South American Horse Surprises with Victory

DRC Plans 4 Rich Holiday Races

Four major Handicaps will feature the biggest weekend racing program of the year in Michigan turf circles.

The Labor Day weekend at the Detroit Race Course will see the $15,000 Test Purse and the $12,500 Old Hat Handicap contested on Saturday, with the $25,000 Labor Day Handicap and the $7,500 Union Special scheduled for Monday.

DRC Racing Secretary Ray Hopton has carded 10 race programs on Saturday and Labor Day. Post time on both days will be 2 p.m.

The Labor Day weekend traditionally highlights the racing calendar in Michigan and DRC President Dale Shaffer anticipates the season's top turnouts for the two programs.

"We are confident we have some exceptionally fine racing to offer the fans," Shaffer said. "The excellent purses we are able to offer this season has permitted us to attract a number of outstanding horses from racing centers like Chicago, Atlantic City, New York and Rockingham Park."

The Old Hat Handicap, named for C. C. Conrad's brilliant mare which won the 1965 Michigan Mile, has drawn 17 nominations including Tamba, the South American star who was a DRC winner three weeks ago; Dave Shaer's highly-regarded Treasure Chest; Mrs. Horatio Luro's Cerensa and the M. H. Van Berg entry of Streak of Luck and Miss Sun Tan.

The Test Purse, for three-year-olds and up at a mile and one-sixteenth, has attracted 16 nominees. They include another South American star trained by Arnold Winick, Potencial. Potencial was the upset winner in the $20,000 Fancy Flyer Handicap last week at the DRC.

The Labor Day Handicap will be raced at a mile and one-eighth and has attracted 19 nominees.

It was two favorites of DRC fans and one invading star who furnished the excitement of last Saturday's excellent card.

The DRC favorites were Wesley Ashcraft, owned by Bloomfield Hills Industrialist Frank Carlin, and Eladio, from the popular stable of the Willhoft Brothers.

Wesley Ashcraft, currently in peak form and one of the midwest's finest sprinters, won his fourth victory of the season when he made a great stretch run to beat Bumpkin and Lad O'War.

Eladio, a model of consistency, pulled a mild surprise in the $10,000 Western Special by beating Whisper Jet and Jet Avenger. Whisper Jet recently was second to the great Buckpasser in the Chicagoan at Arlington Park.

Eladio's victory was his fifth of the year and the three-year old son of Requested - Poise Galore has been in the money in 15 of his 21 starts.

It was Potencial however, which furnished the biggest upset.

Two weeks ago youthful Arnold Winick sent one of his South American - bred stars, Tamba, to the DRC and it won at the whopping price of $46.20.

Fans apparently didn't think Winick could have another "sleeper" of that kind in his stable, so they overlooked Potencial. The Winick star won and returned $31.20.

Jockey John Beebe, who rides regularly for Winick at Chicago, had the mount on both the long shot winners in their DRC efforts.

Through the first four weeks of the 84-day meeting, the DRC crowds and mutuel handles were at record peaks.

After 24 racing days, the DRC had attracted 323,112 fans for a daily average of 13,463 fans. The mutuel play totaled $23,170,171 for a daily average of $965,423.

Optimists 'Come Alive'; Roar On To State Crown

They're planning a party on Sept. 19 at Arbor Lill restaurant in Plymouth.

It'll be to toast a group of teenagers who proved that they "could come back" once they made up their minds to the task at hand.

Specifically, they're the Plymouth Optimists baseball team, Michigan's newly crowned state Class D champs.

The Optimists took the title at Jackson by first rallying to down Wyandotte, 5-4, in the semifinals and then nosing out Pontiac, 2-1, in the title encounter.

Thus was culminated what had appeared to be a so-so season during the regular Greater Livonia Class D campaign when the Optimists finished with a record of seven wins and five losses.

"We knew that the team had the material to do better," says Cliff Burpo, the Optimists manager who works at Burroughs.

"So before we went into the "D" playoffs, we sat down and talked to the boys. Some of the other parents also helped by individual conferences with the players.

"The boys seemed to realize that we were telling them the truth. And when we got started in the playoffs, we were an all together different team."

One of the big reasons for the Optimists' championship march was Jack Robertson, a pitcher from Plymouth High School.

Robertson turned "ironman" in the various phases of the playoffs.

He worked twice within three days in the Livonia "D" finals. Then in the regionals and sectionals, played on successive days, it was Robertson who pitched—and won—in both games.

He was back on the mound against Wyandotte and when Gary Robinson, who was picked up from the Livonia Elks for the state meet faltered in the last inning against Pontiac, it was Robertson who rushed forth to get the final two outs and bring the title to Plymouth for the first time.

In the Wyandotte game, Robertson was touched for four unearned runs in the fourth inning. But back came the Optimists — like true champs.

In the fifth Plymouth scored twice on an error which gave John Adams life, a single by Richard Dye, a walk to Ron Ross and Jim Arnold's double.

Plymouth still trailed, 4-2, coming to bat in the last of the seventh (final inning). After Jim Carter was safe on an error, Dyer singled and Ross walked. Ron Carlson then struck with a game-winning double.

With Robinson hurling masterfully, in the game with Pontiac, the Optimists scored their first run in the fourth when Bida walked, stole second and came around on Carlson's single.

It was 1-1 in the top of the seventh when walks to John Adams, Mike Lockwood, Robertson and Robinson produced the payoff run and the state title.

Cyclists Plan Meet

The Kings 'N' Queens Motorcycle Club of Taylor will hold a field meet, Sunday, Sept. 11 at 2 p.m. at their track on Pennsylvania Road in Taylor. The King 'N' Queens track is located a mile and a half west of Telegraph and a mile and a half east of Middlebelt on Pennsylvania Road in Taylor.

Bengal Fan Clubs Eye 'King Tiger'

It's election time for the Tigers' various fan clubs.

They're selecting "King Tiger" for 1966, to be crowned at the sixth annual Fan Club Day at Tiger Stadium, Saturday, Sept. 17, when the Tigers will be playing the Cleveland Indians at 1:15.

Ballots for four choices for "King Tiger" are being mailed to members of the Tiger Fan Club Association by Diane Taylor, president of the group. They are to be returned by Sept. 6 for tabulation.

Officials of the Association will honor "King Tiger" and the three runners-up in the voting at the pre-game ceremonies on Fan Club Day.

Members of all fan clubs certified as affiliates of the association will be guests of the Tigers at the game. They will be admitted free upon presentation of their fan club membership cards at Gate No. 3 that day.

Tigers Plan Family Night On Sept. 5

A Labor Day twi-night doubleheader and another Family Night will swing open the September schedule at Tiger Stadium, with the Tigers playing the Washington Senators both nights.

The Labor Day twi-nighter Sept. 5 is the first of 13 home dates for the Tigers during the month, with two more contests Oct. 1-2 winding up the season. Washington, Minnesota, Cleveland, California and Kansas City will visit Tiger Stadium in that order, with nine night games among the attractions.

The final Family Night of 1966 will match the Tigers and Senators on Wednesday, Sept. 7. Twenty-four sections of the Upper Deck will be reserved for family groups at bargain rates. Dad will pay the regular $2.25 admission but Mom and the children will be admitted for 50 cents each.

One more Ladies' Day and one more Retirees Day also remain on the schedule.

The Tigers will try to get back on the Ladies Day winning track against the California Angels Sept. 22. After winning three straight 1966 Ladies Day engagements for a six-season mark of 20-3, they skidded to an 8-2 loss against Boston Aug. 6.

On the last Retirees Day of the season, with the Tigers playing the Cleveland Indians Sept. 17, Senior Citizens will be admitted to the grandstand for 50 cents.

Sponsor Cycle Meet

The Iron Mustangs Motorcycle Club of Detroit will hold an overnight scrambles and poker run meet, Sept. 3 and 4, at Mustang Acres near Brighton.

Activities begin Saturday at twilight with the poker run. The scrambles races will start promptly at 2 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. Mustang Acres is located one mile northwest of Brighton off old U.S. 16.

THE THUNDERING PACK: Here's where the action quickens and the tension increases as a Handicap field makes the final turn and begins the stretch drive at the Detroit Race Course. It is Eladio (No. 6 with stars on the jockey's sleeves) on the outside which collared Jet Avenger (No. 3) in the drive to win. Whisper Jet finished second and Jet Avenger third.

Potential 'There', Says Glenn Coach

"We could be real good . . . or we may flop . . . "

"I rather think the first will prevail."

The man doing the talking was football coach Bob Lusk at John Glenn High School.

This is Glenn's third year of grid operations and Lusk has been there from the inception. His teams have posted records of 6-3 and 5-3-1—very outstanding for a fledgling school.

As for 1966?

"We have the potential to have a very fine team here," said Lusk as he conducted the opening practice Monday.

"No, I don't think we'll be a title contender in the Northwest League, but we'll be up there.

"I should also think that the days when Glenn has suffered some bad losses in football are over . . . "

Lusk, who in 1966 played one season as a center and linebacker with the Detroit Lions, then paused.

"But you never know about these high school kids. They could fall flat, too."

Unlike Harry Gilmer, the present Lions' coach who prefers a one-quarterback system, Lusk is going for two men at the spot this season.

"We will alternate Mike Mahaklan and Mark Stracka. Both are three-year veterans.

"Each can run and pass. In addition, we like to call the plays from the bench (something the Lions have tried more and more) and with two such fine boys, it will work out well for us."

Glenn should have one of the bigger lines in the area this fall.

There's tackle Mike Hill who scales 235 pounds and his running mate on the other side, Russ Griggs, who checks in at 230.

Both the guards, Paul Felan and Larry Walsh are three-year players and boast respective weights of 210 and 190 pounds.

Dennis Jackson, another three-year man, has picked up 30 pounds in 12 months and will carry 198 pounds at his end position.

Mike Robinson, the center, goes at 175.

To go along with Mahakian and Stracka in the backfield, Lusk will have two experienced performers in Ron Gainer at full and Mike Knight at half.

In all, there are 18 lettermen returning to Lusk, who came to Glenn from Lincoln Park high where he turned out several powerful teams from 1958-1963.

Lincoln Park's loss truly was Glenn's gain — on the gridiron.

NEW MANAGER of the Plum Hollow Country Club is James McWhorter. He has long experience in club management, serving as General Manager of the Lansing Country Club, manager of the Midland Country Club and as food and beverage manager of the DuPont Country Club in Delaware. He already has assumed his new duties.

Little League Football Sc... at East Hig...

Over the opposition of Dr. E. J. O'Leary, Superintendent of Schools, the Garden City Board of Education granted permission for the use of East High School athletic stadium to the Western Suburban Football League on eight Sundays during the coming season.

"The National High School Athletic association and many other organizations concerned with youth are opposed to football for children of this age group," Dr. O'Leary explained, "and I must go along with them."

None of the Board went with him — and the approval was granted.

Meanwhile, the Board also approved a new Press Box for the East Stadium and it will be in use for the regular high school season.

Crown John Kowall Farmington CC Champ

Farmington Country Club's men's club championship tournament came to a close with the presentation of trophies on the 18th green. This year's champion is John Kowall, 29192 Wellington Road, Farmington. Gerry Brynn, of 28180 Aranel, Farmington, was runner-up and Dr. Ray Schroeder, 32484 Chesterbrook, Farmington, was the low net winner.

Michigan State rated among the nation's top ten collegiate football teams 11 times during the 1950-65 era.

Grid Rules Meeting Set For Bentley

The Michigan High School Athletic Association will stage a football rules meeting at Bentley High School next Wednesday (Sept. 7) at 8 p.m.

It will be one in a series of such sessions now under way around the state and featuring appearances by state prep athletic director Charles E. Forsythe and the members of his staff.

A discussion on rules and changes will be held, along with a special movie dealing with prep rules.

All coaches, officials and players are invited. There'll be no charge.

Area coaches unable to attend the Bentley meeting are urged to go either to Ann Arbor high school this Thursday evening or Ferndale High on Thursday, Sept. 8.

LUCKY BATBOY is Mark Hobson of the Detroit Tigers who is flanked by Diane Taylor (left) and Carol Dixon, two members of the Hobson fan club. Mark hails from Garden City and attended Franklin High School. When the season ends for the Tigers, he's taking off for a tour of duty with the Marines.

Tiger Batboy Has Fan Club of Own

Imagine a Fan Club for a major league baseball team's bat boy!

Well, Mark Hobson, who has served the Detroit Tigers for the last two years, has such a following.

Naturally, this delights the young man from Garden City who attended Franklin High School.

Mark found his way into the Tiger clubhouse and dugout after finding out that he "just wasn't good enough" to make the baseball team at Franklin.

"So, I stayed with baseball by working with the Tigers," declared Hobson.

There are many more chores for a batboy than just gathering in the bats during a game or running out to the bullpen to recover a relief pitcher's jacket.

The work begins hours before a game in the clubhouse. Batboys must help shine shoes, straighten out uniforms, make certain that everything a player needs is ready.

And, when the game is over, there's more work — cleaning up, straightening up, etc.

Hobson's average day runs over 12 hours at Tiger Stadium, so let nobody say the "hours are short."

This will be Mark's last year as Tiger batboy. When the season ends, he'll enter the Marine Corps.

6 Lettermen Lead Spartans In Playing Time

EAST LANSING—The bulk of the experience on Michigan State's 1966 football squad rides with six veteran senior players who've each won a pair of varsity letters.

Gene Washington easily is the leader. The brilliant pass receiver from LaPorte, Texas, has played 531 minutes out of a possible 1,140 over the 1964 and 1965 seasons, rarely missing an offensive sequence.

Next in line is tackle Jerry West of Durand with 435, followed by co-captain and roverback George Webster of Anderson, S. C., 405; co-captain and halfback Clinton Jones of Cleveland, 400; end Bubba Smith of Beaumont, Texas, 393, and linebacker Charlie Thornhill of Roanoke, Va., 315.

Thurston Star Spins Shutout

Vic Pilar, hero of Thurston high school's baseball team which last spring won the Greater Livonia-Observer invitational championship, is still making some big headlines.

Pilar pitched for Detroit A. and D. to beat Louisville, 2-0, in the opener of the National Federation Class D tournament last Sunday.

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