

10,968 Welcome Trotters to Wolverine

An unseasonable early morning snowstorm followed by showers that continued until late afternoon failed to dampen the ardor of Detroit area harness racing fans for their favorite sport — a near record gathering of 10,968 welcomed the pacers and trotters back to Wolverine Racetrack Saturday for the opening of a 55-night meeting that ends on Sunday, June 20.

The combination of a Saturday opening, first in Michigan history, the introduction of the fabulous Twin Double and the end of the Lenten season sent the handle soaring to an astronomical \$556,191, just \$6,000 short of the all-time record of \$572,709 set at Wolverine a year ago on opening night.

As early as 7:30 p.m., traffic was backed up on Schoolcraft from the track entrance

to Telegraph Road and even though post on the first race was delayed 30 minutes there were several hundred who missed viewing the opener.

Wolverine officials realized they were in for a big night the moment they opened the daily double windows. Long lines formed immediately and many were still waiting a chance to get a ticket when the windows closed.

Although the weatherman ordered rain, snow and a rather chilly night, patrons were treated to excellent racing even though the track was exceptionally heavy and deep.

However, it was a far cry from conditions of a year ago when Wolverine battled the elements and a knee-deep track for four weeks before finally getting a strip suitable for good racing.

Last fall, President Fredrick Van Lensen and Vice President and General Manager Orlov Owen ordered the entire racing strip covered with a layer of asphalt to protect it from the elements.

This didn't solve the problem entirely, due to the capricious spring weather in this area, but it did provide a track the drivers thought was 100 per cent better than that of 1964.

Honor of winning the first race went to Donabelle, a five-year-old mare owned and driven by Jack Gemmell of Grand Rapids. Donabelle took the over-land route in the final half-mile and just did have enough to outlast My Brown Derby in the stretch. The time was 2:32.3, which isn't anything to brag about but the crowd cheered the pacers all the way as first

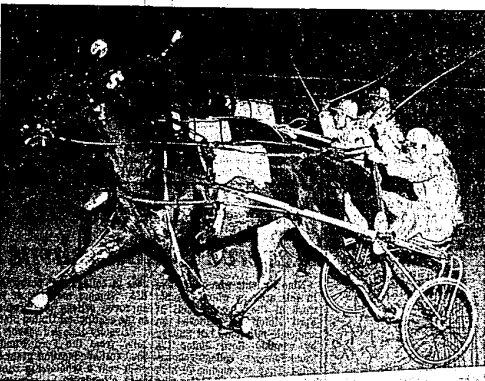
and then another took the lead at various times.

Coupled with Marlin Cartie (\$18.50), the daily double paid \$88.20.

Then the interest shifted to the Twin Double, where betters try to pick the winners of the fifth, sixth, eighth and ninth race. Only three did and they received a whopping \$7,712.50 for their efforts.

The winning combination was 1-5-3-5 and the big payoff came when Victoria Lind, a five-year-old mare who had won only once in 19 previous starts, had the most in the stretch in the gummy going and just did win by a nose over Monticello.

Post time for the first race is 8:30 p.m. nightly and the twin double wagering is on the fifth, sixth, eighth and ninth races.



BIG PAYOFF on opening night Twin Double at Wolverine Racetrack was made possible by Victoria Lind (5), a five-year-old mare, shown winning her first race in three 1965 starts. The mare, handled by Paul Jensen, got up in the final strides to nip Monticello (7) and Knight Sentry (1) for a Twin payoff of \$7,712 to three ticket holders.

Observer Sports News

RU, Rocks Triumph On One-Hit Gems

Rick Fisher was the big show for Redford Union high's baseball team last Wednesday.

Besides turning in a neat one-hit pitching performance, Fisher knocked out a pair of hits and drove across two runs as Redford Union posted a 5-1 win over Berkley.

Riverview Cracks Victory Streak of Garden City East

All good things have to end sooner or later.

So it was last Wednesday when Garden City East's string of 17 consecutive regular-season victories was blasted by Riverview, 15-2.

"Whenever thought that when we lost, we would drop one line," asserted Coach John Kulenzka of East after the game was over.

East never had a chance. Two homers in the first inning gave Riverview a 3-0 lead. In the second inning, Riverview batters clubbed two more circuits and the rout was on.

A homer by Dave Ventura netted East its first run in the fourth inning. Ron Goulet singled Don Clark across with East's other run in the fifth.

The defeat came less than 24 hours after East had ripped Dearborn-Haston, 8-1, behind the fire, two-hit pitching of Norm Vasquez. Neither of the Haston runs was earned off Vasquez, who scattered seven hits.

East went scoreless until the fourth inning when a sacrifice fly by Goulet and a hit by Ventura made it 2-0. In the fifth, Bill Moody's single drove in two more runs.

Then in the sixth, East scored four times with Joe Pomnyk cleaning the bases with a double and then scoring himself when Chute was safe on an error.

New York Yankee star Roger Maris played American Legion baseball in 1949 at Fargo, N.D., under Leon Landis, now head baseball coach at Wayne State University.

See 50 Channel 14 and up GUARANTEED BEECH TV 26158 Six Mile KE 3-7480 DON-LOR TV 427-3910 15373 Farmington

OBSERVING SPORTS

Baseball has set in. The Tigers are back home... the high school and college teams are in action... the Little Leaguers and other sandloters are getting set to go.

In addition, there'll be more television than ever, baseball speaking, in these parts. Not only are the Tigers going some 40 games on TV, but there's the weekly game of the West from the American Broadcasting Co. (Channel 7) each Saturday, plus Yankee games on Channel 11 on many weekdays... plus the barrage of prep, college and sandlot contests to be carried on Channel 50.

All of which makes this the ideal time to delve for a few minutes on some of the pertinent rules of baseball. Too many... and that goes for players, coaches, managers and fans... aren't too keen on the playing rules. The net result is that these folks needlessly excite themselves and strain their hearts.

If they knew what the rules were, they could save a flock of arguments with umpires. Not that the umpires always are right. They boot 'em, too. We'll never forget the time when we were umpiring an American Legion game shortly after the end of World War II.

We hadn't worked too many games at that time... and a situation arose where one of the managers didn't announce either to the umpire or scorer that he had inserted a pinch-hitter into the game. The opposing pitcher screamed his way to the plate umpire: "That guy hasn't reported. He's out."

The rookie umpire jerked off his mask, walked to the scorer and inquired: "Did the batter report?" "No," came the reply. "Okay," yelled the umpire, "the batter is out." Nobody questioned the ruling. Yet, the manager of the player, who had been called out for not reporting, legitimately could have lodged a protest. And, he'd have won the protest. The ump was wrong.

Speaking of protests, they're in order only when a man-in-blue fumbles a rule, such as in the situation outlined above. "You'll protest a ball or strike decision... or a fair ball or foul ball call... or when a runner is safe or out."

There's no redress when an ump says a catch is legal or illegal. Such verdicts come under the category of judgment rulings. The rule book specifically says: "No body can protest judgment decisions."

Franklin One Point Nips East

Track Coach Bill Wilson of Garden City East High School says he's not going to try and figure out any more meets in advance.

Wilson tried his hand at prognosticating before last Wednesday's meet with Dearborn. He came up with the forecast: "We'll win or lose by one point."

One point separated the teams at the finish. But East didn't win. The score was 58-54 for Dearborn.

Despite the chilly weather, the meet produced some outstanding performances topped by a pair of new East school records by Varle Eide.

Eide accounted for the first mark with a leap of 21 feet, 5 inches, to top the former school standard by three inches.

Eide then came back with a record dash at 220 yards. He was clocked in 21.9 seconds as he won. The old East mark was 22 seconds flat, set two years ago.

Eide also won the 100-yard dash in 16.8 seconds and finished a fine afternoon by anchoring the second-place East 880-yard relay team.

Dearborn's Bob Martin emerged as one of the state's leading hurdlers by winning the highs in 14.6 seconds and the lows in 18.4 seconds, both exceptional times.

Deadheat Marks Franklin Victory In Track Meet

A dead heat in the 180-yard low hurdles featured the dual track meet between Franklin and Garden City West high schools.

Franklin's Jeff Yoshikawa and West's Bill Murphy hit the finish line together in 22.4 seconds. The judges went into a long consultation and finally decided the race was a tie—something which doesn't happen too often.

Franklin had little trouble winning the meet by a score of 73-46. It was the South Livonia's second victory in as many starts this spring.

Yoshikawa also won the high jump with a leap of 5 feet, 4 inches as Franklin copped all but three events.

One of the other highlights of the meet was Larry Naifeh's winning toss for Franklin of 48 feet, 8 inches. Considering the infancy of the season, Naifeh has a good chance of hitting 50 feet before the campaign ends.

A sweep in the 440-yard run helped Franklin in its one-sided conquest. Tom Lee, Mike Stock and Bill Gomez finished in the order listed for the Franklin team.

The complete results of the meet: Shot Put: 1-Larry Naifeh (F), 2-Fred Severi (F), 3-Chuck Debra (West). Distance: 46 feet, 8 inches. Long Jump: 1-Mike Naifeh (F), 2-Mike Tati (West), 3-Hen Lan- (F). Pole Vault: 1-Jeff Yoshikawa (F), 2-Greg Arnold (F), 3-Tait (West). Height: 5 feet, 4 inches. High Jump: 1-Jeff Yoshikawa (F), 2-Greg Arnold (F), 3-Tait (West). 100-yard Dash: 1-Eide (F), 2-Worthy (W), 3-Robertson (W). Time: 16.8 seconds. 200-yard Dash: 1-Eide (F), 2-Tait (W), 3-John Saven (F). Time: 24.4 seconds. 400-yard Dash: 1-Tom Lee (F), 2-Mike Stock (F), 3-Gomez (F). Time: 54.6 seconds. 800-yard Dash: 1-Clapper (F), 2-Dan Shannon (W), 3-Foster (W). Time: 10.7 seconds. 1600-yard Low Hurdles: The between Yoshikawa (F) and Bill Murphy (W). 3-Point (F). Time: 2.4 seconds. 3200-yard Dash: 1-Shannon (W), 2-Clapper (F), 3-Gary (F). Time: 2.4 seconds. Mile Relay: 1-Franklin (Lee, Saven, Ryan, Stock), 2-West (Time: 3:46).

Set Baseball Meetings For Livonia Leagues Department of Parks and Recreation meetings for baseball will be held on Thursday, April 22 with the following schedule: 7:30 p.m. Class "F" Majors; and at 8:30 p.m. Free Press.

On Thursday, May 6 meetings are scheduled at the following hours: 7:30 p.m. Class "F" Majors, 8 p.m. Class "E" and 9 p.m. Class "A". All meetings will be held at the Recreation Office, 14505 Farmington Road.

MICHIGAN'S #1 TRACK

Hazel Park

OPENS MONDAY

FABULOUS TWIN DOUBLE

POST PARADE ADMISSION \$100 (Clubhouse 50c Extra)

OPENING DAY ... 3:20 WEEKDAYS ... 3:20 SAT. & HOL. ... 2 p.m.

10 MILE at DEQUINDRE Res. JO. 4-5785

Golfers Silenced

Bad weather forced Franklin high's golfers to cancel three meets last week. The Livonia boys were to have met Thurston, Bentley and Garden City West.

Former Wayne State golf stars Don Curly and Jim McGaffin were high finishers in the Presidents Athletic Conference tournament for three years.

Softball Meetings Set by Livonia DPK

Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation softball managers meetings will be held with the following schedule: Monday, April 26, 7 p.m. "D" District; 8 p.m. "B" District and 9 p.m. Fastpitch.

On Thursday, April 29 the following meetings will be held: 7 p.m. Church Unlimited; 8 p.m. Church Limited; 9 p.m. Women and 10 p.m. Slo-pitch.

OASIS GOLF CENTER NOW OPEN

WELCOME BACK!

DRIVING RANGE

MINIATURE GOLF 39500 FIVE MILE RD. LIVONIA

LAST - 5

At Pre-Season Price

Extra Large ESTATE POOLS

16'x32' 3' to 8' Depth

REG. \$3,500

complete with filtering system all around deck

While They Last \$1650.00

No Money Down 7 Years to Pay

APEX POOL CO.

2055 Haggerty Rd. Walled Lake, Mich.

Please send me additional information. POOL CO. C PENDING

Name _____ Address _____ City _____

Swimming Pools

Above Ground Permanent (Limited Time Only)

Redwood

READY FOR ASSEMBLY COMPLETELY PRE-CUT

3 FT. to 12 FT. DEPTH 12'x20' Pool Complete with All Hardware

Heavy Duty - 29-4000 12'x20' Lifetime Vinyl Liner

Complete Filtering System & Connections

Other Pool Sizes 16'x24' - 20'x40' 16'x32' - 32'x32'

No Money Down Prices Subject to Change Without Notice

INGROUND POOL 16x32 \$1,200

Heavy Duty - Lifetime Galv. Steel - 3' to 8' Depth

APEX POOL COMPANY

Phone 626-3321 or 427-6714

BOATS-TRAILERS

NEW-USED

GAD-A-BOAT

30303 Plymouth Road 1 Bk. W. of Waterford GA 7-7150

Johnston Motors, Pemco Trailers, Glamisboats, Bobs, Inboard-Outboards, Starcraft Campers.