

# Ottawa Coach Seeks Answer To Setbacks

OTTAWA (CP)—Coach Frank Clair, groping for an explanation for Ottawa's four straight defeats, said gloomily Tuesday "something is wrong somewhere." But he couldn't put his finger on the trouble.

In the Big Four football league so far this year, after dropping a 21-0 squeaker to Toronto Argonauts in the season opener here, Riders have gone downhill, losing 23-8 in Montreal, then 34-10 in Hamilton and 22-7 against Montreal Alouettes there last Saturday. In two home games so far attendance is up by about 1,850 to 37,373.

## LOTS OF SUGGESTIONS

Football observers in the capital have been making all kinds of suggestions to improve the team, prompting Clair to tell a progress club luncheon Tuesday:

"We've received all kinds of suggestions and if we listened to everybody we would be behind bars in some institution."

"We're doing all we can to straighten ourselves out. We thought we would be stronger but it hasn't turned out that way, as yet . . . ."

"The morale has been good and the boys are keen at the practices. It's not a matter of giving up or of indifference."

"A losing team is high-strung. The tension is very high. If some of the boys could relax a bit they would do a lot better."

Referring to his biggest disappointment, the drab performance of veteran Frank Tripucka at quarterback, Clair said "the biggest thing for him is not to lose his confidence."

"Tripucka is more disappointed in himself than anyone on the team."

Last week, he gave Tripucka a virtual "produce-or-else" ultimatum—in public—for losing the ball too often on pass interceptions.

## Probable Pitchers

NEW YORK (AP)—Probable pitchers for today's major league baseball games (won-lost records in parentheses):

American League  
Chicago at Washington (N)—Shaw (14-6) vs. Cleveland (7-3).  
Cleveland at Baltimore (2-10)—Harshman (5-9) and Perry (10-7) vs. Pappas (14-7) and Brown (9-7).

Kansas City at New York (N)—Kucks (7-9) vs. Dittmar (11-3).  
Detroit at Boston (N)—Lary (17-9) vs. Sullivan (8-9).

National League  
Cincinnati at Chicago (2)—Purkey (10-16) and Hook (5-3) vs. Robbie (14-11) and Hillman (6-10).  
Pittsburgh at San Francisco—Eddix (11-10) vs. Sanford (12-12).  
St. Louis at Milwaukee (N)—Broglie (6-11) vs. Spaahn (18-11).  
Philadelphia at Los Angeles (N)—Owens (11-11) vs. Drysdale (15-12).

## SPORTS FRONT

By PIUS CALLAGHAN

IT WAS BACK on July 30 that a roan gelding named Mighty Lee put on a royal performance at Charlottetown Driving Park.

That was the afternoon George Calbeck reined the Willard MacDonald-Rankine MacLaine speedster to a new record at the local racing oval. Mighty Lee paced his second mile in 2:03.4, a new mark for himself and a new record for the Charlottetown track.

Before this he had 2:2 in the Walter Dale pace at Fredericton and in the Monctonian he came through with a 1:3 summary and his mile of 2:05.3 was the best of the evening.

HERE AT Charlottetown Mighty Lee proved far too good for the competition he encountered and after Old Home Week he took off for Halifax and a crack at the other top pacers in the Maritimes. However at Sackville Downs his success was anything but sensational and Island horse racing fans could hardly believe that Mighty Lee was losing with such regularity. However despite his losses he continued to draw the crowds to see him race and there were the faithful ones who insisted he would again hit his stride.

And he did Monday night at the very same Sackville Downs.

AFTER FADING in the stretch in the first mile (he led the seven-eighths) the Calbeck-reined gelding came on to win the second dash in 2:04 and that time was good enough to cut a full second of the old record that had been equalled by Harry Hirsch's Fancy Queen in the first dash.

All the talk that Mighty Lee was finished for the season stopped right smartly when Calbeck got him home in front. Mighty Lee's backers roared their approval and once again the top pacers of the Maritimes became a mighty prized attraction.

Had Mighty Lee failed again Monday night, then his supporters would have been in future free-for-all for 1959. But now that he has come through so brilliantly, he once again becomes the greatest race attraction in the seaside provinces.

JACK CRUICKSHANK, president of Sackville Downs, should indeed be smiling after this one and the reason for the big grin is undoubtedly the thought of the Colonel Dan pace which is to be raced at Sackville Downs on Saturday September 26.

Jack is assured of having all the great pacers back with him for this outstanding classic. And they surely are a lot of greats in their own right.

Walter Rosecroft, the unpredictable son of Henry Volo, will undoubtedly be there. Walter captured the Monctonian Stakes. Then there will be Dave Grattan who won the \$3,000 B.C. Cruickshank Memorial Pace a couple of weeks ago. Add to those the Hirsch mare, Fancy Queen, who had the best summary in Monday night's race and equalled the track record in winning that first dash. You can be sure that Convaire will be among the entrants and Francis Breaux' great pacer has been just about the most consistent free-for-all around Sackville Downs this season.

And then, of course, there will be Mighty Lee, probably the most exciting race horse ever to come to the Maritimes. Yes, Mighty Lee has done quite a few things since coming down our way. He has got himself a new race record, 2:03.4; he has hung that same mark up as the Charlottetown Driving Park record and he has dropped the Halifax track record to a neat 2:04. Those are indeed accomplishments that are hard to equal.

AND SO this Colonel Dan feature at Halifax on September 26 shapes up like one of the greatest free-for-alls ever held in the Maritimes.

The stage is set for a dramatic performance and you can be pretty sure that's just what it will be.

Mighty Lee may not emerge the victor but at least mainland race followers know that all the rave notices we gave him were not just so much filler. He has surely proved he is a great performer and both Halifax and Charlottetown track records stand as monuments to his ability.

WE HAVE RECEIVED a kind invitation, from Mr. Cruickshank to be his guest for this big race. We certainly intend to accept the offer and be among the thousands who will watch this classic.

It should be a great one.

THE DISASTROUS FIRE at the local racing plant has left the future of racing for this season pretty well up in the air.

The pari-mutuel setup has been just about wiped out and that means serious trouble as far as racing any more this summer is concerned. However, although the machines for selling tickets would not be available any more in 1959, there still is a chance that some more racing could go on with the old system back in vogue.

However, the cashier windows are all destroyed and the working quarters of many of the pari-mutuel staff are no more. There are problems that would have to be straightened out if the pacers and trotters are to show their stuff any more here this season.

Right now, the outlook for more racing here in 1959 is indeed dismal but you can never tell what arrangements might be made. All we can do is wait and see.

THERE WERE so many local sports events happening over the weekend that we will not dare to pass comment on what happened.

It was indeed a terrific three days as far as Island sport fans were concerned and to attempt to discuss the happenings would require much more space than we have available today.

Tomorrow we will make our comments on the outcome of these sports events, some of which really make big news in Island sport circles.

See you then.



# DOWN THE BACK STRETCH

Harness racing was featured on most of the tracks in the Maritimes on Labor Day afternoon and night, and Sackville Downs came up with a brand new track pacing record of 2:04, made by Mighty Lee, driven by George Calbeck, in the seventh dash—the second of the free-for-all.

Prior to that, Fancy Queen, driven by George Mauger, had equalled the track record of 2:05 in winning the third dash—the first of the free-for-all—in 2:05. The former track record was held by Convaire, made this season.

The race was one of the most thrilling from a speed standpoint that has ever been held over the Sackville Downs Raceway, and we are repeating the summary: Races 3 and 4—Fancy Queen (G. Mauger) 1-2, Mighty Lee (G. Calbeck) 4-1, Rainbow Clegg (D. Pinkney) 2-4, Walter Rosecroft (F. Daniels) 3-6, Mighty Glib (J. Given) 7-3, Convaire (J. MacGregor) 4-7, Newport Frisec (Letcher) 6-5, times 2:05 and 2:04. Mighty Lee owned by Willard MacDonald and Rankine MacLaine of Summerside and Charlottetown, P. E. I., and Fancy Queen by Harry Hirsch of Sydney, N. S.

Once again, we must pay tribute to the ability of Harry Hirsch to pick a horse without seeing his choice. How he learned about Fancy Queen, we don't know. Last year, as a five-year-old, she was raced by C. M. Saunders of Perysburg, Ohio, and in 28 starts had 13 firsts, 6 seconds and 5 thirds and wins of \$6,821 with a record of 2:02.25 taken over a mile track.

Climate conditions and tracks are good in Ohio, and we would consider them a second or two faster than Maritime tracks. But she has quickly become acclimatized, and her performance on Monday night can be rated as the best in her racing career. For this we can give great credit to George Mauger, who has shown outstanding ability with several horses that he has raced for Mr. Hirsch.

Then we must not overlook the Mighty Lee and driver George Calbeck that was racing at a disadvantage in his first start at Sackville Downs, where he went away in the second tier. He is the type of horse that would be difficult to race from a back position, and a lot would be taken out of him holding him back until there was a clear place to take him out. We are sure all friends of owners MacDonald and MacLaine, and driver Calbeck, will be glad to see his name inscribed on the honor roll at Sackville Downs Raceway.

OTHERS ACTIVE  
Other Island drivers were active Monday night at Sackville Downs, as will be noted by the summaries below: Races 1 and 4—Crystal Maid (G. Mauger) 1-1, G. Ann C. (Calbeck) 2-2, Jolity Leigh (Joey Arsenault) 3-7, Little Mose (R. McCarthy) 7-3, times 2:11 and 2:12 4-5; Crystal Maid owned by Eric Whebbly, Dartmouth, N.S.

Races 2 and 6—Runnymede Beale (H. Mount) 1-1, Lady Lakeburn (J. Arsenault) 2-2, Pennsylvania (J. Balloch) 3-3, times 2:09 1-5 and 2:10; Runnymede Beale owned by John S. Savage, Fredericton, N.B. Race 5—First Again (J. Chappell) 1, Mighty Smart (N. Campbell) 2; Chevie G. (E. Moreside) 3, five other starters, time 2:13 2-5; First Again owned by Stanley Mayhew, Kinkora, P. E. I. Race 8—Ambro Aileen (L. Austen) 1, Mighty Assan (D. Ratcliff) 2, L. A. D. y Aubrey (J. Cahappell) 3, five other starters, time 2:15; winner, owned by Albert Aaron and Robert Love, Halifax.

At Truro Raceway on Labor Day afternoon the track was very fast and four horses lowered their records. Following is a brief summary. Races 3 and 6—Bad News (Fletcher) 1-1, Dominator Scud (G. Turner) 6-2, Laurel Henley (Grace) 3-3, times 2:11 and 2:13 2-5; Bad News owned by H. E. Fletcher, Advocate Harbor, N.S.

Races 4 and 7—Robertdale (C. MacLeod) 1-1, Josedale Clansman (G. Turner) 2-3, Jolly Clansie (Conroy) 3-2, Mr. Rock 4-4, times 2:09 2-5 and 2:08 4-5; Robertdale owned by Frank T. Stanfield, Truro, N.S.

Horses that took new records on the above card were: Walk The Line, winner of the first dash on the card in 2:11 2-6; Mountain Speed, winner of the second dash in 2:15 for owner Lutz of Aylesford and driver H. Wisener; Bad News, that won the third and sixth dashes; and Doctor G. J., owned by W. A. Arnett of Summerside and driven by Whelan, that won the fifth dash on the card in 2:13.

AT SYDNEY  
At Sydney Sports Center on Labor Day afternoon, Top Brass, owned by Richard Jabalee and driven by Phil Pinkney, divided honors in the featured free-for-all with Jackie Jackson, driven by D. MacDonald. Top Brass was 1-2, and Jackie Jackson 2-1, times 2:06 and 2:09 1-5.

Top Brass was raced by Earl Avery for Mr. Jabalee in the United States and last year he made only one start. In his career on the turf he had won \$29,475 prior to this year, and now it appears that his sojourn in Sydney has rejuvenated him and he should be quite a good pacer for the fast classes there.

The P. E. I. Harness Racing Club colt stakes were raced before a very appreciative crowd of spectators Monday afternoon at the Charlottetown track, and were well contested. Several of the performances promise of being good campaigners in the future.

The lovely afternoon, the excellent track, and the very good contests of speed were most enjoyable for those who attended.

It was most unfortunate that a few hours after the finish of the races, fire broke out which damaged the grandstand so badly that no more racing can be held this season. Our sympathy goes out to the manager, H. J. Kennedy, the directors, and others who have spent so much time, money and energy in promoting harness racing here, carrying on Old Home Week and the best exhibition east of Toronto.

At the Sadalia, Miss Grand Circuit races which are held over the one mile track there, the S. A. Camp stable of Shafter, Calif., showed up very prominently. In the Breeders' Filly Stake for 2-year-old trotters, purse \$6,910 1/4, Spring Frost, brown filly by Scott Frost (J. O'Brien) was 1-1, Tony Hanover by Hoot Mon. (S. Daner) 2-2, Floss Hanover by Hoot Mon (E. Avery) 4-3, ten other starters. Time, 2:07 1-5, 2:07 1-5.

In the 2-year-old pace, purse \$2,000, Telapace by the S. A. Camp stable Meadow Pace, (J. O'Brien) 1, time 2:10 3-5. In the Breeders' Filly Stake—3-year-old trot—purse \$7,000, Candlelight (E. Avery) placed 3-5, time 2:01 3-5, 2:01, 2:06 3-5. In the 2-year-old trot, purse \$2,000, Firm Ruler by Scott Frost, owned by the S. A. Camp stable and driven by Joe O'Brien, was the winner, time 2:10 1-5.

Joe also won third place with Lord Chutney in the Matron 3-year-old trot, purse \$18,957. In the Geers 2-year-old pace, purse \$14,632, Earle Avery was 2-2 with Muncy Hanover. The winner was Bullet Hanover, driven by John Simpson and owned by the

# 5 Teams Are Contenders For Major Loop Pennants

NEW YORK (AP)—Five teams still can be considered candidates for major league pennants this year—three in the National League and two in the American.

One of them—Milwaukee Braves—was a pennant last year. So what happened to make contenders of the other four?

The answer might be, in part, new blood. Not that the clubs in question were victims of what the ads call tired blood. Most of the players on the respective squads now were with the same teams last year, and were capable performers.

But they needed just a slight transfusion, and if the transfusion wasn't entirely responsible for their improved play this year, at least it has had something to do with it.

Los Angeles Dodgers finished a famous driver of years ago, Thomas W. Murphy in partnership with L. B. Sheppard, proprietor of Hanover Shoe Farms, where Bullet Hanover was foaled.

In the Open Pace, purse \$3,500, Joe O'Brien was the winner with Sunbelle, a 4-year-old bred at the S. A. Camp farm by the Camp-owned station Mighty Son, time 2:01 1-5, 2:00. This is a new record for Sunbelle. In the Matron 3-year-old pace, purse \$15,685, Newport Admiral (A. Cameron) was 3-1-1, Carlotero (Stimpson) 1-2-5, King's Meadow (J. O'Brien) 2-6-2, time, 2:02 2-5, 2:03, 2:02 1-5. King's Meadow finished first in the first heat but was placed second for swerving in the stretch.

At Roosevelt Raceway last week the powerhouse pacer Bye Bye Byrd, driven by Canadian driver Clint Hodgins, won the \$15,000 Free For All in 1:57 4-5, which

dismal seventh last year with a 461 average. Currently they are tied for second at 540, three games off the pace.

During the winter the Dodgers acquired outfielder Wally Moon from the Cardinals. Right now Moon is batting a respectable .299.

The pitching staff, it was discovered after the season started, needed bolstering, so Larry Sherry was brought up in July, Roger Craig in June, and Clarence Churn in August. Sherry has a 4-2 record in both starting and relieving roles. Craig has won seven, and Churn has done some nice relief work.

San Francisco Giants gave it a good try last year, finishing third behind the champion Braves and Pittsburgh with a .519 average. Currently they are on top in the National League with a

19-12 record and Sanford has won an even dozen.

They also get a capable catcher in Hobe Landrih from the Cards, and just recently came up with a first baseman who has been a sensation in the 35 games he has played.

He is Willie McCovey, from the Phoenix farm. He's hit in his last 20 games, has 11 home runs, has driven in 28 runs and has a nice, fat .366 average.

Chicago White Sox, who finished second to New York Yankees in the American League last year with a .690 mark, made a bid for more power in August when they acquired large Ted Kluszowski from Pittsburgh. Kluzowski, in 14 games, is hitting .365, with 16 hits, including two home runs.

Dottie's Pick came second with \$101,142, and Adios Harry, former 4-year-old stallion leader, won \$98,900. It is quite possible that Bye Bye Byrd will earn \$50,000 or more before the season ends. We are pleased that Canadian driver Clint Hodgins is accomplishing so much with this horse. Clint was very kind to the writer and Mr. F. C. McCurdy when we met him in Florida a couple of winters ago, loaning us his car for a sight-seeing tour with Mr. McCurdy at the wheel.

lead of three games and a .502 average.

They made some profitable deals last winter. They acquired pitchers Sam Jones and Jack Sanford from St. Louis and Philadelphia, respectively. Jones has a 19-12 record and Sanford has won an even dozen.

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The White Sox also acquired Jim McAnany from Indianapolis in June. McAnany is averaging .301 at the plate.

LONE THREAT  
Cleveland finished fourth in 1958 with a .593 mark. Not the Indians are playing .598 ball and are the only threat to the White Sox. One big reason for the improvement might be Tito Francona, outfielder and first baseman acquired from Detroit Tigers during the winter. He started playing regularly June 1, and in

106 games has a sizzling .391 average.

The Indians in mid-June acquired infielder Jim Baxes from the Dodger farm system. In 74 games he's hit 15 home runs.

Getting belated aid from a mound staff weakened by Herb Score's ineffectiveness—Score hasn't won a game since July 3—Cleveland got southpaw Jack Harshman in a deal with Boston Red Sox last month.

Before he joins the Indians, Harshman's record was 2-9. Since he joined them it is 3-0.

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