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SPORTING NEWS

DOWN -The- BACK STRETCH

Quite a number of horses have changed owners in the past week. Lady Hal 2.11¼, formerly owned by Milton Bell of this city, has been sold by Marshall Govang of Moncton to Wilbur Jardine, Chatham, N.B. Locally Rollie Wood, Southport, has brought in five well known campaigners purchased from Maritime owners. They are Robert Baldwin p. 2.13¼; Earl's Prince Charming 2.10; Archie Lee 2.18; Val Grattan and Phil Mercury. Several of these horses will be good in their class for the Island circuit next season and all of them should be good over the ice.

♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

A horse that has been attracting a lot of attention lately is Anti-Aircraft 2.03, winner of so many Free For Alls during the past season. Since being let up on he has filled out and shows evidence of the great care being given him by Austin Tierney.

♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

The many friends of Fred J.E. Wright, Summerside, will be glad to know that he is recovering nicely from an attack of pneumonia which laid him up for over a month. Mr. Wright reports that the Prince Edward Island Harness Racing Club futurity stakes which will be raced in 1947 have filled splendidly. There are 18 nominations in the Two-Year-Old Stake, 25 in the Three-Year-Old and 24 in the Four-Year-Old.

♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

Leonard Barrieau of Centre Acadia has an excellent farm and some years ago decided that he would breed trotters and pacers. With that in view he secured two splendid stallions, Protestor 2.10, and Federal p., 2.01¾, t. 2.07½, also some standard bred registered brood mares with fast records. As a result he is producing colts and fillies that are equal to any in size, manners and speed inheritance to those bred anywhere. A visitor to his farm recently said all the colts looked good. He will have two three-year-olds ready for the races in 1947 and both are entered in the P. E. I. futurities.

♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

Recently he sold the yearling filly Rosie Volo to John Ranarth, Sackville, N.B. She is by Protestor 2.10 by Protector 3, 1.59¼, dam, Volo Ray 2.05 by Volomite 2.03½. Our correspondent said that Federal looks awfully well and everyone believes he will make an outstanding sire. It is Mr. Barrieau's purpose to have him available for outside mares this coming season. Readers will remember that Federal was one of the best pacers in New England when in the stable of Sullivan and Mawhinney some years ago.

♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

The brood mare Jeanne Truax is safe in foal to Protestor 2.10 and Mr. Barrieau's three other mares, Volo Ray 2.05, Leah Guy 2.04½, and Elsie Louise 2.11 are all in foal to Federal. In addition to the three-year-olds mentioned Mr. Barrieau has four other colts and in conversation with our friend said he expects to be able to take a good part in the Old Home Week races at Charlottetown in a few years.

♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

Federal is well known to most harness horsemen of the Maritimes but few are aware of the fact that when he was converted to the trot in 1945 he took part in 12 events and had winning brackets in 10 of them and took a record of 2.07¼. He was sired by Peter the Brewer 2.03½, as was also Calumet Budlong 2.02½, owned by Frank McKay, East Royalty.

♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

Sweden is hardly a place we would expect to be much interested in harness horse racing but apparently the people are, as on Friday, November 22nd twenty-two head of trotters and pacers —many of them among the best bred in the United States—were shipped by the steamer Moro Mail for Sweden. They included the Hambletonian Stake winner Ambassador 2.02; the three-year-old Locomotive 2, 2.13; Speed King 2.00; Jane Allen 2.02¼; Whitney Hanover 3, 2.11¾, and Argyle 3, 2.04.

♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

E. J. Baker, who is a multi-millionaire, is also a good judge of horses and we believe that harness racing with him is not a losing proposition. He owned some of the greatest in the land including Greyhound 1.55¼, world's champion trotter, and this season after winning practically all his races with King's Counsel 1.58, sold him for $50,000. Now he is dickering with Swedish interests who are anxious to purchase Doctor Spencer 4, 1.59¼, the greatest trotter in 1946. The price asked is $50,000, and it is quite possible the deal will go through.

♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

April Star 2.03¾ by Bert Abbe 1.59¼, winner of 20 dashes or heats the past season, was ten times second and only once in 44 starts (dashes) was he out of the money. He is called the "miracle pacer" because when a small foal his leg was broken so badly that the veterinarians ordered him to be destroyed, but Mrs. Roy Craig of Urbana, Ohio, liked the little chap so much that she and her husband set the leg in splints and the youngster eventually went on to win the $25,000 National Pacing Derby at Westbury, N.Y. this season. Interesting to us is that Miss Knox 2, 2.19, a three-year-old pacer by Highland Scott 1.59¼, purchased at the Harrisburg sale by Commander George Buntain has the same dam—April Breeze 2.08—as April Star 2.03¾.

♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

Pearce Chappelle, well known Maine driver, has decided to winter in balmy Florida and recently arrived at Orlando with ten head, practically all colts, that he will train for various owners. Other new arrivals at the same track are four from the stable of Ben White and three from Floyd Hasen. Applications have been made for stalls for 117 head but now horsemen are worrying whether they will be able to get transportation to Florida because of the coal strike.

♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

The quest for free-for-allers to battle for Maritime honors in 1947 is on. Several owners of that type of speed have been contacted as far away as Ohio and three in the Province of Quebec. It is probable that two, possibly three, of these horses will reach the Maritimes before Spring. If so it will add new fillip to Maritime racing as the steeds are classy and good mannered.

♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

Officials of the Victoria Driving Club have been looking over the Speedway at Victoria Park with a view to getting it ready for ice racing at the earliest possible moment. We understand plans are on foot for a bigger program of racing than last season, which was tops.

♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

Among the recent purchases of the well known farmer, prize cattle breder and horseman, Harold Stead of Brackley, is the three-year-old pacing colt Sampson Budlong by Calumet Budlong 2.02½, dam Ella Kalmuck by Kalmuck 2.15½; granddam Quinla 2.04½ by Belwin 2.06¼. This is a growthy chap something of the style of Peter Budlong 2.10. While practically nothing in the way of track work has been done with him yet, in the few brushes he has been given over the roads he has shown a lot of speed and is well liked. Harold certainly knows how to pick them!

♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

Next season will be the 74th year the Grand Circuit—or what is often called "The Roaring Grand"—will be in operation in the United States. It was Colonel Billy Edwards of Cleveland and Louis J. Powers of Buffalo, that decided on an association of mile tracks with race meets given on each of them at set dates. That was in 1873. The tracks were Cleveland, Buffalo, Utica, Rochester and Poughkeepsie. In 1876 Charter Oak Park at Hartford became the seventh member of the big line in racing and over those tracks has been a continuous parade of stars with such world's champions as Rarus, the conqueror of Goldsmith Maid 2.14. (In that race Rarus lowered the world's record to 2.13¼); St. Julien 2.10, holder of the world's record for a brief span, to be followed by Maude S., who stepped in 2.08¾ to high wheels in 1885. She was followed by Jay-Eye-See 2.06¼, Sunol 2.06¼ and in 1892 the immortal Nancy Hanks lowered the world's trotting record to 2.04. Then followed Alix 2.03¾; The Abbot 2.03¼; Lou Dillon 1.58½; Uhlan 1.58; Peter Manning 1.56¼, and in recent years the greatest and fastest trotter of all time, Greyhound, 1.55¼ and the world's champion pacer Billy Direct 1.55. These are only a few of the mighty warriors that have raced over the mile tracks of the United States and we have perhaps left out the mightiest of them all, Dan Patch 1.55¼, the horse that was never beaten and so feared was he that

Right on the heels of their great showing against Saint Dunstan's Army basketball team tangle with the fast Navy squad in tonight's City Basketball League tilt at the Prince of Wales auditorium and fans who have been following the league closely will not be a bit surprised if the Army boys pull out a win over the "Tars".

♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

No doubt about it the Army Reconnaissance team will enter the game as the underdogs but that will not phase them a bit. They were very much the underdogs against Saints and it took the University crew's best efforts to pull out a victory. Tonight Army will attempt to gain an early lead and hold it and if they can accomplish this the league will tighten up just that much more.

♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

Judging from the two games played to date and knowing Summerside teams of old, it appears as if this year's City Hockey League encounters are going to be rugged, fast-skating affairs all the way through. Certainly the four City teams haven't pulled any punches in the two exhibition games and as a result, although the hockey has been a bit ragged it has more than made up for the lack of polish by the hard-hitting action that has been quite evident not only to the fans but also to the referees.

♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

Tuesday night the league has its official opening and from there on fans should be in for some very interesting hockey nights. The brand of hockey is bound to improve as the players hit their real strides; the ruggedness won't decrease a bit and by the way the teams are shaping up at present it should be a battle right down to the wire.

♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

Legionaires received a body blow when it was made known yesterday that Art Perry is to lineup with a Cape Breton club in the near future. A scout from the Cape Breton Hockey League was in attendance at Thursday's game and immediately set the seal of approval on Perry, who has accepted the terms laid down.

♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

It is not surprising that Art received the offer. Since his return from overseas the big forward has been conspicuous in every game he has played. Big, fast, and possessing a terrific shot he was one of the main cogs in the Legion machine last year and there seems no reason to doubt but that he will make good in the Cape Breton League.

♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

Although the opening date is still two months away Prince Edward Island Curling Association officials have already received eight official entries and 30 or 40 enquiries for proper entry forms for the Confederation Bonspiel to be staged here in February, with promise of 40 other entries, ranging from Maritime entries to entrants from Ontario and Quebec.

♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

Most outstanding entry to be received to date is that of the Thistle Curling Club from Hamilton, Ont., comprising the famous Campbell rink of Duncan H., Colin A., A., and Gordon M. Campbell, a quartette of curlers who are known all over the Dominion.

♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

Entry of this well known rink is just a sample of the interest that is being shown by curlers in the curling extravaganza that the Island Association is going to stage, and it is very likely that before the entry deadline has arrived, Charlotetown will be playing hosts to a record number of besom and stane artists.

♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

Meanwhile the various committees are busily engaged in getting their tasks in complete working order. Not a stone is being left unturned in an effort to make the coming bonspiel one to be remembered among curlers for a long time, and judging by the progress that is being made and the interest that is being shown the efforts being put forth are going to bear fruit.

The Amateur Athletic Association has agreed in principle to appointment of a professional coach, but with a stipulation. He would not be attached to a particular "star", but would teach other coaches who would impart their knowledge widely.

"The aim is to raise the efficiency of coaches generally," the A. A. A. says.

Basketball

TONIGHT

At P. W. C. AUDITORIUM

Navy vs. Army

At 7 p. m. Sharp

Ace McCloskey Wins Decision Over Brown

HALIFAX, Dec. 6—(AP) — Ace McCloskey of Dartmouth, N. S., Maritime middleweight champion, used a left uppercut to good effect in slugging out a 10-round decision over Buddy Brown, Boston negro, in the main bout of a boxing card here tonight.

It was a dull match all the way with numerous clinches and intermittent booing. McCloskey took the edge at the opening bell and with the exception of a few fairly close rounds was on top throughout.

The action was slow most of the time, although a flurry of punches in the seventh livened up proceedings momentarily and a last round pounding by the winner had Brown hanging on at the final bell.

The Canadian Press score card gave seven rounds to McCloskey, one to Brown and called two even. Brown weighed 149 1-2 and McCloskey 153 1-2.

In a six-round preliminary, Percy Paris, 131 1-2, of New Glasgow, N. S., scored a technical knockout over Blair Wagner of Halifax at 1:33 of the third round. A windmill puncher, the New Glasgow negro came out swinging and it was evident from the start he fight would not go the limit.

The other six-rounder saw Chuck Orman, 121 1-2 of suburban Armdale, come up from a nine-count to knock out Tiny Howe, 116-pound Halifax negro, in the second round.

Cerdan Wins Close Decision Over Abrams

(By Sid Feder)

NEW YORK, Dec. 6 —(AP)— Marcel Cerdan, the European middleweight champion, made his American bow a successful one tonight by punching out a close decision over Georgie Abrams in a bloody, rip-snorting 10-round brawl in Madison Square Garden. Cerdan weighed 159; Abrams 160 3-4.

The rugged ex-French sailor, winner of the inter-Allied Mediterranean service championship for two years during the war, had to put on a wild, slugging finish to win out by a narrow point margin only after the Washington walloper, catching up from a slow start, took command through the middle heats.

The decision was greeted with mingled boos and cheers by the near sell-out crowd when it was announced.

Referee Ruby Goldstein gave it to Cerdan by 6 rounds to 2, with two even, but both judges called it 4 rounds apiece. Judge Marty Monroe made it 7 points to 5 for Cerdan and judge Frank Forbes called it 9 points to 6 for the Casablanca clouter. The Associated Press score card balloted for Cerdan, 5 rounds to 4, with one even.

The attention Cerdan attracted during the war and since he has been here with his charge-in-and-wallop style resulted in a surprising turnout of 16,971 cash customers who chipped in to a gross gate of $83,859 to sit in on the proceedings.

It was a blood-and-thunder belting party from start to finish, with both fighting for a title shot at the winner of the middleweight championship brawl between titleholder Tony Zale and Rocky Graziano next March.

Blood spilled from cuts of both before seven rounds were over, as Marcel fired three left hooks in the second heat to break open Georgie's right eye, and Georgie came back with a ripping right that tore a gash alongside Cerdan's left eye in the seventh.

Time after time they stood toe to toe and just banged away for half-a-minute or more, neither giving ground and both apparently doing their best to blow the other out of the ring.

The 32-year-old Frenchman, who has never lost a fight on points or by a knockout in 97 starts — his only setbacks were two via the foul route — came close to doing that again tonight. After he had been warned twice earlier, he had the fourth round taken away from him by referee Goldstein for low blows. Thereafter he tried to keep his punches higher.

REMEMBER WHEN

By The Canadian Press

Ottawa Senators set a new record in the Quebec Senior Hockey League by defeating Montreal Concordias 3—2 six years ago tonight for their 12th consecutive game without a defeat. Their string was snapped next time out by Verdun Red Devils.

After a glorious October and a November that will long be remembered for its tranquility and mildness, Old Man Winter rudely pushed Dame Autumn aside and took charge of things in no uncertain manner. Despite the contention of old timers that winter will not set in until the swamps are filled with water present weather conditions have a permanent feel. The past fall has been unseasonably dry and the first real freezup and snowfall has found the swamps and springs at a low water level, with many former boggy areas bone dry. Farmers are complaining that their wells are lowering rapidly and the present rate of decline will see a serious water shortage before mid-winter.

This scribe is predicting a thaw before a week or ten days and with little frost in the ground and with the amount of snow already down there is enough moisture available to bring a sharp rise in water levels in swamps and low lying swales. Some of the fields may appear lightly covered with snow but in the woods and sheltered side roads a considerable amount of snow has accumulated. I have been watching the actions of the squirrels since November 1st. Some years they are active all day busily storing spruce cones, beech nuts, etc. away for the winter. This year any squirrels I have seen were taking things very easy, the majority of them with a cone between their fore-feet busily engaged in filling their stomachs. I have seen some piles of fresh spruce cones lying on the open ground with no attempt made to place them under cover.

There is something fresh and exhilarating in the present type of weather. The new fallen snow and the bite of December's frost makes one want to take a walk through fields and along woodland paths and a keen observer can read the signs in the snow like he would read a book.

Rabbits are quite plentiful this winter and those who depend on this type of shooting for their sport are in for a season of fast action. When the bunnies are scampering across a cut over tract between two patches of woods and making the snow fly with their powerful hind feet it takes a good shot to connect with any degree of regularity.

Trappers are in for a lean season as far as their pocket books are concerned. Even the popular mink has started on the toboggan and buyers are predicting that muskrat pelts will sell for less than two dollars. The sale of mink pelts held at Montreal on December 4th was disappointing with less than 50 per cent of the offering sold at a decline in price of 40 per cent. It is not a good sign to see furs of this type unsold. Even if the price received is not up to expectation if the offering is cleaned up it shows that there is at least a demand, but if over half the consignment is carried over till the next sale unless a demand crops up in the meantime the market becomes glutted and conditions become progressively worse.

The buying public are blamed for the drop in price of mink. With mink pelts selling at the terrific figure they fetched last season put many mink coats as high as twelve thousand dollars each with ordinary mink coats around eight thousand dollars. Retailers were forced recently to offer mink coats held in stock for sale at a reduction of over one third of the original price in an effort to get customers in a buying mood. Naturally the buying public's strike and the resultant drop in fur coats is going to cause a drop in price for this season's catch.

It was too much to expect that mink would continue to sell at such a high figure. It upset the balance of the fur trade I know a chap who shipped two mink pelts and two red fox skins to the Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company, Ltd. in Montreal early last winter. The skins were sold on their January sale. I saw the skins before they were shipped and all four were splendid specimens. The reds particularly were beautiful skins as they were caught in late December. Later I saw the returns. The mink pelts sold for $48.50 and $42.00 each. The reds for $7.00 and $6.75 each. The fact that a mink pelt that one could slip in his coat pocket sold for as much as 7 red fox skins simply doesn't make sense. There was bound to be a re-adjustment in values.

The season on ducks and geese closes on Monday evening December 9th. The geese have almost all left but there are still plenty of black ducks, mostly of the red-legged variety, in our rivers and bays. The goose shooting was a decided disappointment this season, but the heavy flight of northern black ducks in October gave duck shooters plenty of good sport if they were rigged out properly and had the stamina and fortitude to stand the cold and exposure.

Crouched on an exposed sand bar with your blood slowly congealing and snow pellets driven by a howling Nor-wester stinging your eye balls can become just plain hard work unless you have the fever in your blood, and its surprising how many have been bitten by the little bug and cannot resist the temptation to match wits with the wily black duck no odds what the conditions are. One thing boys duck shooting is sure good for the appetite and the amount of grub a hunter can stow away after a day along the salt water will make a horse blush.

A DOUBLE FIXTURE TO-DAY

FIRST — AFTERNOON 3-5

SECOND — NIGHT 8-10

A Day for Amusement and Exercise

YOUR PLEASURE PLACE THE FORUM

Halifax Crescents Hand Moncton 4-3 Defeat

MONCTON, N. B., Dec. 6—(CP)—Halifax Crescents handed the league-leading Moncton Hawks a 4-3 defeat tonight in a regular Big Five League hockey game. It was Hawks' first defeat of the season on home ice.

High-lighting the hard-fought battle were two major penalties for fighting to Bucko Trainor of Hawks and Pius Gaudet, transplanted St. Josephs, N. B., defenceman now playing with the Crescents, and misconduct penalties to Spike Larabie and Ray Powell of the Halifax squad.

Thrown in for good measure was a penalty shot scored by veteran right winger Sammy McManus of the Hawks in the early stages of the third period.

Twelve penalties were handed out, six to each team, including a minor sentence to McManus who had played in all previous games without having an infraction charged against him.

Summary

First Period

1—Moncton, Agnew (Whitlock) 10.04.

2—Crescents, Redmond (Sullivan) 19:26.

Penalties: Moriarty Larabie and Bastarache (misconduct).

Second Period

3—Crescents, Copus (Wade-Stanhope) .47.

4—Crescents, O'Neill (Sullivan) 3.57

Penalties: McManus, Larabie Trainor (major), Gaudet (major).

Third Period

5—Moncton, McManus (penalty shot) 14.26.

6—Moncton, McManus (Fraser-Dowling) 15.36

7—Crescents, Sullivan (Powell) 17.30.

Penalties: Whitlock, Bastarache, Powell (minor and misconduct), Fraser.

May Curtail N.H.L. Schedule

MONTREAL, Dec. 6—Possibility of a curtailed National Hockey League schedule and shifting of play to Canadian arenas because of the United States coal strike was seen by President Clarence Campbell in a statement issued late today.

Emergency plans by the league, however, are predicated upon a situation arising whereby all places of public assembly in the United States would come under official ban.

Despite present sharp cuts in rail transportation services, Mr. Campbell expressed the opinion that at this time "there is no reason to believe that the teams will not be able to move on the remaining facilities to fulfill all their scheduled games."

More Fishing Dams Promised

The quarterly meeting of the P. E Island Fish and Game Association was held last night in the City Hall with Mr. W H. Tidmarsh presiding.

The report that the dam at Milton had proved to be a success resulted in the meeting deciding to build several more dams of a similar size as soon as conditions permitted.

The meeting had no definite knowledge of what action the Assocaition would take respecting the securing of more game birds to be distributed throughout the Province, but Mr. Frank Acorn informed the members that more definite information would be available next week.

HOLY NAME ALLEYS

Big Four League

All Stars:—

J. Power	195	179	187
F. McKearney	168	139	207
W. McNeil	237	193	197
R. Cameron	196	308	202
C. LeClair	169	285	243
	966	994	1036

Total—2996.

Five Aces:—

G. Stewart	168	129	181
J. Callaghan	120	251	151
H. Craswell	213	260	208
E. Robinson	131	257	178
J. Lawlor	207	327	194
	839	1224	926

Total—2983.

High single J. Lawlor 327.

High three J. Lawlor 728.

Points: All Stars 3: Five Aces 2.

Team No. 1—

H. Montgomery	154	209	130
B. Howatt	154	110	197
L Beairsto	164	153	122
M Weir	155	126	146
F. MacKenzie	135	173	186

Total—2814.

Team No. 2—

J. Rogerson	168	133	134
G. Bagnall	206	122	111
E. Cameron	184	146	139
L. Callbeck	131	88	116
M. Brady	195	166	147

Total—2186.

Team No. 3—

N. MacDonald	112	92	154
D. MacDonald	147	210	118
J. MacDonald	133	186	144
G. Barbour	70	173	160
B. Roper	126	124	170

Total—2119.

Team No. 4—

E. Macdonald	113	170	144
M. Mathieson	130	174	178
B. Saunders	150	137	127
O. MacDonald	155	146	186
E. Haszard	120	109	98

Total—2132.

High single D. MacDonald 210.

High three H. Montgomery 493.

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