

DOWN THE BACK STRETCH



Our congratulations to editor J. C. McKnight and his staff for the Christmas number of The Canadian Sportsman which is published in Tillsonburg, Ont. Its sixteen pages are filled with interesting articles on harness horses and harness horse racing with an excellent account of the Horse of the Year contest, which was put on by The Sportsman. There is a good picture of Star Volo, selected as Canadian Harness Horse of the Year, with the proud owner, J. P. Lachapelle of Joliette, Que., on the left and trainer Francois Le Boeuf on the right, and above is a photo of Star Volo winning one of his top races.

Star Volo is described as one of the most remarkable sidewheelers in America. The "Steam Engine" as he was affectionately dubbed by fans, is a 5-year-old bay gelding by High Volo and his dam is Amarilla Direct by Billy Direct 155. In the contest he drew votes from Western Canada, Ontario and Quebec readers. The "Steam Engine" is a horse of strong conformation and big heart, good manners and according to owner Lachapelle, quite an appetite. Top opposition for the honors this year came from Argyle Grattan, Mr. Galvin, Jimmie's Chief, Clark Herbert and Ezra Dean in Ontario, Eddie Riggs in the West, who stood second best in the overall poll and H. B. Chief in Quebec.

The sudden death of Dr. F. C. Dougan yesterday came as a great shock to his thousands of friends who heard the news. The Doctor became interested in harness horses when a very young man and after graduating as a Dentist from Tufts College in Boston and being established in business, he raced horses on his own account. Among them was that good pacer Margie Direct, quit an appetizer. Basil Hanover, 2:04 1/2, and the well-known sire Real Monay 2:09 1/2, then that extremely well bred mare Sonata 3:20, now a brood mare at Gainesway Farm, Lexington, Ky., and the last horse we remember his owning was Josedale Clipper 2:08 1/2. Almost twenty years ago he was in request as a starter at Maritime tracks and familiarized himself with the rules of the sport. His excellent voice and powers of description added to the interest taken by spectators and in 1945 he took over the duties of starter and announcer at Old Home Week. As a presiding judge his knowledge of the rules made him in demand and he exercised those duties at Charlottetown and Saint John for the past several years. His death has left a void that will be very difficult indeed to fill as men of his capacity and knowledge of harness racing are few. On behalf of ourselves and horsemen friends throughout the Maritimes we tender our deepest sympathy to his wife and relatives in their very sad loss.

As a 2-year-old in 1951 Star Volo set a world's record at Indianapolis of 2:04, 2:04 1/2. In 20 starts he was 8 times first, 3 times second and twice third. As a 3-year-old he raced against the best, was 7 times first, once second and twice third. In 1953 as a 4-year-old he won 7 trips on a half-mile track in 2:05 or better and received special mention from a harness horse magazine for having been the only pacer to win a three-heat race on a half-mile oval with all heats better than 2:05, the

third in 2:03 1/2 — the season's record in that respect. He took a new half-mile track mark of 2:02 1/2. With these recommendations J. P. Lachapelle figured he would be the horse to beat in Canada and he bought him. Eligible to the 217 class Star Volo was staked in all the most important events and the capable trainer-driver, Francois Le Boeuf, was given the horse and successfully drove him all summer. During the year he started 33 times, winning 21 times with 5 seconds, 4 thirds and one fourth, and his earnings were over \$20,000, making his total earnings \$23,000. Among his triumphs were two trips in 2:04 1/2 in the Richelieu pacing derby. He finished the season in the best physical condition and his proud owner is confident of his better a star next year.

Confirms Fine On N. Y. Goalie

MONTREAL (CP) — President Clarence Campbell of the National Hockey League today confirmed the fine of \$50 imposed upon goalie Lorne Worsey of New York Rangers for wandering out of his net and becoming involved in an altercation. The affair happened Sunday night in New York in a game between Rangers and Toronto Maple Leafs.

The fine is automatic on decision by the referee that the pertinent rule had been infringed. Campbell said it is immaterial whether a goalie is acting as peace-maker or trouble-maker. The purpose of the rule is to see that the goalie doesn't get hurt and thus handicap his team. For the same reason no time penalty is assessed for this particular action of a goalie. The report of referee Frank Udvari said Worsey had been warned by the referee to get out of the rumpus. When the goalie didn't heed the warning Udvari told him he would be fined.

Gavilan Wants To Break With His Manager

NEW YORK (AP) — Still smoldering over the loss of his welterweight title to Johnny Saxton last Oct. 21, Cuba's Kid Gavilan said Thursday he wants to break his partnership with manager Angel Lopez. The 28-year-old ex-champion asked Lopez to release him from his contract but the manager replied he had no intention of doing so. Their contract runs until June, 1957. "I want release from Lopez," said Gavilan, who has been performing in theatres with his mambo outfit. "I have big disappointment with him. He don't make protection for me with Saxton in Philadelphia and he don't get me return no place."

"He lost to Johnny Saxton," reported Lopez. "If I fight maybe I don't lose. For a young fighter he fight like man old as me—and I no boy." "The way he talks it don't sound like Kid Gavilan. Some bad friend from Cuba tell him say this, I think somebody who wants to be his manager."

SPORTS

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Rich Ferguson Tops In Canada

By JACK SULLIVAN
Canadian Press Staff Writer

TORONTO (CP)—One blistering 4:04.6 mile effort, the fastest a Canadian has ever run the distance, snatched Toronto's Rich Ferguson into the role of Canada's outstanding male athlete of 1954. He took over from Doug Hepburn of Vancouver, 1953 winner and self-styled strongest man in the world. The country's sports editors and sportscasters picked the 23-year-old runner for The Canadian Press in its 20th annual year-end sports poll announced Thursday. Asked to name the three outstanding athletes, in order, they selected Ferguson with a point total of 158 on the basis of three points for first choice, two for second and one for third.

Weightlifter Hepburn, who broke four British Empire Games heavy-weight records while winning the title at Vancouver last summer, finished in the runner-up position with 129 points. Thirty-eight athletes were nominated by the voters but it was a two-man race between Ferguson and Hepburn.

OTHERS TRAIL

Maurice Richard, Montreal Canadiens' great rightwinger and all-time National Hockey League high scorer, was third with 67 points. Gerry James, hard-plunging back with Winnipeg Blue Bombers and junior hockey player with Toronto Marlboros, was close behind with 65. Gordie Howe of Detroit Red Wings, third in the 1953 poll, dropped to fifth place with 43, just four up on Sam Etcheberry, Montreal Alouettes' quarter who earlier had won the Jeff Russell Trophy as the most valuable player to his team in the interprovincial Rugby Football Union.

Selectors recalled that hot, humid Aug. 7 afternoon at Vancouver's Empire Stadium when they chose Ferguson for the No. 1 male athlete in the CP poll.

FAMOUS RACE

It was a memorable day in world track and field history—the day of the miracle mile when England's Dr. Roger Bannister and Australia's John Landy, the only men to crack the four-minute barrier, met for the first time and cracked it together.

Ferguson was just another man in spiked shoes on the sun-baked track. Before the game his best

mile was 4:13.4. Rich astounded the Canadian sports world by chasing Dr. Roger and Landy to the tape. There were a couple of yards of sunlight between Ferguson and Northern Ireland's Vic Milligan who was fourth in 4:05.

Bigger Golf Prize

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland (AP)—The British open golf championship next year will be worth \$2,800 to the winner, an increase of \$700, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club announced Thursday. Prize money now totals \$10,500. The British open will be played on the famed St. Andrews course July 4-8.

Former Boxing Champion Al Foreman Dies

MONTREAL (CP)—Al Foreman, 49, former British Empire lightweight boxing champion, died in hospital Thursday, 16 days after he suffered a second major heart attack.

A native of England, Foreman first fought under the name of Harris. In all, he had 327 fights in rings of the world — Chicago, Vancouver, Washington, London, Montreal, Paris and Australia. He lost only 10 fights and drew in 10 others. Of his 307 victories, at least 70 per cent were by knockouts. He won the Canadian lightweight crown from Leo (Kid) Roy in Montreal. Blurring vision finally forced Foreman to quit fighting.

Foreman had always been a photography fan and turned to it as a profession. He joined the Montreal Standard and did rotogravure features until the outbreak of the Second World War when he joined the RCAF. He was on 37 operations as an air gunner.

Bantam Boxing Title Vacant

MILWAUKEE (AP)—The National Boxing Association Thursday declared the world's bantamweight championship vacant. Fred Saddy, chairman of the NBA's championship committee, said the action was approved unanimously by his group "because

Sport Echoes From Prince County

Just when it began to look as if no program would be furnished for our hockey-loving Summerside youth, R. T. Holman, Ltd., came along with the announcement that, as a special Christmas gift to our boys and girls, they will give us Jimmie Hogan on lend-lease to head the organization of the youth movement, which he will do with the able assistance of Bob Clark and a lot of coaches and referees, did so well last winter. Holman's have also started a contribution drive with a \$100 donation which we feel sure will snowball into the budgeted \$1,000 with the ready co-operation of the other public-spirited Summerside firms and organizations.

January 3 was the tentative date for the opening of the new Prince County Hockey League. A good steady cold snap could still make this possible, but we'd say the chances for a beginning so soon after the new year is rather slim. Cold snaps of the past three or four winters have been almost invariably of short duration, and the pattern doesn't seem to have changed. Let's hope that we can get things going, at least, by the second week of January.

By now everyone with the Atlantic Coast Hockey League must know that president Parlee is not a man of idle threats. We thought and still think the first of his stringent penalties was a bit over-warning because it came without any warning. From now on, however, there is little excuse for any player to dare him to do his worst. Apparently he is resolved that his officials are to be protected from assault and battery, and for this resolution we can but commend him. It might be a good idea if all those brawny athletes who are so filled with atomic energy would join the "atoms for peace" league.

The Islanders have a seven point lead and should be able to weather the storm while two of their top (Robert) Cohen violated terms of his contract to meet (Raton) Macias.

The bantamweight title was left open when Australian Jimmy Caruthers retired last summer. Saddy said the winner of the bout between Cohen, of French Algeria, and Chamrern Songkitrat of Thailand had agreed to meet Nacias, the American champion, for the title within 90 days. Cohen defeated Songkitrat last September.

Jim Hogan Will Organize Hockey

The firm of R. T. Holman Limited, announced yesterday that Mr. Jim Hogan, their personnel manager and former director of physical fitness would be made available to the Summerside Amateur Athletic Association to organize and direct minor hockey in the town of Summerside for the coming season. They also stated that even though they feel they can't afford to have Mr. Hogan spare the time to organize and direct this program, that existing conditions warrant something being done.

This is, without doubt, the biggest hockey news that has hit Summerside for the past few months, and the firm of R. T. Holman Ltd., are to be highly commended for their generosity. The management committee stated that Mr. Hogan would act in this capacity only until such time as a successor is appointed by the Department of Physical Fitness or the town of Summerside, and stressed the point that Jim Hogan could do a job equally good as last year only if the coaches and

managers teamed together with him to make another successful program. The firm of R. T. Holman Limited for years have been the backbone of sport in the town and have always donated generously to any worthy cause. They feel that the present unsatisfactory situation cannot remain indefinitely. Poor boys and girls need recreation and physical training and it is up to the citizens of the community to see that they get it. The management committee of R. T. Holman Ltd., realizes that it is going to take funds to pay for ice time, etc., and have generously decided to start a \$1000 fund for minor hockey in Summerside with a donation of \$100. This donation will go towards the paying of ice time for the program, and the committee expresses the hope that other business firms and organizations will come forward with equally generous donations. Mr. Hogan will be giving his time with no remuneration.

Prizes Presented For Bonspiel

General Motors' prizes for the Centennial Bonspiel were donated to the Prince Edward Island Curling Association through the secretary of the Bonspiel J. Finlay MacLeod. A joint effort, the Bonspiel for the past several years has been made possible by the co-operation of all Island clubs. The executive is pleased with the interest shown and look forward to one of the biggest curling events in the annals of the game itself.

FORUM DATES	
DEC. 21 to 25	
FRIDAY—	Children's Skating 3 to 5
	No Skating at night.
SATURDAY—CHRISTMAS DAY	Two happy Skating Sessions—
	Afternoon 3 to 5
	Night 8 to 10

At Christmas

More than any other time our thoughts turn to valued friends whose loyalty and confidence is the very foundation of our success.

In the Spirit of Good-will that marks this joyous season it is a pleasure to wish you
"A Christmas of Abundant Happiness . . .
A New Year of Peace and Prosperity!"

W. R. JENKINS
GREAT GEORGE STREET



With the keenest appreciation of your good will and your patronage — with a sincerely repeated pledge to serve you well during the year to come — we send you our merriest holiday greetings.

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Merry Christmas!

And, may the wondrous peace and blessed spirit of this Holy Day find that all your fondest dreams have come true in the bounty of your Christmas gifts . . . That you all be gifted with health, happiness and much Yuletide Joy!

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we send to you — And, our warmest wishes, too . . . May there be special joys in store —
and one wondrous thing,
You're surely hoping for!

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