

DOWN THE BACK STRETCH

A survey taken by the Canadian Press of race tracks in Canada catering to the harness horses shows that it has become a multi-million dollar promotion. The trotters and pacers remain as popular as ever at the fairs, but the sport has also caught on in the big cities.

At tracks across the country, from Prince Edward Island to Saskatchewan, more money than ever is expected to pour through the betting machines this year. For the horse-owners and those who drive the two-wheeled sulks, there are fatter purses, and for the horses more stable room.

SWANK TRACKS
The province of Quebec is the hot-bed of harness racing, which will be active this season in every province excepting British Columbia, Alberta and Newfoundland. More specifically, it is Montreal, where two swank tracks last year handled almost \$50 million in betting. They are expected to increase to nearly \$60 million this year.

One of Montreal's tracks, Blue Bonnets Raceway, is also to become Canada's first to participate in \$250,000 Harness Tracks of America series for four-year-old pacers. This event is to be contested over the racing season on sixteen North American tracks. As its portion, Blue Bonnets track has scheduled a \$10,000-added event for its opening date on August 1st.

Ontario does not permit racing at night. When the Liberal Opposition in the last Legislature sought to have this legislation rescinded last March, their request was turned down. Explained Premier Frost: "Imported horses from Michigan and other States would be brought in by people who run the tracks in the United States, if night racing was permitted."

The picture in the provinces where there is harness racing is as follows:

QUEBEC
Richelieu Park, the other Montreal track, has 100 nights of racing scheduled before Blue Bonnets opens its 100-event card. Both tracks operate under the lights, apart from weekends when there is daytime racing. At each track, purses total more than \$1 million for the season, and \$500 on the average event. The feature race at Richelieu is the \$30,000 Beaver Pace for three-year-olds on June 20. At Blue Bonnets, it's the \$26,000-added Canadian Juvenile Pace on September 19.

With good weather, Blue Bonnets may expect \$30 million to be wagered this season, against \$24,500,000 during 1958, when twelve cards were rained out. Richelieu officials said the turnout to date indicates the betting will reach at least \$28 million this season, up from their 1958 figure of \$25,400,000.

In Quebec City, Quebec Raceways is looking for its 11th consecutive record year for wagering and attendance, with a 100-day program launched May 9th. Track officials said wagering is expected to hit \$10 million for the season, about \$1 million higher than last year. The total purse money has been upped to \$500,000 from \$450,000, with the average purse running from \$300 to \$450.

ONTARIO
Toronto's Woodbine Raceway has the province's only extended harness meeting, running from July 1st to August 26th, but there are one-day stands in more than 25 other centers between May 9th and October 12th.

The big event at Old Woodbine is the \$7,500-added Canadian Trotting Cup on August 22. In other centers purses usually total about \$1,500 for the day, and the average attendance is 4,000. The most popular tracks are: Sault Ste. Marie, and New Hamburg, near Kitchener.

Betting at these tracks amounted to less than \$6 million last year. Less than five percent of the horses that race in Ontario are United States owned.

NOVA SCOTIA
Officials at Sackville Downs, near Halifax, and Cape Breton Sports Center at Sydney, said the sports popularity has reached a new peak. The trend toward Maritime-bred horses has increased.

At Sackville Downs, the "Haligonian" a \$2,500 Stakes scheduled for late August or September for home-bred horses, has 34 entries. The track opened on May 18 on a twice-weekly basis, and after July 1st will operate three times a week until September. Track officials are shooting for a \$2 million take, and an attendance exceeding last year's average of about 3,000 nightly. Last year's wagering at Sackville Downs was \$1,600,000.

At the Cape Breton Sports Center, Turf Club secretary Jim Ferguson said there are so many new stables and horses that it is a problem to find drivers. They (the owners) all want to entrust their horses to experienced reinsmen. Track officials hope to do as well, or better, than 1958 when they handled \$600,000, an improvement of better than 200 percent compared with 1956.

In April, the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Commission took over operation of the race track at Truro, which had been leased to private interests for the last ten years. A twice-weekly program was launched May 18. It is expected that purses this season will reach \$60,000, and officials are hoping for an improve-

New York Still Recognizes Robinson As World Champ

By WHITNEY MARTIN
New York (AP) — Ray (Sugar) Robinson still is the middleweight champion in New York but it is unlikely he will defend his title against Carmen Basilio.

Both Robinson and Basilio heard Gen. Melvin Krulwich, New York Athletic Commission chairman, say Tuesday that the commission felt the champion will meet soon for the National Boxing Association version of the title which the NBA took from Robinson for idleness.

Robinson was elated, Basilio was "deeply disappointed," and in a prepared statement said if Robinson won't put his title on the line in New York State and refuses to sign any fair contract to fight any place else he would

accept the offer of the National Boxing Association to fight for the NBA championship outside the state.

WEEKS OF CONFUSION
The decision climaxes weeks of confusion over the status of the champion, who has not fought since winning the title from Basilio March 25, 1958. The NBA stripped Robinson of his title last month for failure to defend it.

Delays and postponements characterized a succession of New York hearings, with contracts signed by Robinson for a fight in Philadelphia having a major bearing on the case.

The commission finally decided to recognize a second Philadelphia contract between Robinson and a Philadelphia promoter, Sam Rose, signed May 12, 1959, and submitted May 21, although the deadline set for the turning in of a contract was May 15.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS MONCTON YARD TENDERS
Sealed tenders addressed to Mr. R. P. Puddester, Regional Chief Engineer, Moncton, N. B., will be received up to 2.30 P.M. Atlantic Daylight Time, Thursday June 25th, 1959 for construction of Main Electrical Energy Distribution System, Moncton Yard.

A complete set of plans, specification, form of contract, instructions to bidders and tender form may be obtained from the Regional Chief Engineer, Moncton, N. B., on and after June 4, 1959 by bona fide Contractors on the deposit of a certified cheque in the amount of One Hundred Dollars, payable to the Canadian National Railway Company. Deposit cheques will be returned when plans and specifications are returned to the Railway in good condition.

Sub-contractors and suppliers may view plans at the following offices of the Railway: — Regional Chief Engineer, Moncton, N. B. Terminal Superintendent, Saint John, N. B.

Tenders will not be considered unless submitted on the form supplied by the Railway and in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders. The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

D. V. GONDER, Vice-President and General Manager

Aaron, Harvey Haddix Tie For NL's Monthly Award

CINCINNATI (AP) — The hitting of Hank Aaron of Milwaukee Braves and the pitching of Harvey Haddix of Pittsburgh Pirates gave them a tie Tuesday for the National League's first player of the month award for 1959. The award covers play during May.

League president Warren Giles announced that Aaron and Haddix each received 17 votes from the 40-man committee of baseball writers and broadcasters who cover league games daily.

Only two other players figured in the voting. Elroy Face, the Pirates' relief pitching star, received four votes and two went to Johnny Logan, shortstop for the

Braves. Much of the support given Haddix came as the result of one game—the tilt with Milwaukee on May 26 when he pitched 12 consecutive perfect innings before losing in the 13th.

Howard Retains Boxing Crown
HALIFAX (CP) — Stockey Richard (Kid) Howard of Halifax stopped Jackie Hayden of Westville, N.S., at 1:13 of the eighth round here Tuesday to retain his Canadian lightweight boxing title. Howard weighed 134½, Hayden 134½.

The 30-year-old champion uncoiled a sizzling left hook to Hayden's jaw for the deciding blow of the scheduled 12-round bout. Hayden held a slight edge on the official score cards before the

plodding Howard caught up with him. There were no other knock-downs. Neither fighter was marked with the exception of a slight cut over Hayden's eye which occurred in the early seconds of the eighth round.

It was Howard's fourth win in five meetings with the 26-year-old challenger. And it was the third time they had met in a title fight with the Kid winning all of them.

Joe Brown, Rosi Tangle Tonight
WASHINGTON (AP)—Old Joe Brown, one of the slickest ring workmen in year, was a 3-1 favorite Tuesday to whip Paolo Rosi in his seventh lightweight title defense here tonight.

Promoter Goldie Ahearn looks for a crowd of 6,000 or so to pay \$50,000 or more to witness the capital's first championship bout in 18 years.

Win or lose, the 33-year-old Brown will get 40 per cent of the gate and the same share of a \$40,000 TV fee. Rosi signed for 20 per cent of the booty.

Both are expected to weigh within ounces of the 135-pound limit for the 15-round bout.

Rosi currently ranks third, behind Kenny Lane and Carlos Ortiz, among lightweight contenders. The Italian-born former hairdresser who now lives in New York's Bronx, is two years

younger than Brown but has little more than a third of the champ's experience under fire.

Rosi, a converted southpaw, has kayaked 13 of his 31 victims in 35 fights. A pesky tendency to cut on the brow accounts for the steep odds against him.

Rosi claims never to have been knocked off his feet. He has lost four and had one draw. Two of his defeats were TKOs, the result of cuts.

runs and drove in 31. Face appeared in 11 games for the Pirates and had a 5-0 record for the month plus several "saves."

Logan had a .394 batting mark in May.

Probable Pitchers
NEW YORK (AP) — Probable pitchers in today's major league baseball games (won-lost records in parentheses):

- American League: Washington at Cleveland (N)—Fischer (4-1) vs Scorp (5-2); Baltimore at Chicago — O'Dell (2-4) vs Pierce (5-1); New York at Detroit (N)—Terry (3-5) vs Lary (6-3); Boston at Kansas City (N)—Hoelt (1-4) vs Kucks (0-2).
- National League: San Francisco at Milwaukee (N)—Sanford (6-5) vs Buhl (3-3); St. Louis at Pittsburgh (N)—Mizell (6-1) vs Friend (1-7); Los Angeles at Cincinnati (N)—Williams (1-1) vs Pena (2-2); Chicago at Philadelphia (N)—Hillman (3-3) vs Owens (3-3).

PRACTICE
A baseball practice has been called for the Junior Abbies this evening at 5:30 at Memorial Field. All players are requested to attend this session.

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Robinson would receive 45 per cent of all revenues.
NOT CONSULTED
Basilio was not consulted, and that is the fly in the ointment. He wants to have something to say about terms.
Basilio, in his prepared statement, said he had been trying for 14 months to get Robinson into the ring, but that the cham-



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