DOWN THE BACK STRETCH

It was a pleasant surprise to the many friends and admirers of Joe O'Brien to read the despatch released by the United States Trotting Association, Hartford, Conn., that Joe had topped all drivers in the Association's domain in the United States and Canada with 128 winning heats to his credit, 14 in the Maritimes and 84 at Bay State Raceway, Foxboro, Mass. In second place was Levi Harner of Bloomsburg, Pa., with 115 heats or dashes to his credit. Harry Fitzpatrick of Charlestown, Ill., who raced the million dollar stable of E. J. Baker, was top money winning driver with $133,305, and Sep Palin of Indianapolis was next best with $121,302. Interesting to Canadians is that Clint Hodgins who hails from Ontario was fifth in the money winning department with $74,629. No doubt Joe's great success in the night racing at Foxboro had considerable to do with his being engaged by Sep Palin as second string driver and trainer for the Castleton Farm stable. The largest stakes—$25,000 affairs trotting and pacing—are raced under the lights with the exception of the $50,000 stakes raced at Santa Anita, California, and the Hambletonian raced at Goshen, N.Y. Joe has shown that he is right at home piloting trotters or pacers under the lights and we will likely see several of the Castleton Farm horses taking part in the big invitation races over tracks like Roosevelt Raceway next season.

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A valued reader, Daniel F. Hughes, of Jamaica Plains, Mass., writes us asking the name of the first horse to trot or pace a mile in 2.40 over an Island track and what date. We have gone back as far as our limited library of harness horse lore permits and have not been able to find an answer to the question, but perhaps some of our readers will give it to us. Another question was what was Dean Swift's mark if he had any and who owned him? Dean Swift's record, I believe, was in the vicinity of 2.35 and he was owned by Robert Fitzsimmons of Long River. Of course in those days the high sulky was used which was anywhere from four to eight seconds slower than the bike. The tracks were not the parlor affairs they are now, very little care being taken of them and no one wanted a fast record because time was the method used for classifying horses. Dean Swift was a wonderful sire in his day and generation and looking over the summaries of the 1890's we find that his get was very prominent. Concluding his letter Mr. Hughes wishes to be remembered to his friend Well McNeill.

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S. Thane Belyea writes that he was down to Gagetown last week on a visit to his friend H. W. S. Allingham and was shown his new purchase, Starlight Direct by James R. Braden, dam, May Spencer, the dam of Spencer Scott 1.57¼. He is a brown horse weighing about 1,100 lbs. and looks like a good one. Mr. Allingham intends to race him over the ice this winter and get him ready for early campaigning next season. He is also wintering a horse—E. L.—for Gilbert Hart, St. John. E. L. is sired by Full Worthy and his dam is Myra Harvester that was raced with such success by Billy Keyes, St. Stephen. Mr. Allingham likes this horse very much, says he can trot fast and should make a great fun horse or ice horse this winter.

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The Maryland Racing Commission which governs the thoroughbreds or runners in that state, took vigorous action recently against two horsemen responsible for the death of the runner Saguaro at Laurel, Maryland, two weeks ago. The owner Frank Buchler, who fired rock salt from a shotgun into the hind quarters of the poor beast, and the trainer Morris Peters who took a hand in the brutal method of trying to cure him of the habit of breaking slowly from the starting gate, have been ruled off the turf for life. The testimony revealed that Don Fay, a jockey hired by Bulcher to ride Saguaro, was wounded in the calf by a charge of rock salt when the shotgun was fired towards the horse. Fay thereupon was relieved of his job and received $10. for his pains after which a sandbag was used in the speed-improving experiments. With the sandbag strapped to him in lieu of a jockey, Saguara was so scared at the rock salt treatment that he broke loose and dashed against the railing breaking a leg. Chairman Hanny said that an appropriate accompaniment to the ruling off would be a charge of rock salt fired into the posterior regions of the renegade horsemen to speed their journey into exile.

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Everybody's striking these days but only once or twice have we ever heard of a Horsemen's strike. One occurred in Toronto and there was another one a few days ago at Hollywood, Florida Gulf Stream race track. In both cases it was the owners of the runners that put up a kick. They are asking for minimum purses of $2,500 at the winter resort. The track announced some time ago that the minimum would be $2,000. The strike was still on at last reports.

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Few men have ever made a success—or at least a lot of money—buying and selling horses. John E. Madden was an exception. Starting out in life he was a professional sprinter, a sport which was very popular in the 1880's. The winner of the Sheffield handicap in England was brought over to race against him. Madden disposed of him in quick order and intstead of continuing on in the sprints tossed away his spike shoes and went over to the horses. Early in life he decided never to sell a good horse to a poor man. That axiom brought him thousands. The success of the horses sold by him also gave him such a reputation for winners that the wealthy made a beaten path to his door. He had remarkable insight as to form and future greatness. He owned an interest in Robert McGregor, the "monarch of the home stretch," when he sired the future world's champion Cresceus 2.02½. He selected the Kentucky Futurity winner Silico 2.03¼ as a yearling and bred the great stake winner Periscope 2.02½ and Guess Work 2.02¼.

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But perhaps it was to Hamburg Belle that he devoted the greatest attention and the meticulous care with which she was trained for her match race with Lee Axworthy showed that nothing was overlooked. That race she won, setting up a world's trotting record

Continued on page 9

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SPORTING NEWS

Ray's Millionaires and Prince of Wales will provide the entertainment for basketball fans tonight when the two fast stepping teams meet in an exhibition encounter at the Prince of Wales Auditorium that may provide far more action than is generally expected.

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It is a well known fact that the Millionaires have eyes on the City League title at present held by the Navy squad; it was one of the things they had in mind when the squad was formed, and in games they have played to date it has been evident that they are going to prove plenty tough to dispose of.

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However, Saints and a rapidly improving Navy team have already given the Millionaires a couple of stiff battles that augurs well for a hotly contested league once the schedule gets underway, and now comes along Walter Goss's college squad who, although not yet entrants in the City League have showed flashes of form that have been surprising to say the least.

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It was just a matter of a couple of weeks or so ago in a practice match that Prince of Wales were barely nosed out by the Millionaires in the last few minutes of play and ever since that time game followers have been anxious to see the two teams in a regulation match. That wish will be granted tonight and if the Collegians can show the same effort again, Millionaires should be in for a tough struggle.

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When the juvenile hockey league schedule gets underway here this season one of the entrants will be a squad from Prince of Wales College and it will mark the first time that a team from that institution has been entered in a minor league.

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The reason is easily apparent. In addition to giving more of the students a chance to play hockey the minor league will also prove a training ground for future senior squads. Take this year for instance. Only three of last year's players were available for the senior team and the newcomers who made their appearance were at least a year away from fast company.

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The result was that former P.W.C. players had to be called upon in order to ice a team strong enough for City League warfare. Apparently the only remedy to avoid a recurrence in future years was the sponsoring of a juvenile outfit that would ready players for faster company, and the idea was immediately acted upon.

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The move shouldn't take long in obtaining results. Every year there is a wealth of hockey material to be found entering College. Many of them are unavoidably overlooked but now with the entry into juvenile competition assured for the future it should mark a new era in Prince of Wales hockey history and perhaps, like St. Mary's of Halifax, be the first step toward attaining future Maritime hockey prominence.

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Announcement that Montreal Canadiens of the National Hockey League were after the services of "Buck" Whitlock, starry centre ice ace and leading scorer of the Big Four Hockey League, will occasion no great surprise here for the local player has been turning in such performances that in many of the fans' minds it was considered only a matter of time before pro offers would be dangling before his eyes.

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Evidently that time has now arrived and Whitlock's decision on the matter will be watched closely. Should he accept, Moncton Hawks' hopes will receive a bad blow but nevertheless the big following the same Whitlock has here and all around the Big Four circuit would be pulling strongly for the rugged centre ice star to make good. He certainly has all the qualifications and under the expert coaching he would receive he shouldn't have very much trouble in making the grade.

Continued on page 9

Kid Howard Wins Decision Over Paris

-HALIFAX, Dec. 12 —(CP)—Dick (Kid) Howard of Halifax tonight won a split decision over Percy Paris of New Glasgow, N.S., in a 10-round bout billed for the Maritime lightweight championship. Howard, claimant of the title, weighed 129; Paris 132 1-2.

The fight was fast and rugged and so close that referee Roy Chisholm scored five rounds even. Judge Harold Garrison marked his card six rounds for Howard, two for Paris and two even, Judge A.E. Ettinger voted five for Howard, two for Paris and three even. Chisholm gave three rounds to Paris and two to Howard.

The champion tried for an early knockout but Paris stood up under it. There were no knockdowns although the referee counted one when the New Glasgow fighter went through the ropes in a melee.

The champion's best round was the eighth when he staggered Paris with a whistling right. Paris was unmarked throughout the bout but Howard suffered a cut over one eye.

In a series of four-round preliminaries, all won by decisions, Bob Murphy, 112, defeated Donny Maxwell, 110; Rockie Keating, 122, defeated Dale Cormier, 122 1-2; Keith Paris, nephew of Percy, 126 1-2, defeated Jimmy Steeves, 126; Harold Borden, 162, defeated Ossie Farrell, 162 1-2.

Montrealer Wins In Maine Scrap

BRUNSWICK, Me., Dec. 12 —(AP)—Jerry Lavigne, 119, Montreal fighter, scored a technical knockout over Paul Herrick, 118, of Portland tonight when a cut eye forced Herrick to suspend battle after two rounds of a scheduled eight round bout.

Down The Alleys

HOLY NAME ALLEYS

Ladies Friday Afternoon League

Team No. 1—			
H. Montgomery	174	169	176
G. Barbour	181	106	148
B. Howatt	121	98	136
B. Roper	121	172	148
M. Brady	171	202	128
	768	747	736
Points—5.			
Team No. 2—			
M. Matheson	127	141	113
N. MacDonald	163	187	189
G. Bagnall	187	125	141
A. Cameron	76	199	101
E. Haszard	113	67	72
Points—4.			
Team No. 3—			
J. Rogerson	174	148	130
D. MacDonald	137	162	169
L. Bearisto	122	94	145
D. MacDonald		112	123
M. Weir	109	90	132
	663	606	697
Team No. 4—			
E. MacDonald	129	155	156
M. MacNeill	93	121	140
J. MacDonald	118	131	133
F. MacKenzie	129	132	115
B. Saunders	117	85	162
	586	624	707

Points—1.
High single M. Brady 202.
High three N. MacDonald 539.

K. of C. Bowling

Shamrocks:—			
L. Butler	188	164	142
I. Berrigan	121	177	151
A. Curley	158	130	150
L. Murnaghan	214	213	204
C. Trainor	141	145	159
J. Durant	166	143	105
Total—2871.			
Canadiens:—			
H. Gaudet	177	151	171
M. R. MacGuigan	193	143	202
L. Doyle	194	155	165
C. Gaudet	272	146	150
W. Murray	158	199	161
H. Power	166	130	105
Total—3038.			

High single C. Gaudet 272.
High three L. Murnaghan 629.
Points: Shamrocks 1 1-2; Canadiens 3 1-2.

Thistles:—			
E. Doucette	250	148	210
R. St. John	159	161	175
A. MacDonald	282	202	105

Continued on page 9

Habs Reported To Have Eye On Whitlock

MONCTON, N.B., Dec. 12—(CP)—The far-reaching hand of the National Hockey League once again is being extended in the direction of Maritime Big Four senior hockey, it was learned here today with an announcement that Montreal Canadiens have eyes and designs on Buck Whitlock, outstanding forward of Moncton Hawks and leading scorer of the Big Four loop.

No definite action has yet been taken by the deadly sharp-shooter. If it means play with a professional farm club across the border, it was intimated chances are that Whitlock would prefer to complete the season's schedule here.

The popular Hawk star declared today he would seriously consider acceptance but so far he had not signed on the dotted line. Whitlock has been tagged as Big League material and it would appear that his play in senior hockey here is drawing to a close.

Loss of Whitlock would be a hard blow for the Moncton team which now is second in league standings.

Ike Williams Wins Decision From Pellone

NEW YORK, Dec. 12 — (AP)—Ike Williams, sharp-punching lightweight champion from Trenton, N. J., gave Tony Pellone of Greenwich Village a savage beating in a 10-round non-title bout tonight at Madison Square Garden, nearly stopping the rugged welterweight in the closing rounds. The decision of the officials was unanimous. Williams weighed 133 3-4, Pellone 145 1-4.

Pellone was a sad sight toward the end of the one-sided fray, bleeding from eye, nose and mouth and sustained only by his fighting heart. Williams, who entered the ring a 5-11 favorite, tried to measure his heavier opponent repeatedly in the ninth and 10th rounds but couldn't put him down.

Two of the three officials, referee Frank Fullam and Judge Joe Agnello, gave Williams all 10 rounds. Judge Harold Barnes thought Pellone deserved two rounds, the first and third, but gave the other eight to the Negro champion. The Associated Press score card showed eight rounds for Williams, one for Pellone and one even.

A crowd of 12,089 paid $55,114 to witness the affair.

From the fifth round on it was only a question of whether Pellone, who has been regarded as a comer in the welterweight division could weather the storm of blows rained on him by Williams.

The weather man played havoc with the gunners this shooting season and many sportsmen are feeling rather abused over the way things turned out. A few days after the season closed high winds with snow flurries set in ... real duck weather. Reports seeping in indicate that the odd shooter yielded to temptation and took a chance on a duck dinner contrary to regulations. At any rate there were plenty of chances to fill the game bag.

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The freezing temperatures with snow started the wildgeese moving southward and several fairly heavy flights were reported. In one sector approximately 150 geese came in from the Nor'west in three separate flocks and started to feed in the stubble fields in the vicinity. They didn't linger long and methinks there probably was a cause for their short stay.

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The weather this fall was exceptional and under the circumstances no fault can be found with those who had a hand in setting the season. The way the weather man jumbled things up neither the early fair weather gunners or the exponents of the late November shooting fared very well. Its a certainty that more ducks would have been shot if the season had have opened on October 1st. Anyway it was a great saving of ducks and geese which will work out to the benefit of all in the end.

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Judging by the number and size of Hun covey's that showed up since the snow came, the open season didn't bother them too much although the kill was the heaviest on record this past shooting season. At that I don't think the take was in excess of 10 per cent. of the Huns present in the province on September 29th. This columnist has observed several covey's this month that held from 22 to 23 birds ... all in prime condition. It is to be hoped that this coming winter will be on a pattern after the last one. If this is the case we'll see Hungarian partridge shooting such as has never before been experienced.

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Fox hunters have been having good sport and a considerable number of the wily reds have been shot over the hounds. The average fox can look after himself quite nicely as far as traps are concerned, but a good hound puts him at a disadvantage. They learn fast however and if not bagged on the first day he is run, he is proportionately harder to shoot after each succeeding encounter.

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The quarterly meeting of the P.E.I. Fish and Game Association held on the evening of December 5th was attended by considerable

Truro Bearcats Win From Saint John 5-4

TRURO, N.S., Dec. 12 — (CP) — Truro Bearcats lengthened their Maritime Senior Hockey League lead over Moncton Hawks to five points tonight by edging Saint John Beavers 5-4.

Despite the fact that two Saint John stick handlers, Vic Jackson and Nick Nicolle, were the stars of tonight's game getting three of Beavers' four goals, Saint John slipped into the League's cellar.

In the cleanest game on Truro ice this season, Bill Kearns drew the only penalty.

A listless first period provided little action with the exception of a smart Truro goal snapped in by Wilson on a pass from Ab McKinnon.

The crowd of 600 was the smallest attendance at any Truro game this season and it was learned that sponsors of the Bearcats intend to discontinue broadcasts of Truro games because so many Truro supporters remained home.

SUMMARY

First Period
1—Truro, Wilson (MacKinnon) 4:50
Penalties — None.

Second Period.
2—Saint John, Nicolle (Jackson) 0:27
3—Saint John, Nicolle (Wade) 1:56
4—Truro, Wilson (McDonald, Beaulieu) 11:36
5—Truro, MacDonald (Wilson) 12:07
6—Truro, Barkwell (Robertson, Roach) 16.44
7—Truro, Barkwell (Medynski) 18:05
Penalty — Kearns.

Third Period.
8—Saint John, Jackson (Nicolle) 10:23
9—Saint John, Allen (Price) 16:57
Penalties—None.

Louis Says June Fight To Be Last

NEW YORK, Dec. 12 — (AP) — Joe Louis, who has announced his intended retirement several times, said today "my fight next June definitely will be my last." Louis won the heavyweight crown in 1937 and has defended it 24 times.

Louis added that his June bout is not necessarily with Jersey Joe Walcott, Camden, N.J., who lost a split decision to the champion a week ago.

"Don't forget that Gus Lesnevich, the light heavyweight champion, also still is in the picture," Louis said at a press conference in the office of the 20th Century Sporting Club.

Regarding his coming retirement, Louis said only "that I have been around long enough. I have had enough."

Gene Tunney is the last heavyweight to have retired.

Jackie Robinson Plans Tour As Referee

LOS ANGLES, Dec. 12 — (AP) —Baseball star Jackie Robinson is going on the wrestling circuit, but only as a referee.

The California Athletic Commission granted the Negro athlete a licence today and promoter Cal Eaton announced that Robinson would make his debut here next Wednesday.

Robinson, brought up last season to Brooklyn of the National League from Montreal Royals of the International League, will work the added-attraction match between Sandor Szabo and Dutch Hefner. He will continue to referee this winter in Southern California.

New Parachute For Fast Planes

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12 —(AP) —A parachute which "blows its top" under stress has been developed by the United States Navy as a means for airplane pilots to bail out safely at 500 miles an hour, the Naval Aviation News said today.

Conventional parachutes are designed to withstand the opening strain of speeds up to only 250 miles an hour, much too slow for a jet pilot in a jam at low altitude.

The new one has a top panel which fits the canopy like a cap, held in place by elastic cords. Under heavy opening stresses the cap lifts and allows air to spill out. As the jumper's speed lessens, the elastic cords pull the cap back into place.

STILL IN USE

The modern pen had its origin in the reed or calamus, which is still used in the East.

fire works. Time and space does not permit a proper coverage on this occasion but a full account will be given at a later date.

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Farmers are reporting seeing numerous tracks of Ruffed grouse (Native partridge) in their woodlots since the snow came and in some instances saw the birds themselves. It is to be hoped that they will be allowed to winter in peace.

Ottawa Team To Play Here

St. Patrick's School junior squad from Ottawa will be seen in action at the Forum the latter part of December or the first week in January against an all-star squad from the City League, Manager Charlie Archer stated last night.

Appearance here of the high class Ottawa junior team will coincide with a Maritime tour the squad are making during the Christmas holiday season. They have games scheduled with St. Mary's juniors of Halifax and also a couple of encounters lined up in New Brunswick.

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