



DOWN THE BACK STRETCH

One of the most paradoxical situations in the harness horse sport is the attitude of sulky manufacturers toward the weight a horse must haul, contrasted with the driver's indifference concerning the bulk factor. Trotters and pacers were first raced under saddle. Later they were hitched to wagons, or light buggies. All that happened early in the 1830's. Their conveyances were four-wheeled affairs. Very late in the 1830's, when racing horses in harness became increasingly popular, the two-wheeled high sulky was invented, but there is no undisputed record as to who devised it. However, the high-wheeler gained converts going into the 1840's, and, after October 13, 1845, when Lady Suffolk, a gray mare, trotted a mile in 2:20, hauling the high-wheeler, the use of the two-wheeler in races became a custom.

The record for trotting a mile to the high-wheeled sulky was constantly slashed through the years, being reduced from Lady Suffolk's 2:29 1/2, in 1845 to 2:08 1/2 by Sunol, a bay mare, at Stockton, Calif., October 20, 1891. The modern rubber-tired sulky called the "bicycle sulky" was experimented with in 1891 and it was found that horses could haul it in much swifter time than the heavy, cumbersome high-wheeler. Shortly after the start of the 1892 season, the "bike" became standard equipment, and has continued so down through all the years. The earliest bicycle sulkies were rather heavy. As time went on, manufacturers concentrated on decreasing the weight in every way possible. It has been cut from 75 to 100 pounds to the sulkies today which, made of light weight metal, scale between 26 and 35 pounds.

The sulky builders consider this a fine achievement, a conclusion with which the average person will agree. Such average person assumes, naturally, that the less load a horse has to haul, the faster he can haul it. But veteran drivers laugh, a bit derisively, and say that neither the weight of a sulky, nor the poundage of a driver makes any difference in the speed of a horse, provided the job assigned is haulage, not back-bearing, as in thoroughbred racing. The average weight of harness horse drivers might range from 160 to 175 pounds. Few are lighter than the minimum; many of them are heavier than the maximum. Some scale up to 290 pounds; others have added 210 to 250 pounds to the weight in the sulky. If a sulky weighs 35 pounds, and a driver 200, the haulage total is 235 pounds. Yet the drivers maintain that such a handicap is no handicap at all; that it makes no difference to the speed of a horse if he suddenly were switched to a 26 pound sulky and a 140 pound driver, to reduce the load from 235 to 166 pounds.

The weight-reducing sulky builders continue to scoff at the contention of the drivers and constantly aim to lessen sulky weight. One of them, while disputing the claims of the veteran drivers, pointed out "Joe O'Brien drove horses in Canada and the United States in 1947. He had no spark-plug champions, nor near champions in his string, as had so many other drivers. Yet O'Brien piloted home more winners than any reinsman in North America. O'Brien incidentally weighed a mere 130 pounds." In rebuttal, the drivers point to Dr. H.M. Parrish, one of the most successful harness horse pilots of all time. Dr. Parrish was the leading reinsman in the U.S. for a great many years, faded out of the scene for a while, only to come back and

demonstrate his greatness once again. And Parrish weighs around 200!

The U.S.T.A.'s publicity department, presided over by Jim Harrison, releases the following:—Volomite, famed standardbred stallion who died last month at the advanced age of 28, was harness racing's leading money-winning sire in 1953. His get earned a record \$687,451. His 163 trotting and pacing performers also won 558 races, tops for the year. The son of Peter Volo was owned jointly by Walnut Hall Farm and Walnut Hall Stud, Lexington, Ky. Only other stallion to top the \$600,000 mark was Hanover Shoe Farm's Dean Hanover whose 141 performers earned \$630,507 and won 509 races. Rounding out the top five were Scotland, (\$344,174), Chief Abbedale (\$453,168) and Billy Direct (\$417,040). Of those three only Scotland, in private service at Walnut Hall Farm and Stud, is still living. Chief Abbedale stood at Two Galts Farm, Carmel, Ind., and Billy Direct at Hanover. Leading stake and futurity sire, based on the amount of money won by two and three-year-old performers, was Hot Mon, young member of the Hanover stallion band. His two and 3-year-olds collected \$295,284. Adios, premier sire at Meadow Lands Farm, Meadow Lands, Pa., was 2nd in that category with 40 of his sons and daughters winning, \$239,611.

The brothers Mighty H. 204 and Volol H. 202 1/2 are looming up as top producers of speed, particularly early speed. The past season the 2-year-old pacing filly Mighty Joyce 2-08, bred and owned by George W. Reed, Fort Fairfield, Maine, ended the season as the leading race winner among the juvenile pacers raced in 1953. The Year Book shows her as starting 16 times, winning 14 of them and twice second. She raced the hard way too, going through the Bay State Raceway and the Pine Tree Fair circuit and finally to the fall meeting at Saratoga Raceway where she was Queen of the juveniles, being undefeated in a series of stake engagements.

Owning good horses isn't new to George Reed and the Reed family. Thirty years ago they were sending their pacers to the fall meets and later to Old Home Week at Charlotlettown. Their stable was for a long time trained by Monte Gerow who was very popular here. Besides Mighty Joyce the Reed's had to the races last season the fastest owned record horse in New England, Philip Scott, that started 21 times, was five times first, four times second and twice third in big stakes and took a record of 1:59 2-5 and a half-mile track record of 2:02. His winnings for the season were \$32,287.

Yesterday was the opening afternoon racing at famed Santa Anita track, Arcadia, California. It is the start of the 1954 season and the first feature on the program was a \$4,000 trot for 217 class trotters.

Twenty-three years ago Walter Gibbons, now manager of Roosevelt Raceway and one of the most popular men in that capacity in the United States and elsewhere, was training a stable of big race horses and racing for the not too big purses that were then offered. The writer remembers Walter bringing a stable down to Saint-John where he soon became acquainted with all the other drivers and helped to make that meeting a most enjoyable one. He and his brother

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LITTLE SPORT



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THE GUARDIAN, CHARLOTTETOWN MARCH 13, 1954

Provincial Ice Meet Postponed

After watching the weather throughout yesterday, officials in charge of the Provincial Inter-scholastic ice meet were forced to postpone the big event which was scheduled to take place at the Forum last evening.

Weather conditions went from bad to worse in the early afternoon and upon checking road conditions with the Government plow dispatcher it was decided to postpone until a future date in order to make it possible for competitors outside the city to attend. At time of writing it has been definitely decided by Forum Physical Fitness officials that the meet will now be held Friday evening, March 26th at 7:30 p.m.

Playoff Hockey Scheduled Tonight

Physical Fitness hockey playoff games taking place this evening are as follows: Albany St. Pats at Little Sands in Murray Harbour rink at 8:30 p.m., first game of home-and-home series for King-Queen's intermediate "C" title. Next game at Bedeque, Monday. Emsdale Sisters at Abbie Sisters in Crapaud rink at 8:30 p.m., second game of home-and-home series for Island girls title with Emsdale leading 2-1 at present. Due to unfortunate incidents in connection with first game, officials are being appointed by the Fitness Division. Winners of Kensington-Summer-side bantams at Crapaud bantams in Crapaud at 7:00 p.m. This is the first of a home-and-home series for Prince-Queen's bantam title. Officials appointed by Fitness Division.

Minor Hockey Practices Today

Abegweit Paperweights and Pee Wees will hold tune-up workouts today under coaches Stewart MacMillan and Al Rogers preparatory to embarking on the playdown trail for Island titles. Paperweights will meet at W.G. Barbour's showroom at 8:45 this morning and Peevees at the same place at 1:45 p.m.

Hoop Game This Evening

The Sport Lodge Trotters and the Nomads meet at Prince of Wales College this evening in an Island League Basketball game which commences at seven o'clock. The game is an important one for the Nomads, battling for a play-off spot. The Nomads and Air Force are tied for third place and need a win in or order to take part in the playdowns.

Several Hundreds Enjoy Skate

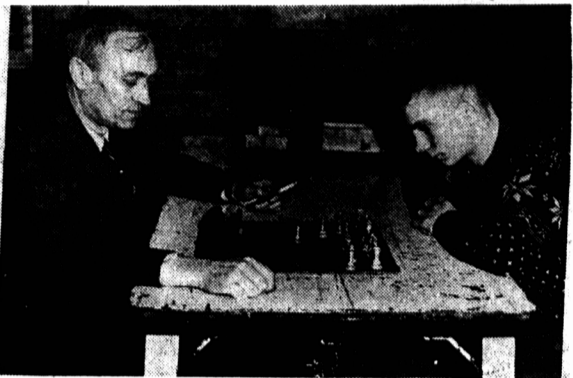
Last evening at the Forum, hundreds of skaters, young and old enjoyed skating to the music of the Reece Regt. Band. The Band played fourteen old favorites to give the skaters an outstanding hour's skate and all who attended last night will be looking forward to skating to the music of this outstanding Band when they make their next appearance at the postponed Provincial ice meet Friday, March 26th.

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NOTICE

Postponed meeting of P. E. I. Driving Club will be held in the club room, Tuesday, March 16 at 7 P.M. I. M. Yeo, Secretary.

Getting Some Early Pointers Before The Game



Peter MacNeill (right) fourteen year old son of Ev MacNeill, president of the Charlotlettown Chess Club is seen receiving instruction from D. I. D. Rozman (right), former Maritime Chess champion, before the Chess tournament which opens Monday night at the Charlotlettown Y.M.C.A. Chess players from all over the Province will begin to play for the R. E. Mutch Trophy which is emblematic of the championship of Prince Edward Island. The Charlotlettown Chess Club has some 30 members including several Junior players such as the young lad playing above. Mr. D. I. D. Rozman is chairman of the tournament which will be the Swiss type of competition. Players draw for partners for

Pirie Scores In Second Overtime To Give Sydney 2-1 Win Over Miners

SYDNEY, (CP)—Lorne Pirie's goal in the opening seconds of the second overtime period gave Sydney Millionaires a 2-1 victory over Glace Bay Miners Friday night and a 2-1 lead in the best-of-nine Maritimes Major Hockey League semi-finals.

Pirie took a pass from George Robertson, circled the defence and drilled a blazing shot past goalie Cliff Hicks.

Dunc McIntyre scored the first goal for Mills at the 7:46 mark of the second period after taking a pass from Pirie. But big Hughie Campbell tied up eight minutes later on a slick goal, with Gordie Myles assisting.

Both teams then settled back and played cautiously, waiting for a break. Mills outshot Miners 4-5 in the first, but it was virtually shot-for-shot the rest of the way.

Mills' Norm Defelice stopped 21 shots, nine less than Hicks. There were 13 penalties, nine to Miners.

Sydney are at Glace Bay tonight.

Lineups:—
Glace Bay: Goal, Hicks; defence, Leyte, Whyte, Arnett, Miller; forwards, Watson, Campbell, Rochford, Connelly, Farrell, Myles, Oulette, Kodatsky.
Sydney: Goal, Defelice; defence, McConor, Reardon, McCallum, McDonald; forwards, Robertson, Pirie, McIntyre, Cowan, Chorley, Marshall, Renaud, Lacroix, Dubuc.
Referees: Choma and Kelly.

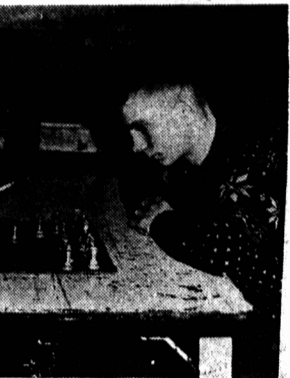
First Period
Penalties: Whyte 10:55, Farrell and Marshall 11:26, Pirie and Arnett 12:09, Chorley 15:42.
Second Period
1—Sydney, McIntyre.

Prince Street Boys Win Opener In Semi-Finals

Last evening in an action-packed interscholastic playdown hockey game at the Forum, Jack Turner's Prince Street boys packed 100 much speed and scoring punch for West Kent's best to outscore the West Kenters by a score of 10-5. The game was fast and clean throughout with the referees handling out only seven penalties—five of these going to the winners.

This win put the Prince Street boys out front by 5 goals in their

Getting Some Early Pointers Before The Game



The first games. The loser will play the loser of another combination while the winners play the next game. By this method each player automatically finds his own opponent whose ability at the game is on a par with his own. A game won will count as one point while a tie game counts a half a point for each of the contestants.

Games will continue on Wednesday and Friday nights, giving everyone who is anxious to participate, an opportunity to play. In addition to this, it is understood that special consideration will be given anyone working at night to play their games during the daytime at a place of their own choosing.

Pirie Scores In Second Overtime To Give Sydney 2-1 Win Over Miners

(Pirie, Robertson) 7:46
2—Glace Bay, Campbell, (Myles) 15:11
Penalties: Arnett 8:33, 11:33, Marshall 11:33, Farrell 12:56.
Third Period
No scoring.
Penalty: Whyte 10:19.
First Overtime Period
No scoring.
Penalties: McCallum and Rochford 2:33, Farrell and O'Connor 5:08.
Second Overtime Period
3—Sydney, Pirie.
Penalties: None.
Stops:—
Hicks 16 4 8 2 0—30
Defelice 5 4 9 3 0—21

S'side Rink Retains Ladies Curling Ch'ship

A Summerside Rink skipped by Betty Linkletter for the third consecutive year, won the Carl E. Crockett Trophy emblematic of the Ladies Provincial Curling Championship. The Linkletter rink is composed of Betty Linkletter (skip); Irene Silliphant (mate); Sally Basler (2nd stone); Francis Henthorn (lead).

The runners-up were a Montague rink skipped by Jean MacDonald (skip); Evelyn Cudmore (mate); Henrietta Clair (2nd stone); Olive Poole (lead).

In addition to Provincial playdowns, friendly games were played between Montague, Summerside, Alberton and Charlotlettown rinks, prizes going to the Summerside rink skipped by Anna

HUNTERS' CORNER



I have read with keen interest the report on the scientific work carried out on salmon during 1953. A paragraph of a news release is quoted herewith as follows: "Famed salmon salar — the Atlantic salmon — is the object today of one of the most intensive restoration programmes ever undertaken in the history of the eastern Canadian fisheries, reports a Federal Department bulletin. Government authorities are hopeful that salar's numerical decline has at last been arrested."

This particular study of salmon applies to Quebec, the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland and is conducted by the Atlantic Salmon Co-ordinating Committee. Predator bird control, particularly Merganser ducks and King fisher, has been given major attention. Both species of birds consume thousands of fingerling trout and smelt salmon but why draw the line at predator birds? What about homo sapiens the King of all poachers? what brought our lobster industry to its present state? Not Mergansers and King fishers that I am sure.

To this columnist's way of thinking the salmon investigation came not a minute too soon. Even to the average observer our salmon have been falling off in numbers for the past 5 or 6 years... referring to Prince Edward Island. When the gentry who make a

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Cuban Boxer Wins 10-Rounder

NEW YORK, (AP)—Nino Valdes, the Cuban heavyweight champion, won his seventh straight victory Friday night by outpointing James J. Parker of Barrie, Ont., in a dull, sloppy 10-rounder that brought boos from the fans in Madison Square Garden. Valdes weighed 211 1/2, Parker, 210.

Both fighters came into the ring with impressive knockout records but they exploded no fireworks for the Garden fans and coast-to-coast television viewers. There were no knockdowns in this battle between six-foot, three-inch heavyweights and nothing close to one.

Forum Dates

MARCH 8 TO 13

SATURDAY—
Skating 3 to 5
Skating 8 to 10

(Continued on Page 15)

Odds Favor Islanders To Win; Halifax Tonight

With flying conditions an uncertainty, the Islanders will board the train this morning for Halifax, where they will take on the Atlantics in the fourth game of the series.

The Islanders will go into tonight's game slight favorites, by virtue of their two impressive wins on home ice Wednesday and Thursday nights, however Atlantics will be playing in their home rink and to no team in the league does this seem to have a greater effect than on the A's. Players, who to outside fans, give a mediocre performance suddenly become veritable "balls of fire" when they are on home ice.

The Islanders are well aware of all this, but are still confident that they can keep up the winning streak which they have been enjoying. The team so far is free of serious injuries and the splits were never higher. Vip Palladino suffered a bad blow on the head in Thursday night's game. Yesterday he was nursing a bad headache which is not surprising when it is realized the blow he received.

Plenty Scoring Power
A glance at the statistics provided thus far in the three opening games, reveals that Whitehook leads the point getters with five goals and three assists for a total of eight points while his wingman, Palladino has three goals and four assists for seven points. Ford of the Atlantics has four points made up of a pair of goals and a pair of assists, and Carver has three points. Highest scoring defenseman is Bob Gray who has a goal and two assists to his credit. O'Connor and Gustavson lead the penalty parade with 21 and 16 minutes respectively. Clements has spent 12 minutes in the cooler while McLaughlin sat out only one ten minute misconduct.

Charlotlettown has plenty of scoring power that up to this time has not broken into the column. Paul Saindon is one who provided the team with a great number of goals this season and when the rangy winger once finds his stride there is little doubt that the Island score sheet will take a sudden upswing. Paul has two assists so far. Claude Robert who collected a goal in each of the first two games will no doubt be a terrific asset to the club before this series ends. Elwood Ritchie got himself a goal in the opening game and the "Tiger" has lots more where that one came from. His Spike Lalbertie and Guy Gignac have been turning in splendid performances and as time progresses, each will have his share of

Goals Expected



Paul Saindon, high scoring Islanders' left winger is expected to find his old scoring punch one of these nights. Paul has been up with the leaders for the greater part of the season.

goals. Bucko Trainor, with exemplary playmaking ability has given the team that "never say die" spirit which has marked their efforts since the series began. His back checking has been one of the main reasons why the Atlantics have been kept to seven goals in three games.

Flawless Defence
The Island defence have played flawless hockey and command a great deal of respect from the Halifax team. Gustavson is playing the best hockey of his career and McLaughlin's work behind the blue line no doubt makes Dugger McNeill wish he had the stocky fellow with him rather than against him. Danny O'Connor who has to adapt himself to his team's style of playing has given good sound performances thus far and from all appearances his name will shortly be appearing in the scoring column. Gray with his ability to break fast and with a wicked shot marks him as a most valuable man. Blackburn has no seen-action in the series to date, but when called upon Larry can give a good account of himself. Goalie Roger Bessette has been nothing short of sensational since the series began. Out of 77 shots sent in his direction, he has allowed only seven to pass him. His average for the three games is 2.33 compared to McMeekin's 4.33. McMeekin had 91 shots fired at him and let 13 pass.

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MILTON HORNETS vs. CORNWALL METEORS

Game time 8:30
Admission 50 cents; Children 25