.

The registration fee will be \$3 per youngster to cover insurance and other costs.

After registration is completed, boys will be assigned to teams as near to their home as possible. Managers or coaches are needed for these teams and those interested may call the Recreation Office, GA. 1-2000.

Nine and ten-year-old boys will play in Class "Q" and 11, 12 and 13 year old boys will play in Class "F", which are leagues stressing a learning situation, with no standings kept and in which every boy is required to play in every game.

Registrations are open to all boys 8 through 13 years of age. Eight-year-olds who will be 9 years-old by September 1, will be eligible. Those 13-year-olds who will be 14 before September 1, will be ineligible.

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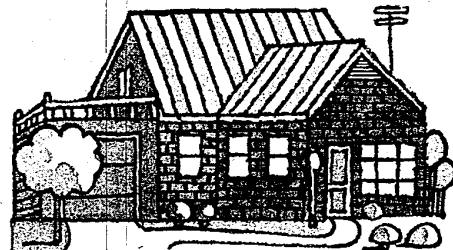
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