

BACK STRETCH

assistants and they have 73 horses in the string. Most of the 3-year-olds, and older are being prepared for the opening New York season, April 2 and Roosevelt Raceway. Rain, snow or shine—unless it is a real blizzard—does not prevent workouts and among the candidates for honors this year are several that Daner expects to take very fast records with.

Five 2-year-old pacers have been miles in 2:35 or better. The best effort up to March 10 was 2:32 with last quarter in .32 seconds. He is very high on Bimbo Chief, a half brother to Merle Rose 2:02 2-5, that won \$51,486 in Stanley's hands. What was regarded as a rather green and gawky colt which is named Nosey, has turned out to be a very promising one. Nosey is by the Widower, dam Patsy Mahoney. The 7-day is the top sire of winners of 1955. Nosey recently won a mile in 2:34. A pacer that he thinks may take a fast record this year is Bearcat 2:02 3-5, a 7-year-old horse by dominion Grattan. That has winnings of \$55,747. The favorite with Mrs. Daner is Good As Gold, a coal black filly by Goose Bay, that she picked herself and had Stanley bid in at Walnut Hall Farm sale last fall. She is a half sister to Guinea Gold 1:59. These are just a few of the large number of trotters and pacers that the energetic Stanley is getting ready for the fray.

From all indications 1956 should be one of the best racing seasons in years in the Maritimes. More horses are in training than we can ever remember of. In this province and Cape Breton, Truro Sackville Downs, N. S., at Moncton, Saint John, Fredericton, Woodstock and other points our estimate is that there are between 900 and 1000 horses that are being given a chance to show enough speed for further training when the racing season opens up. There are between 40 and 50 horses permanently stabled at the Charlottetown track and at Montague, Hunter River and its vicinity. Summerside Raceway where some 20 or 30 are being trained and as far west as Alberton so we should see some of the best contests in years.

This is a partial list of those who are at the Charlottetown track or will report there for training within the next few weeks: The Dr. R. F. Seaman, Justamere Stable, with three, the Poulton Stable with 6, the Joe Hennessey Stable with 6, the Ike Moreside Stable with 6, the Len O'Meara Stable with 13, Archie Llewellyn with 5, Col. D. A. MacKinnon Stable with 3, Col. D. A. MacKinnon Stable with 3, the little later Emmett Bernard will have 4, Harold Stead will have 4, the Sam Kennedy Stable with at least 5, the Lorne Kelly stable 6, Ellwood Shaw who is partially at the track, will have 20 head, Elmer Smith of Hunter River is expected to bring in 5, Grapes 2:05 1/2, Henry Up 2:05, Guyrect 2:16, Phil Vito 2:18 2-5, Mae Signal 2:18 4-5, all owned by Frankie Daniels. Frankie is expecting within the next two weeks the horses owned by Earl Wilson of Truro to join his stable. They are Glendon Hanover 2:06 and Star Bud Set 2:17 3-5.

"Quite a number of horses are stabled in winter barns some distance from the track but are being jogged on the roads and will move to the track whenever it is fit for spring training. We have had great jogging here all winter and still a lot of snow on the track but we are hoping the weather will warm up soon and give us some nice spring days. The opening race of the season here will be held on the afternoon of May 21st with the first night race being held on May 26th and we will race every Wednesday and Saturday from May 26 through to Thanksgiving Day. In case of unfavorable weather Wednesday's races will be held on Thursdays and Saturday's races held on Mondays. All mile dashes for a minimum purse of \$200, except in cases of postponements when each dash will be raced for \$50 less than on regular days. Truro Raceway, Ltd. will again carry the U. S. T. A. Drivers Insurance which protects all drivers racing here at no cost to them."

Conn., who was here last fall for 10 days hunting raccoon at night with hounds, argued with me that we had wild cats on the island. He told me his hounds struck a trail in front of their quarry after a half hour of search. He told me he saw the tracks of a cat as big as those of any Maine bob cat when it crossed a grain pit. I told him there have been big striped 1/2breed cats with bob tails ranging the Iona-Culloden districts and the one originated around an abandoned farm house 12 or 15 years ago. I don't think he was fully convinced at that.

There have been a number of complaints this winter from farmers stating that cats have destroyed a lot of Huns. In two instances they had wiped out coveys to the last member. Yet there are hunters after Huns who will stand with a loaded shotgun in their hands and watch a big tom cat jumping into across a back country swale without lifting a finger.

Some years ago in mid winter I took Sambo along for company. Driving through a dense swamp on a lonely road I stopped the car to count how many Huns had entered the swamp from where they had been getting gravel. There were 18 individual trails. While I was unravelling the tangle, old Sambo got out and ankle deep in the spruce. I thought I heard him hiss a while deep down in his throat and then silence. I waited a few minutes and whistled and called. No response. I waited at least 20 minutes and was on the verge of leaving him in the swamp and calling back when he appeared. There was no object apology in his manner but he was ajumpy and there was a smug expression on his pan. It was then I observed the blood streaming down his ears. It took 10 minutes to get his sponged off with snow. I figured he had surprised a big tom cat stalking the partridge and had put him down for keeps.

Dr. Leon Whitney, Orange.

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DAVE & BEAUE
DIAL 6537

them all winter. Even after the heaviest snowstorms it would be cleared out and very few horses missed any training days. Our friend Carl MacKenzie, Race Secretary Truro Raceway, Ltd., has very kindly furnished us with a list of the trotters and pacers that are being gotten ready over that oval. Here they are: "Reg LeBlanc's stable owned by LeBlanc and Crossman Peggy's Pride 2:18 1-5, Silver Lining, 4-year-old pacer by The Widower, and Naughty Girl, 5-year-old pacer by Jolity. Colle MacKenzie is training his own Prince Jolity 2:16 4-5 and Kildare Girl 2:20 3-5 and the 3-year-old pacer Sweet Abbie by Federal, dam Queenie Mack. Aurele "Balbo" Gould's stable owned by Lorne Letcher, Springhill, has Bothwell 2:02 3-5, Fleming Way 2:04 3-5, Direct Mite 2:06 3-5, Mig-Del 2:08, Charlie G. 2:13. Frank Kennedy is training three green horses out of his brood mare Alta K. They are Kay's Pride and Canso Causeway by Widow's Pride, and Mighty Causeway by Mighty Hanover. Frank is also training the mare Queenie Mack, a green pacer which he recently purchased from Colle MacKenzie. This mare was never raced but has been in the brood mare ranks the last few years and is the dam of Lahay's Dream 2:13 1-5. Queenie Mack is by the Western Canadian sire, Fred Ess Mack.

"The Johnny Conroy Stable... Josedale Double Hal 2:05 1-5 and Theora's Ensign 2:12 4-5, owned by A. D. Napke, Newcastle, N. B. Bell Bucks 2:12 4-5, owned by N. A. Renton, Moncton, Jolley Lad 2:13 and Hamilton Lady, 4-year-old pacer, a full sister to Jolley Lad, owned by Mrs. Keith Thomas, Halifax, an unnamed 5-year-old pacer by Jolity, out of an Abner T. Clegg mare, owned by Wellington MacNeil, Southport P. E. I. Harley Harrison's Stable, Headway 2:06 3-5, Frenchman 2:08 2-5 and Fresh Girl, 3-year-old pacer by Mighty Hanover out of a Masie bred, owned by J. E. Given, Halifax. Richard 2:05 4-5, Nibble Sun 2:10 2-5 and Carrier Pigeon 2:07, owned by Ernest Smith, Sydney. Nell Kalmuck 2:09 1-5, owned by L. C. Dysart, Irishtown, N. B. Eric Hanor, 3-year-old pacer by The Queen, owned by Busy Lady, owned by W. G. Stewart, New Glasgow. N. S. Debra H., 6-year-old green mare by Jolity out of a Captain Aubrey mare, owned by a newcomer to the sport, Roy Weir of Truro, and Sally Jo 2:16 4-5, owned by Harley Harrison.

"Stewart Isenor has his own Glenda Mae 2:21 1-5, Forever Mine, 2-year-old by Peerless Hanover out of Lela Baldwin and Lela's Dream, 2-year-old by Seven Up Washington has the 4-year-old mare Dianne Henley 2:22 4-5 and Jerry Nelson is jogging Money's Worth 2:17 2-5. The Frank Daniels Stable Lucky Harvester 2:15 2-5, owned by S. B. Drake, Truro; Doctor Borden 2:03, owned by Fraser and Vicent, Dartmouth; Foxy Grape 2:05 1/2, Henry Up 2:05, Guyrect 2:16, Phil Vito 2:18 2-5, Mae Signal 2:18 4-5, all owned by Frankie Daniels. Frankie is expecting within the next two weeks the horses owned by Earl Wilson of Truro to join his stable. They are Glendon Hanover 2:06 and Star Bud Set 2:17 3-5.

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Sports

The Charlottetown Guardian, Saturday, Mar. 24, 1956 7

Most Dangerous Of All

Grand National Chase Today

By STERLING SLAPPEY
AINTREE, England (AP)—British royalty, Communist cops, politicians and about 250,000 ordinary folk congregate here today to watch 30 horses and riders risk their necks in the most dangerous and spectacular of all horse races. The 10th running of the Grand National steeplechase goes off this morning with the winner expected to come from this group—Devon Loch, Must, Sundew, Carey's Cottage, E. S. B. and Pippykin.

Those horses were deep in mud and jockeys had to take it slowly. No horses were killed. In 1954, 23 starters, only nine finished. Sixteen fell and four were killed.

Back in 1928 the only horse not to fall was Tipperary Tim.

QUEEN MOTHER'S ENTRIES
Members of the British royal family—Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret—were expected for the race. The Queen Mother owns Devon Loch and MAs-Tu-Vu. Her Devon Loch has attracted practically all the sentimental money because of a Briton's love of betting on the royal entry.

The Queen, one of the world's top owners, has only flat runners this year. Georgi Malenkov, former Soviet premier, now visiting Britain, was to lead his corps of touring Russian engineers to Aintree.

FIRM COURSE DANGEROUS
If the weather holds clear and the 30-l obstacle, four-and-a-half-mile turf course remains firm and fast the chances of more than 10 horses finishing are slim. Steeplechase jockeys are naturally nervous folk and when the going is fast they go for it—usually a bit too fast. That is what happened in some previous years when injured horses had to be destroyed. Three horses were killed here Thursday in shorter and less difficult steeplechases than the Na-

ional. Demands for stopping the National and holding inquiries poured in on the National Hunt stewards.

Jockeys seldom are seriously injured but more than 50 horses are believed to have been killed because of Grand National spills. The 10th running of the Grand National steeplechase goes off this morning with the winner expected to come from this group—Devon Loch, Must, Sundew, Carey's Cottage, E. S. B. and Pippykin.

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Coach Blake Plain Talks His Canucks

By W. R. WHEATLEY
Canadian Press Staff Writer
MONTREAL (CP)—Coach Toe Blake did some plain talking to the Montreal Canadiens Friday and told them "if we're only good enough to win our home games we don't deserve to be in the playoffs."

It was a double-barrelled shot at the starry National Hockey League champions. They hadn't lost on home to New York Rangers in 17 games—then were squelched 4-2 by the Rangers Thursday night. The highly favored Canadiens were made to realize, too, they had better win now in New York or else. The impression was getting round that all Canadiens had to do was to make sure they had their skates on in the Montreal forum and the Rangers were done.

There had been 16 NHL-Schedule games since Jan. 30, 1954, and one in the current Stanley Cup semi-final when this fantastic theory had worked. Canadiens romped to a 7-1 win in the series opener Tuesday.

NY FIGHTS BACK
The Rangers struck back with fight and spirit and their sound play shackled the frantic Canadiens. The presence also of a veteran rookie goalie—Gordie Bell—in the New York nets undoubtedly had a psychological effect likewise in the Rangers' rousing reversal of form.

There was no workout for Canadiens Friday but there was serious business to be considered at a meeting in the dressing room. The team left at night for Saturday and Sunday games in Madison Square Garden with the best-of-seven series tied 1-1. The Rangers left Thursday night.

TORONTO (CP)—More than 1,000 animals on Ontario Hospitals farms will be inoculated soon against rabies.

Last Year Disastrous

British Hockey Making Plans For Next Season

By KEN METHERAL
Canadian Press Staff Writer
LONDON (CP)—British hockey, making a strong recovery from a disastrous season a year ago, already is busy with plans for next fall.

"Our clubs have definitely decided to go ahead next season," says J. F. (Bunny) Ahearne, prominent British hockey official.

"Hockey interest in this country, as in the rest of Europe, is on the increase."

The optimistic outlook is in contrast to the uncertainty concerning the ice game's future that prevailed a year ago. At that time the clubs would make no firm decision about icing a team the following season, and when the 1955-56 season opened last fall only five of 12 British National League teams remained.

ON THE UPSWING
But this spring hockey officials are confident the game is once again on the upswing.

"Not only will our present clubs be back, but we hope to have one or two new teams when play starts in the fall," says Ahearne.

Crowds this year have been averaging about 5,000 a game with Nottingham Panthers, Paisley Pirates and Brighton Tigers drawing near-capacity crowds at home. These three are staging a neck-and-neck race for the top rung of the league standing.

One of the major problems facing the league is to find a solution to the rink problem in London. Each year the big London ice sheets at Wembley and Harringay are booked up solid for several weeks by ice shows and circuses.

HOMELESS SQUADS
Wembley Lions, currently at the bottom of the league, have not had a home game since Christmas. A big ice show has been running continuously at the big rink since the first of the year and will continue until the end of March.

A circus look over Harringay Racers' rink for about six weeks at the beginning of the year.

"This mid-season break in home games is one of the worst problems we've had to face," says Ahearne. "Not only does it throw out the schedule, but the fans tend to lose interest."

Ahearne says, however, the rink outlook in London is improving. "The plague of ice shows shouldn't be so bad next year. I am confident we will be able to work out something to avoid any lengthy home-game layoffs."

Move To Form All-Girl League
TORONTO (CP)—About 40 girls between 7 and 14 years turned out Sunday night for the first of three tryouts the Little Toronto Hockey League is holding to form an all-girl hockey league next year.

The move to form a girls' league started two weeks ago when nine-year-old Abigail Hoffman, who was masquerading as a boy, was appointed to the LTHL all-star team.

Freetown Defeats Albany St. Pats
Freetown evened its best of seven series with Albany at Bedeque rink last night defeating the league leaders by the score of 7-1. The game was evenly played, but young Reeves in the Freetown net was almost unplayable. For Freetown Edgar Taylor scored three goals, Clayton Mill, Eustace Reeves, Zeke Roberts and Des Roberts getting the goals. Dave MacLeod scored the lone Albany tally.

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