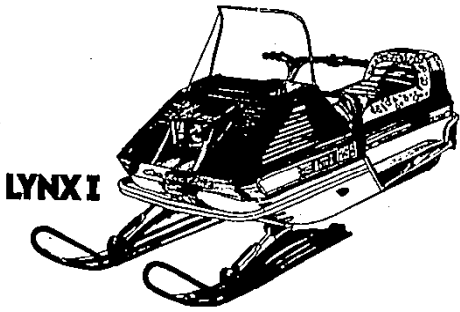


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Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

Michigan's thoroughbred racing season finally grinds to an end Saturday when Hazel Park rings down the curtains on its early winter meeting. That will be all for the runners until mid-March when action will resume over the big mile track at the Detroit Race Course.

Meanwhile the pacers and trotters will continue through the end of the year and then start 1974 activities the following night in the Jackson-at-Northville meeting.

With some of the finest weather ever for a late season, Hazel Park has had an extraordinarily successful campaign. Up to the last three or four days attendance was far ahead of the figures for the dismal DRC programs a year ago and the wagering has been exceptional.

The 30-day season will go down in the record books as one of the better early winter thoroughbred campaigns in Michigan.

The same could be said of Jackson's action at Northville Downs with the exception that attendance and betting took a decided dip during the past week and a half.

President and General Manager Leon Slavin couldn't explain the drop but

did blame it on the first slippery roads of the year.

"Seems like it always decides to snow just about the time people would be leaving for the track," he said. "And then one glance at the slippery roads and they decide to stay home."

Business did pick up during the closing nights of the week and Slavin anticipated one of the largest crowds of the winter for Saturday's all-pacing card.

The action will be down for three nights following Saturday's card and won't be resumed until next Wednesday. There isn't any racing on Sundays and the racing commissioner has decreed that the track be dark on Christmas eve and Christmas day...so it all adds up to two dark nights before resumption of action.

Seven pacers are entered in Saturday's \$5,000 final qualifying leg of the early winter series. The \$10,000 championship is slated for Dec. 29 when the top eight money winners in the series battle it out for the pot of gold.

Four of the seven are previous winners and seem certain to gain the finale. The other three will have to get a piece of the action to qualify.

Heading Saturday's field is Zepher's Q, winner of three

legs and generally rated the No. 1 contender for the championship.

Blazer Chip, Daddy O Ranger and Easy Tom are the other with victories.

The three making final bids for the title round are Apparition Hal, which has been extremely fast in its last two starts; Bob Kalish's Steve NZ and Jim McGarty's Culver Cadet.

The stake is listed as the eighth race on the card and could be one of the best of the meeting.

Special Midweek

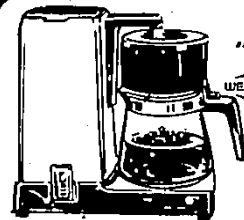


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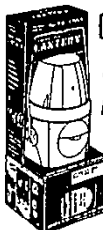
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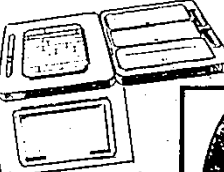


8-SPEED BLENDER

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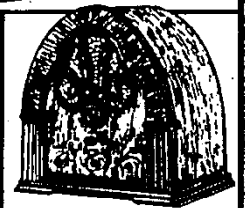
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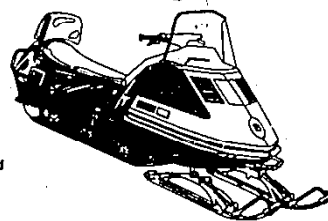
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