

DOWN THE BACK STRETCH

Florida, where so many thousands of people winter, has never had a harness racing track where purse races are held and pari-mutuels are in action. This year, horse lovers that are vacationing there, will have an opportunity to visit a \$3 million race track at Ponce de Leon Raceway, Bayard, Florida.

Programs will be conducted from February 20 until April 11. Stabling will be provided for more than 300 horses, and there is a training and exercising track, as well as the regular race track. There is also accommodation for hundreds of trailers, restaurant service, and just about everything to cater to the wants of tourists and horsemen.

The reason why such a plant had not been in operation before in Florida, is that it is only recently that the State of Florida passed a law permitting pari-mutuel betting.

FLASH FROM ORLANDO

Here is a flash from Orlando, Florida, 175 miles from the season posted today by Pete Dailey's big two-year-old colt Pioneer Pick; his time was 2:25 1/4 - 1:10 1/4 - 34. Dailey also drove another two-year-old Spindle Top, in 2:28 1/4.

A quartet of two-year-olds in the Billy Houghton stable - Jan Hanover, Tammy Hanover, Next Pence and Hodge Podge finished noses apart in 2:29, with the final quarter in 32 1/2 and the last eighth in 15 1/2. Another colt in the Houghton stable, driven by Al Thomas, trotted in 2:30 1/4.

Up until the present news arrived, all the previous workouts in the Houghton stable seemed to be a second slower than those of some of the other trainers in Orlando, but Billy Houghton, as usual, has the goods and will probably beat the \$1,000,000 mark in earnings with his stable again this year.

SHOW PROMISE

One of the leading drivers in the U.S.A., Johnny Simpson, has some very promising two-year-olds that he is preparing for this year's stakes. He is also training at Orlando, but we haven't noticed anything to indicate that he has yet beaten 2:35.

Del Miller, who just recently returned from his European tour, where he drove Great Lullwater in the Prix d'Amerique, is getting down to business, and, according to a late issue of "The Harness Horse" he is brimming with wonderful yearlings and high praise for his graces welcome in the European countries. Unfortunately, the reported trip to Soviet Russia didn't materialize due to delays in obtaining visas, however Delvin saw the race tracks, met the horsemen and still managed to see and thoroughly enjoy the great art treasures of Europe.

"He reports that the sale of Great Lullwater to European interests is most probable, and that he is importing a pair of brood mares. Like everyone else, Del was greatly impressed with the French trotter, Jamin, winner of the international trot at Paris. But he was also pleased with Great Lullwater's fine performance over the long grueling course.

"Del drove several races there, wearing the owner's colors and the breeches and boots used on European tracks. He enjoyed racing there, and remarked that the penalties were few, that the drivers were skillful, and the spectators full of enthusiasm.

"Despite the barrier starts, fields were usually well away, and cases of interference were few."

JOE ELECTED

Dr. L. K. Grady, of 107 East Hastings Street, Vancouver 4, B. C., has very kindly sent us a clipping from the Los Angeles Times for February 4, which tells of the election of Joe O'Brien to the presidency of the Harness Racing Standardbred Breeders Association of California.

Joe will have a bill introduced in the California Legislature at an early date to permit night racing in California. The bill is backed by the Standardbred Breeders Association of California and many other responsible people. It will do away with the present law, which reads, in part:

"Horse racing shall be conducted during daylight hours." Dr. L. K. Grady is a nephew of the late T. B. Grady of Summerside, who was one of the founders of the Summerside race track, and acted as presiding judge in the famous race between Hernandez and Black Pilot, which took place in August, 1886, and brought the largest crowd to Summerside in the history of that town.

Mr. Grady was connected with the railway in Summerside, and messages were sent from the track to the telegraph office, and all over the island people were gathered in railway stations waiting for news of the race. The writer was present, as a boy of 10 years, enjoying the news and comments with hundreds of others in the station at Souris.

HIGH-WHEELED SULKIES

The racing was to high-wheeled sulkies, which were from eight to ten seconds slower than the modern "bikes". Hernandez won the first heat, but Black Pilot, driven by Billy Earle, won the next three heats and the race, with the best miles in 2:30 1/4, which was then a record for this province, and remained until the introduction of "bike" sulkies.

We had the pleasure of a visit from Don MacNeil, Summerside, P. E. I. one of our most capable reinmen. It will be remembered that Don and Harold Stead were both badly injured in an accident at Charlottetown track last season; neither was at fault. Don received a broken ankle and other injuries, but he is as keen as ever to get back on the sulky, and is at present making plans for training and driving a stable this year.

BUYS PACER

Jim Schurman of Summerside has bought a three-year-old old pacer from Lloyd Thompson, Crapaud. The breeding is excellent, the sire being True Hal 2:06, by Hal Dale 2:02 1/4, and the dam is Lady Thompson, by Lusty Risico 2:07 1/4; granddam Ariene Budlong, by Calumet Budlong 2:02 1/4.

Lady Thompson is the eleven-year-old mare that astonished the spectators at a recent ice racing meet on the North River Causeway by heading some of our fastest performers to the wire. We had a conversation afterwards with Mr. Thompson, and asked if he had given her much training. He said that her training consisted of being turned loose in a big field. When they started her up on the ice, she was going a bit "tumbly" and they solved the difficulty by putting on an extra pair of bell boots in front, and believe it or not - she was the top performer of the afternoon.

PLAN PROGRAM

With the start of the 1959 racing season not too far off, we understand that the Charlottetown Driving Park and Exhibition Association are planning an even better program than last year's.

Race secretary and classifier, E. Frank Acorn, has been busy for weeks programming and setting dates, purses, etc. It's a big job in comparison to the days of yore when he had only to figure on four afternoons of Old Home Week and the Goodwill Meet.

The introduction of night racing has changed the whole picture of harness racing all over the United States, the Maritimes, and Quebec. The horsemen of Ontario are greatly handicapped because the Legislature of that great province has not yet passed a law that will permit racing under the lights. Some say it is the biggest vested interest in the "runners" that is preventing night racing for harness horses. But it is bound to come.

Successful County Ice Meet Held At Local Sports Arena

Last evening at Sports Arena the third Queens County Inter-scholastic Ice Meet was run off in record time and in a most efficient manner by the competent group of experienced officials in charge.

Winners of first and second places in the events listed below have qualified to take part in next week's big Provincial Meet at the Sports Arena.

Girls 7 and under - 1. Elaine Bevan, Parkdale; 2. Margaret Gordon, Parkdale; 3. Ann Stevenson, Prince Street School.

Boys 7 and under - 1. Angus Beck, Prince Street School; 2. John Burke, Prince Street School; 3. Ken Dowling, Queen Square School.

Girls 8 years - 1. Joanne MacNiven, Prince Street School; 2. Bethany MacAleer, Central Royalty; 3. Terry Smith, West Kent School.

Boys 8 years - 1. Tommy Cullen, Spring Park; 2. Robert Stewart, West Kent School; 3. Paul Trainor, Queen Square School.

Girls 9 years - 1. Lillian Batt, West Kent School; 2. Brenda MacCarthy, Winsloe; 3. Cheryl Shelton, Prince Street School.

Girls 10 years - 1. Linda Stewart, Spring Park; 2. Mabel Taylor, P.S.S.; 3. Karen Johnston, W.K.S.

Boys 10 years - 1. Alan Flood, Spring Park; 2. Thane Burke, Prince Street School; 3. Bill MacKinnon, Spring Park.

Boys' half mile - 1. Frank Dow, Q.C.H.S.; 2. John Davis, Q.C.H.S.; 3. Derrill Doyle, Birchwood.

Boys 1/2 years - 1. Joe Brown, Parkdale; 2. David Campbell, Prince Street School; 3. Barry Turner, Prince Street School.

Girls 11 years - 1. Janet Matheson, North River; 2. Mary Lou Brown, Parkdale; 3. Michelle LaCasse, Notre Dame.

Boys 12 years - 1. Bobby Ford, Prince Street School; 2. John Irwin, Queen Charlotte High School; 3. Jamey Kennedy, Model School.

Girls 12 years - 1. Eileen Down, Central Royalty; 2. Linda Clark, Q.C.H.S.; 3. Joan



SEEK SUPPORT

Teams and leagues playing Allan Cup hockey in Canada are struggling to keep in business, and the once-prized trophy has lost much of its glamor. It still is the prize for the senior championship in Canada but the calibre of play, compared to the pre-war years and up to 1950, bear little resemblance.

President Bob Boston (left) of Sault Hockey Promotions, and club executive member Wib Muncaster use a horse and buggy in an effort to draw fans to watch the hometown Greyhounds at Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. (CP Photo).

Montague Rinks Battle Today For Legion Crown

Two Montague rinks skipped by Al MacDonald and George Nicholson, will battle this afternoon for the Legion championship and the right to represent this province at Lloydminster, Saskatchewan, next month in the Dominion playdowns.

The Montague Curling Club has won every Legion title since the inception of the Dominion Bopspiel three years ago.

In the fifth round last night, the Nicholson rink, with one loss defeated the Charlottetown rink skipped by Myron Bell, also with one loss, and eliminated from the competition.

Playing a close game at the same time were the two undefeated Montague rinks, trailing all through the game, the Nicholson rink started home in the twelfth end trailing four but were one rock short to tie the game and bowed out to MacDonald, still trailing one.

Murray Harbour Captures Title

Murray Harbour won the Intermediate "C" hockey title for Kings County at Montague when they defeated Summerville by the close score of 4-3, to take the best of three series in two straight games.

Murray Harbour took the lead in the first period when R. Munn and D. Stewart scored singles, R. McInnis netting one for Summerville.

The remaining goals were evenly divided between the two teams with N. Fraser and D. Wood singling for Summerville and R. MacPherson and W. Harris netting singles for Murray Harbour.

The winners will now meet the Prince County winners in the final round.

New Annan Nips Kensington 5-4

New Annan Beavers last evening edged Kensington Bombers 5-4 in the first game of a best of three series at Kensington.

New Annan, rated underdogs, not having won a single game during regular season play, have really caught fire, this being their seventh straight victory.

New Annan goal-getters were N. Kennedy, 2, G. Gallant, C. Mills, R. MacFarlane. Scoring for Kensington were J. Kennedy, 2, E. Mann and G. Reeves.

Referring to the game were G. Watson and E. Phillips.

Rovers Battle Bulldogs Tonight

Tonight at Crapaud Cape Traverse is at home to Nine Mile Creek Bulldogs in their second game of a best of five series for the Island Intermediate B hockey title. Bulldogs lead the series 1-0. A big crowd is anticipated for tonight's fixture which gets underway at 8:30. A bus will leave the Charlottetown bus stop carrying the players at 7 o'clock and any fans wishing to make the trip are welcome.

Y' Welshmen Are Winners

YMCA and PWC were winners in Island Senior Basketball action last night. YMCA downed second Saints 46-39 in a game played at the 'Y' and the Welshmen topped the league-leading Trotters 59-54 at Auld, Q.C.H.S.

Girls 1/2 mile - 1. Patricia Sherry, Birchwood; 2. Ruth Warren, Warren Grove; 3. Marjorie Bradley, Q.C.H.S.

Boys' mile open - 1. Frank Dow, Q.C.H.S.; 2. John Davis, Q.C.H.S.; 3. Aeneas Gallant, Birchwood.

Girls 13 years - 1. Gayle Johnston, Birchwood; 2. Kathy Kemp, Queen Charlotte High School; 3. Connie Whitlock, Queen Charlotte High School.

Boys 13 years - 1. Ray Frizel, Central Royalty; 2. Grant Coffin, Q.C.H.S.; 3. Jimmy McKenna, Birchwood.

Girls 14 years - 1. Aileen Kane, Birchwood; 2. Ann Cameron, Q.C.H.S.; 3. Bernadine MacDonald, Birchwood.

Boys 14 years - 1. Jimmy Cullen, Q.C.H.S.; 2. Gordon Full, Q.C.H.S.; 3. Gordon MacKay, Parkdale.

Girls 15 and over - 1. Patricia Sherry, Birchwood; 2. Sandra Lord, Q.C.H.S.; 3. Ruth Warren, Warren Grove.

Boys 15 and over - 1. Bill MacMillan, Q.C.H.S.; 2. Fergie Robertson, Q.C.H.S.; 3. Derrill Doyle, Birchwood.

Andrews Leads Milton Victory

With Fred Andrews scoring four goals Milton trimmed Fairvue 6-1 to tie up their best-of-five semi-final series at 1-1 in the race for the R.R. Bell Trophy at North River Rink Thursday.

Chandler and Ford fired the other Milton goals. Bruce Smith scored for Fairvue.

In an exhibition game Cavendish defeated Hampshire 4-2. Jit won with two and Dunning and Houston led the winners. Watts scored both for Hampshire.

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Aces Cop Series Opener; Edge Frizzell's Royals 2-1

The Summerside Aces defeated the Parkdale Royals 2-1 at Civic Stadium in Summerside last night before a crowd of over 1,000 fans. It was the first game in the best four out of seven series for the MAHA Intermediate "A" title of Prince Edward Island.

The Aces had to come from behind to win what turned out to be the hardest fought game.

Crapaud Midgets To Summerside

Crapaud Midgets travel to Summerside RCAF Station where they will do battle with RCAF Midgets in a friendly exhibition tilt.

Curling Practice Is Cancelled

The regular curling practices usually held on Saturday morning for the school-boys and girls have been cancelled. It was not known at a late hour last night just when these practices will again commence.

'Boom Boom' To Be Given Rest

MONTREAL (CP) - Bernie Geoffrion, Montreal Canadiens rightwinger who has been ailing, is to be given an immediate rest, the club announced Friday.

Geoffrion has complained for some time of groin pains. He met Friday with managing director Frank Selke and coach Toe Blake and it was agreed he needs time to recuperate. He will not be asked to play until he himself feels ready.

The Montreal Star says Geoffrion is suffering from a hernia, quiting him as saying he went to see a doctor Thursday night and that this doctor's diagnosis was confirmed by another physician Friday.

The Star said it is hoped Geoffrion is suffering from a hernia, that if one is necessary he is out of hockey for the season, including the playoffs.

LINEUPS

Parkdale Royals - Goal: Roper; Defence: Junior MacLeod, A. Perry, E. Wood, J. Duffy, K. Reedy; Forwards: Whitlock, Hennessey, O. Carver, A. Carroll, W. Dunn, W. Shepherd, J. MacLeod.

Summerside Aces - Goal: T. Mann; Defence: R. MacArthur, E. Reeves, Grant Grady, D. Williams; Forwards: B. Hoggatt, V. Harris, Duchéme, C. Grady, B. Grady, L. Clow, G. Ronohan, C. Gaudet, G. Deighan, J. Phillips.

SUMMARY

First Period: 1. Royals, Carroll (Shepherd) 10:18. Penalties - Williams, Carroll, C. Grady.

Second Period: 2. Aces, MacArthur (Howatt) 4:34. Penalties Wood, Williams, O. Carver, Ross (minor and misconduct), C. Grady, Wood.

Third Period: 3. Aces, Ronohan (Reeves) 9:44. Penalties - Wood, O. Carver, (Carroll).

QCHS Defeats Sum-Hi Twice

Queen Charlotte High School was host to Summerside High yesterday afternoon in hockey and basketball fixtures.

The QCHS hockeyists whitewashed Sum-Hi 8-0 in a hockey fixture at the Sports Arena. Billy MacMillan picked up 2 goals and four assists, Fergie Robertson 3 goals and 2 assists, with Biggar and G. Whitlock each scoring once.

In a girls' hoop fixture the local high school girls defeated Sum-Hi 19-11. Top sniper for Queen Charlotte was Marjorie Bradley with 12 points. Gail Gemmel picked up 6 points for the losers.

Summerside High boys' hoop squad romped to a 48-25 victory over Queen Charlotte. MacEachern racking up 29 points for the team from the Western capital. MacPadyen, Lee and Jardine each grabbed 7 points for Queen Charlotte.

Events of the Week

SPORTS ARENA

SATURDAY - Afternoon Skating 2:30 to 4:15

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BASKETBALL

S. D. U. vs. MT. A.

Saturday, Feb. 28, at 3.30 p. m.

THIS IS A CRUCIAL GAME, AS IT WILL DECIDE THE WINNER OF THE N. B. P. E. I. INTERCOLLEGIATE LEAGUE.

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Nominating Convention

The Progressive Conservative Nominating Convention for the Fifth District of Queens will be held on

THURSDAY, MARCH 5th, 1959 AT 7:45 P.M.

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