Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

Would the jockey race at the Detroit Race Course have been different if veteran Don Holmes had been in top shape throughout the season?

That's the question arising since Holmes' return. Winner of the title at Hazel Park where he dethroned Larry Snyder, Holmes celebrated his return with a pair of victories Wednesday. He had been sidelined for several weeks with a broken wrist and it appeared he would be out of action for the remainder of the meeting.

Don recovered a bit quicker than thought and will be riding for the final two weeks of the DRC season.

That's why the question came up ... would he have been able to beat out the red hot Snyder who bettered his own track record last Saturday when he had four winners and a meet total of 134 wins?

None will ever know the answer. Holmes was in the midst of his greatest year when injured and there isn't any question that Snyder is having his best season at the Detroit Race Course.

THIS WEEKEND could be the most interesting of the entire year. Jackson Raceway is ending its most successful campaign in a long time at the half-mile plant at the Jackson Fairgrounds. The DRC will feature the $30,000 two - year - old Futurity, bringing all of the state's best youngsters to the attention of fans. Hazel Park has fine programs slated for Friday and Saturday in its next to last weekend, before calling it quits for 1973 next Saturday.

President and general manager Leon Slavin of Jackson Raceway has exactly nine nights of rest before swinging into Michigan's final harness racing meeting of the season at Northville Downs.

Slavin, who seems to thrive on work, ends a 57 - nighter at the outstate track and then shifts his activities to the 'Downs Monday to plan the 47-night campaign that goes to the end of the year.

Standardbred fans will have another opportunity to see Kool King, the speedy three - year- old trotting sensation from the Stu Oldford stable of Plymouth, in action tonight at Hazel Park.

Kool King, which started the year as a green trotter, developed so fast during the current meeting that Racing Secretary Bill Connors finally moved it into the preferred class.

The youngster had a string of six straight victories with a better clocking in each. It went against the best a week ago and wound up in a dead heat for third behind Sirloin.

Tonight, Kool King is in a field of seven in the $8,000 feature and could record its biggest win to date. That is, if it can defeat such stars as Sirloin, Dearborn Star, coming back after sitting out most of the year with an injury suffered a year ago, Mystic Boy, Rayalmas Boy, OKs Doc and Penelopes Boy.

The program also features a $5,800 handicap pace with such fast ones as Shondo, Campbell N, Mr. Big B, Wonder Baron, Easy O, Happy Mark and Mr. V.G.

THERE'LL BE a major shift of harness racing officials in the next few days.

Tom Smith, racing director for Jackson, will move to Northville with his aides. Mary Parlato, widow of the late Lou, will be back to handle the program just as she did at the current Jackson meeting.

Bill Connors, the only racing secretary at Hazel Park, will take off for his Florida home late next week to start preparations for the Pompano Park meeting which opens in mid - December. He will be accompanied by assistant Ray Magee.

Conference Play Almost Finished

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with Bruce Boudnek the one who will have to wind the offense up with another one of his 100-yard nights.

There will be six contests Saturday with four Northwest clubs involved in two homecomings, Westland John Glenn at North Farmington and Garden City East at Thurston.

North's homecoming festivity has to be "taken back" some after their upset defeat at the hands of Franklin last week, 17-0, which all but took the Raiders out of title contention.

The setback also knocked the now 4-1 Raiders out of the state rankings. But North should get back on the right track providing the combination of Mike Daley (QB) and Brad Pease can give North the push it will need along with the incentive to hang onto the ball. The Raiders lost the ball five times on fumbles against Franklin.

Churchill Runs Past Harrison

Livonia Churchill captured the first five places to blank Farmington Harrison in a Western Six cross country meet, 15-44.

It was Churchill's fourth win in as many outings in the Western Six and seventh overall against two setbacks.

Glen Parkinson ran first for the Chargers with a clocking of 16:38, followed by Don Shaw in 16:52, Craig Gully in 16:55, George Wright in 17:05 and Todd Wint in 17:20.

Ski Prix '73 This Weekend

Ski Prix '73, the second annual benefit sponsored by the Michigan supporting committee for the U.S. Ski Team Fund, will be held at the Somerset Mall in Troy on Saturday, Oct. 27, from 7 p.m. to midnight.

The program will include a fashion show with dinner at 9 p.m. Tickets for the benefit are $25 per person.

MON., FRI. 10-9, TUES., WED., THURS. 10-6 SAT. 10-5 SUN. 11-5

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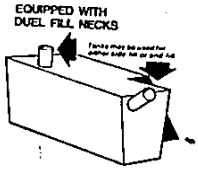

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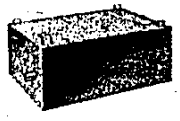

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