

DOWN THE BACK STRETCH

We were delighted the other day to have a letter from our good friend S. Thane Belyea, Fredericton, N. B., whom so many horsemen will remember and who is really a mine of information concerning horses and horsemen of the past years and the present as well. Thane wanted to know if Joey Harvester is the fastest Maritime bred gelding for 1952. We replied that we did not have all returns in from race tracks but we are pretty sure that the honors go to Joey for his mile in 2:09 3/5 at Truro, Sept. 22nd, driven by Johnny Conroy. Following right on his heels is the four-year-old pacer Doctor J. A., that took a record of 2:09 4/5 at Fredericton, Sept. 1st, driven by Ray O'Brien. Thane states that George Woodside's mare, Linda W., had a filly foal on June 18th by Jolity 2:05 1/4 and he bred her back to N. D. Hal 2:01 1/2. The filly by Jolity has not been named as yet. In August Thane vacationed in New Hampshire and Maine and attended the races at Skowhegan, where Ralph Burrill, one of the racing greats of some thirty years ago, was a judge. He asked after everybody and particularly about Peter Conroy. Thanks, Thane, and we hope to hear more from you when you have a chance to write.

George Dewar, Charlottetown, has very kindly remembered us with an official program of Yonkers Raceway fall meeting for Thursday night, October 16th and this comment is penned on the 6th race which was the Gotham Trot at a distance of one and one-half miles, with a purse of \$25,000. "This was quite a race. The time was 3:09. The favorites, Yankee Hanover and Pronto Don, both broke and the 10-year-old bay gelding Chris Spencer, owned by Dunbar W. Eastwick, Shelburne, Vt., and driven by Jimmy Jordan, came on to win. It was his second win of a \$25,000 trot from the fastest trotters in the world this season." Our readers will perhaps remember that in this column we mentioned how Chris Spencer had been lame last season and it was not expected that he could get in condition to race this year but a new plan was adopted, that of swimming him daily until a few weeks before they started racing him. It worked and as mentioned by George, he defeated practically the same field of trotters at Roosevelt Raceway. The world's record for a mile and a half trot is held by Pronto Don.

Dufferin Race Track, Toronto, where winter meets have been held for over fifty years and where some of the greatest trotters and pacers in the world have performed, will open on November 15th. Only 225 horses can be quartered there for the 100 days race meet, but accommodation has been secured at Long Branch and Thorncliffe tracks for about 400 more. These horses travel back and forth in vans and are only twelve minutes away from Dufferin. Free vaning is provided and restaurants and blacksmiths are available at all places and the tracks are kept open for training. H. E. Wicks is secretary and he is one of the most versatile and experienced men connected with the sport. The writer first became acquainted with him in 1914 when we raced a stable at Dufferin. With us were Ernie McTague and Johnny Conroy. It was a winter I am sure none of us will forget. Many great horses were racing then and it was the first time we had ever seen a blacksmith make up the famous saw shoes, that were invented by him. They sold then at about \$14 a set but we presume it would cost \$20 or \$25 to buy a set today.

Last Thursday night Good Time 1:57 2/5 made his final appearance in the \$15,000 Invitational Pace at Yonkers Raceway. Just a few weeks ago at Lexington he

chalked up a world's record for pacers for two heats pacing—1:58 and 1:58 1/5. Good Time is the leading money winning pacer of all time with over \$300,000 to his credit and this season he has won over \$100,000 which is a record for one year's earnings by any pacer and he is the second horse in the world to ever win that amount in one season. The other was Sharp Note, the three-year-old trotter that won both the Hambletonian and the Kentucky Derby trots this year.

We notice where Scott Spencer, formerly owned by Harry Hirsch of Sydney, won a Classified A Pace at Quebec City track, racing in 2:13 1/5 and 2:11 2/5. The world's championship five mile race for a purse of \$2,000 was won by Sir Peter M with Billy Lou second, time, 11:56. Another winner at Quebec track was Westphal Girl by Calumet Duds, owned by Marrow Bros., Rimouski, time, 2:18 4/5. Westphal Girl was sold by George Turner, Dartmouth, to those parties a few weeks ago.

They race them tough in Ontario. On Wednesday the trotter Alan Chips, owned by Vernon Soper, won the 2:30 trot and pace at Simcoe with a summary of 2-1. On Friday he won the 2:18 trot with 1-1, time, 2:14, 2:13 2/5 and on Saturday won the 2:28 Trot and pace with 1-1, time, 2:15 3/5, 2:14 3/5.

A prominent horseman of this city was discussing with us the relative merits of the horses of years ago—prior to the three heat plan—and the present. He didn't believe that the horses we are racing now could stand up to the grueling contests that were held when horses had to go as many as five and six and occasionally seven heats to win. Of course they were not going as fast then but the tracks were much heavier. In Ontario they have a lot of the old breeding strains and they certainly have tough horses. Take for instance the one just mentioned, and Sir Peter M, winner of the five mile world's championship at Quebec. He was by Peter G., a horse that Ernie McTague will remember well as he was a winner over the ice very frequently and was by The Wolverine, a son of Peter the Great. Our opinion is that we do not train as hard as we used to. We went more miles in our early training and in that way conditioned a horse to race more heats and also to score a great many times.

And now we hear from Carl MacKenzie, Race Secretary Truro Raceway, Ltd., where racing was concluded on Thanksgiving Day, October 13th. Carl is very popular with the horsemen and goes to a great deal of trouble to make them feel at home and give them opportunities to race. We are pleased to know that they have had a successful season as the following will show. "Enclosed please find balance of score cards for this year. We had 39 meets and raced for \$65,300, which is \$10,050 more than in 1951. I am enclosing a few entry blanks for the Jolity Three Year Old Trot and Pace to be raced in 1955. I have sent out a lot but there may be many other owners who have not received them and I would appreciate if you would in your column mention that anyone wishing an entry blank will receive one if they will drop me a line. We have had a very successful year and the weather was grand all through the racing season. I wish through your column to thank all those who have contributed in any way towards making our race meetings a success and also to thank you for the racing information which you gave through Down the Back Stretch each week."

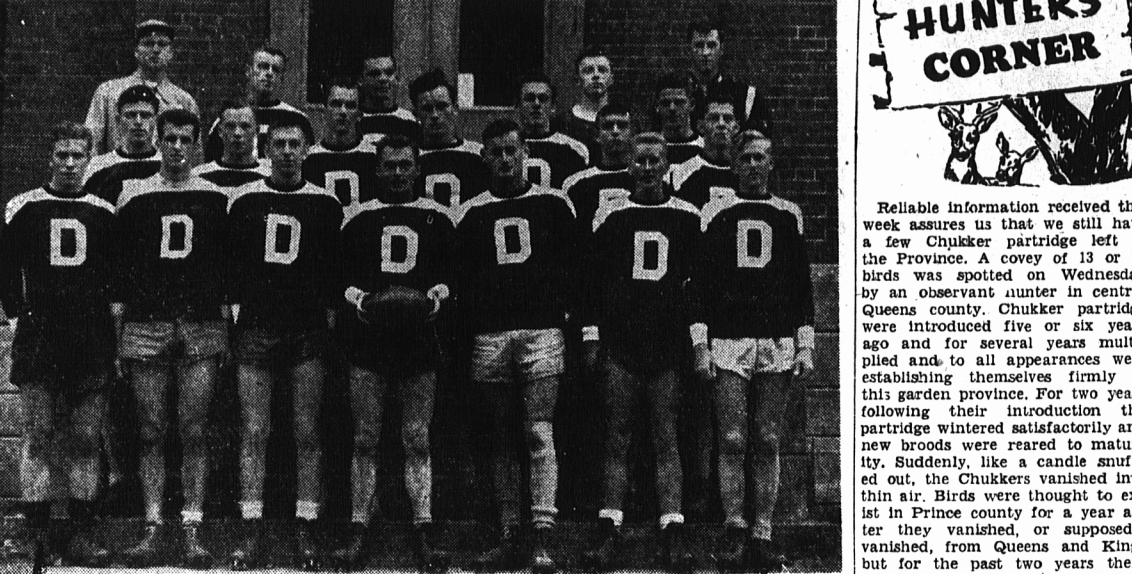
We are glad to note that our good friend P. J. Cadeagan of Glace Bay, owned by Lucky Chief 2:04 1/5 and other fast ones, was called to the Judges Stand by Presiding Judge Ken MacDougall last Friday night at the Cape Breton Sports Centre, and presented with the Cape Breton Turf Club trophy by Judges Joe Peck of Sydney Mines and George Henderson of Sydney. The grand old man of Cape Breton harness racing received a tremendous ovation. The trophy is in recognition of a new track record set up by Lucky Chief earlier in the season of 2:07 1/5, which bettered the old mark of 2:07 1/4 made by Chuck Worthy, owned by Harry Hirsch, in 1946.

That same evening Super Hal, owned by Harry Hirsch and driven by Rannie MacDonald and Lucky Chief driven by Joe MacDonald, met in a match race. It was a thriller but the Super Hal

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Saints Face Big Test; Meet St. F. X.



The St. Dunstan's University football team who will go out to do or die this afternoon against the powerful St. F. X. squad in what is expected to be the outstanding or one of the outstanding games of the football season. The game, which will be played on St. Dunstan's field, is a regular Maritime Intercollegiate contest and will get underway at 2:30. Reading from left to right the players in the front row are: Freddy Driscoll, Art Pendergast, Jackie Readon, Phil Coyle, Copy Gallagher, Paul Jay and Allan MacDonald. Middle row: Clarence MacDonald, Rodney MacInnis, John Mullally, Cy MacIsaac, Pete Dunphy, Lloyd Gaudet, Charlie Cheverie, Aquinas Ryan. Back row: A. J. MacAdam, coach, Ronnie McIvor, Joe Mullally, Bob Mooney, John Eldon Green, assistant coach. The Saints will go into this afternoon's game as co-leaders of the Maritime Intercollegiate League with Mount Allison. Each team has four points as the result of two wins and one loss. This marks the first time in probably two decades that the powerful Xaverians have fielded a football team in this province. Always a power-house in Maritime athletics the St. F. X. thirteen coached by Father Charlie MacDonald will be a strong team this afternoon. The Saints hold a 5-0 decision over the Xaverians as the result of a brilliantly played game on Memorial Field in Antigonish two weeks ago. The Xaverians arrived in the City yesterday so that they might be well rested for the game. Two of their players who were injured in early games will not be playing but otherwise their lineup is intact. The injured players are Bob Dixon and John D. Campbell. A Georgetown boy, Cullen DeJory will play with St. F. X. Cullen is a forward and is playing his first game of the season. The Saints will be at full strength for the important encounter. Phil Coyle's foot still bothers him slightly but Phil will be ready to go. The game will be handled by Gordon Bennett.

Abbies - Airmen Tangle In Football Game Sunday

The powerful Charlottetown Abbies and the well conditioned Summerside Air Force rugby teams will meet here Sunday afternoon in the second game of the Island Senior Football finals. The game will be played on Memorial Field and will get underway at 2:30. Fresh from their 3-0 win over the airmen last Saturday the Abbies will go into tomorrow's battle with confidence. That confidence does not border on anything like cockiness however as the Abbies know from experience that they will have to fight every inch of the way in order to defeat the airmen. They gained that experience last Saturday. After scoring a try in the first half the Abbies had to withstand a determined Air Force attack in the last 30 minutes and at times the airmen came close to tying the score. The Abbies have worked hard this week in order to be ready for the big game. They have had practise sessions each morning at six o'clock so that they might be in top shape. The airmen, most of whom are soccer players, are in excellent condition. They are big and fast and use their feet to good advantage. Last Saturday they showed a good half-line both offensively and defensively. The Abbies lineup will be practically the same as that which was used last week. They have one addition in Sonny Stull, a scrum heeler. No admission will be charged to the game. The team however has a lot of expenses to meet and they would appreciate a good donation from the fans.

Local Ladies' Curling Club Holds Meeting

Many improvements to the ladies' club rooms in the Charlottetown Curling Club were discussed at a well attended meeting held Wednesday evening in the Club House. The president, Mrs. W. R. MacNeill, presided. Mrs. Dockendorf gave a financial statement which showed the net proceeds of the Flower Show and Tea to have been most satisfactory. Miss Duchemin reported that Club pins are on order, and the sample table ordered was on display. Improvements to be made to the Club Rooms are: an archway to be made between the main rooms, and a partition to be erected in the dressing room. It was also decided to assist the Men's Club in the purchase of additional tables for the Banquet Hall. Special plans were made for the holding of a White Elephant Sale at the Club in the near future in the hope of raising funds to defray the cost of the proposed improvements. In all, it would look as though the ladies are really ready to go before the roarin' game is the order of the day!

Hockey Scores

By The Canadian Press
Maritime Major
Charlottetown 4 Sydney 2.
OHA Junior A
Marlborough 3 St. Mike's 9.
Oshawa 6 Quebec 5 (overtime).
OHA Senior A
Owen Sound 3 Brantford 5.
O.H.A. Junior A
St. Catharines 3, Barrie 2
Windsor 3, Kitchener-Waterloo 3 (tie).

L. Y. C. And Keefe's Win In Bowling

The Liguorian Youth Club and Keefe's won the opening games of the City Candlepin Commercial League in games played at the Roll-Away Alleys last night. The L. Y. C. defeated the Guardian Angels five points to none while Keefe's defeated the Woolmen four points to one. The L. Y. C. had a total pinfall of 1298 against 1231 for the Guardian. Keefe's had a pinfall of 1257 against 1240 for the Woolmen. Allan Shephard had high three and high single in the L. Y. C. Guardian game. His high single was 105 and high three 299. George Kays with a three game total of 306 and a single game of 112 was high in the Keefe's-Woolmen competition.

Too Late To Classify

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WANTED - BATTERY RADIOS in exchange for electric models. Firestone, Bryenton and MacKay.

Islanders In Second Place After 4-2 Win Over Sydney Millionaires

SYDNEY, Oct. 24 (CP)—Charlottetown Islanders slipped into second place in the Maritime Major Hockey League tonight before Sydney Millionaires 4-2. It was the second time this week Islanders downed Millionaires. Murph Chamberlain's boys presented a stout defence with goalie Don Campbell coming up with some nice saves. The Dollarmen didn't flash the fighting display they showed in their home debut when they edged Miners 3-2. A group of holdovers looked after the scoring honors for Islanders. Bob Gray, an ex-Millionaire, for the second straight time started the scoring against his old mates. Centre Hub Beaudry added a pair and Islanders' fastest frontliner, flashy Jimmy MacKenzie notched the final goal in the last period, on a nice dash from the Province. A covey of 13 or 14 birds was spotted on Wednesday by an observant hunter in central Queens county. Chukker partridge were introduced five or six years ago and for several years multiplied and to all appearances were establishing themselves firmly in this garden province. For two years following their introduction the partridge wintered satisfactorily and new broods were reared to maturity. Suddenly, like a candle snuffed out, the Chukkers vanished into thin air. Birds were thought to exist in Prince county for a year after they vanished, or supposedly vanished, from Queens and Kings but for the past two years there was no definite sign that any existed in the western section of the province. The description furnished by this young hunter fitted the Chukkers exactly but it was the way the covey acted that convinced this columnist we still have the real thing with us. The markings of Chukker partridge are very distinctive, red legs and beak with prominent black, or dark markings on wing, shoulders and head. They were also described as steel gray in colour, slightly larger than Huns and ran swiftly in a zig zag manner. They would run a hundred yards, fly a short spurt, and run some more. I was informed that another member of the hunting party tried to spring within shotgun range but he finished a very poor second. Last year a covey of birds that could have been Chukkers was reported in Kings county and the same report has cropped up in the same general section of Kings just recently. Introduced species have a habit of seemingly doing well for a couple of years and then dropping out of sight for a few years. This occurred in the State of Washington where Chukkers were introduced a number of years ago. After several seasons without a single report of the existence of any of the introduced species the planting was put down as a total failure. Suddenly coveys appeared, seemingly coming from nowhere, and today, and for several years past, there has been an open season on Chukkers. Just where the birds hid themselves in the interim is a mystery to the sporting fraternity. Maybe our Chukkers have undergone their period of acclimatization and are with us to stay if hunters give them the protection necessary for them to gain a foothold. Our Ring-necked pheasants see-sawed back and forth for quite a few years before they broke out into the clear and now there is apparently no halting their spread. From time to time I have received reports of coveys of birds that were neither pheasants, Huns or Ruffed grouse. The observers put them down as Prairie Chicken. Methinks, if they were correct in their assertion that the birds were neither of the three well known upland game species that exist at the present time, that they were Chukkers and not the Western Prairie Chickens introduced roughly 10 years ago. The chickens are too trusting, particularly during the winter months, and are ready game for the poacher. The "Chicken" were doomed at the start to failure to become established even if they were suited to this province. At Orwell Cove, the year following their introduction, two gunners wiped out a flock of 17. To be exact they shot 16. A farmer in the district started over to where the shooting was taking place and the "poachers" decamped in a hurry. They originally blasted the flock on the ground. The survivors flew into a nearby woods and alighted on trees and the two game hogs methodically combed the wood and shot them out of the trees. They probably would have shot the seventeenth member except for the farmer's intervention. The lone

Ezzard Charles Hammers Out 10-Round Decision

NEW YORK, Oct. 24 (AP)—Swinging viciously from the opening bell, a grimly-determined Ezzard Charles hammered out a one-sided 10-round decision over game, strong Cesar Brion of Argentina in a bout tonight at Madison Square Garden. Brion, a 5-to-1 underdog, outweighed the former heavyweight king, 196 3-4 to 186 1-2. Charles went gunning for a knockout from the start and although he handed the Argentine husky a fearful pasting, he couldn't bring Brion down. He opened a cut over Cesar's left cheekbone and hurt him several times but the strong, 25-year-old South American just wouldn't surrender. There was no doubt what the decision would be. Referee Ruby Goldstein scored for Charles 7-2-1 while the two judges, Harold Barnes and Joe Agnello, both had the Cincinnati Negro in front, 7-3. The AP scorecard had Charles the winner 8-2. Brion won the third round when he bulled Charles all over the ring, using his 10 1/4 pound weight to good advantage. He was awarded the eighth when the referee took the round away from Charles for a low left.

180 Canadians Draw Tickets In Irish Sweepstakes

DUBLIN, Oct. 24 (CP)—Tickets for 180 Canadians were plucked from a big drum yesterday for the 76th Irish Hospital sweepstakes and its prizes totalling \$5,721,452, it was announced today. At least one Canadian, a resident of Toronto identified by the nom de plume "Chookie," drew a ticket on the favorite—Cap of Gold. Tickets were drawn yesterday by Irish hospital nurses. A total of 2,510,666 tickets was sold for this sweep, which is based on the Cambridgehire Handicap next Thursday over the Newmarket course in England. Names of ticket holders are not announced; only noms de plume are given. Odds have been quoted on 18 other horses given a chance to win the race and the hopes of Canadians for big sweepstakes money will ride on 14 of them. The horses are Brunetto and Nickey Nook (20 to 1), Valdesco (22 to 1), Stranger and Fleeting Moment (28 to 1), Antricley, Longstone, King Cardinal, Kriss Kringle and High Principle (33 to 1), H.V.C. and Sunny Brae (40 to 1), Cock of the North and Mehmander (50 to 1). There were no odds on other horses on which Canadians have tickets. Some of them are non-starters. There will be 33 big prizes, including 11 of \$140,000 each for those who have tickets on the winner. A ticket on the second-place horse will bring \$56,000 and

about \$1,200. (There were no names with a Prince Edward Island address).

GRAND FINALE

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—AND—

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SYDNEY - vs - ISLANDERS

FORUM - Monday, October 27th - 8:30

SALE OF SEATS—

TODAY - SATURDAY - 9 TO 6
MONDAY - UP TO 2 P.M.
ALL REMAINING SEATS—MON. 2 P.M.

A THRILLER—
All who saw these teams in the last game will know another corker is coming up.