

DOWN THE BACK STRETCH

Rockingham Park, New Hampshire, had the honor of holding the earliest opening meet in its history this year. It is situated in a hilly part of the State, but the park, itself, has been built at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars, and great care has been taken to look after the comfort of the people, many of whom come from a distance of more than two hundred miles to witness the sport.

This year's opening produced a record crowd of 10,336, and they poured \$269,160 into the pari-mutuels, which is also a record for an opening program. Last year, they were unfortunate with the weather, and a blizzard kept thousands at home, with only 1,791 braving the elements. But they put \$24,316 through the mutuels.

YOUNGEST DRIVER
The youngest driver who is campaigning there is Gene Daisey, who handles a public stable of sixteen head, and is 21 years of age. He started to job his father's horses when he was 10 years old, and he was driving at 18. He is a six-footer and weighs 170 pounds. He gives his dad credit for teaching him all he knows about racing. He admits that there is plenty of work to do with his stable - long hours, etc. He is up every morning at five o'clock, and is busy until midnight when he drives at night.

Here are some of the results from Rockingham: First race, D Pace, won by Brewer Direct, time 2:11 2-5; second race, 2:25 -2:30 Pace, won by Tague, time 2:10 3-5; third race, D trot, won by Tital Ward, time 2:17 2-5; fourth race, D Pace, won by Summerdale, time 2:10; fifth race, D trot, won by Bee Bee, time 2:11 3-5; sixth race, C pace, won by Selka Hanover, time 2:09 2-5; seventh race, the Inaugural Pace, purse \$3,000, won by Ensign Erl, time 2:10 1-5.

RAGS-TO-RICHES
A few nights ago, on April 4th, one of the most sensational rags-to-riches horses that has stepped over a race track in recent years - the 10-year-old pacing gelding, Bay State Pat, got his nose out in front as they led into the homestretch a Yankees Raceway, New York, and headed off the favorite, Irish 2:00 4-5, to win by inches before a wildly excited crowd of 33,112 fans. The time for the mile was 2:05 4-5, and conditions were considered about three seconds slow.

Now, let us take a few minutes to run through the career of this remarkable horse. Early in the spring of 1954, Andrew Perry visited Woodstock, N.B., and bought a pacer - Bay State Pat - that had passed through several hands and had been found wanting in about everything that should be in a race horse.

Andrew's trainer at that time was "Smithie," who had patience and made many changes before he struck the key to this national horse. Later, when it came to racing time, he showed well enough to be entered at Summerside on the July 15th program, and he divided honors with Jay's Hope, winning a dash and taking a record of 2:17.

Along in August, he had a new driver in James (Roach) MacGregor, who, on August 5th, finished 2-1, with Janet Clegg being 1-2, at Summerside. The times were 2:16 and 2:15 1-5 he made a few more starts, and then was shipped to Quebec City by trainer MacGregor, where, he was 1-1 on September 6, with the best time 2:17. On September 16, in the B Pace, purse \$1,600, also at Quebec City, Gay Wave was 1-2; Bay State Pat was 7-1, times 2:10 and 2:09 4-5. On September 18, in the \$1,200 free-for-all, he finished 2-6, with the miles in 2:05 2-5 and 2:06 4-5.

On October 17, he was 1-1, times 2:06 1-5 and 2:06 1-5, also at Quebec City. On October 27, he was shipped to Saint John, N.B., where he won in 2:11 3-5. In his campaign that year he made 26 starts, was 11 times first, 3 times second and three times third.

IN SUMMERSIDE
He opened his 1955 campaign at Summerside, where he won both dashes of the free-for-all on July 13, times 2:09 and 2:09. His total starts that year were 36, and he was 21 times first, twice second and twice third, with total winnings of \$9,573 for the year. His greatest victory was at Blue Bonnets track, Montreal, where he won both dashes in the \$7,500 Free-For-All in 2:04 2-5 and 2:03 3-5. That performance led to negotiations for his sale to Jacques Beaudoin of Montreal, and in 1956 he raced in his colors, made 30 starts, was 9 times first, 4 times second and twice third, with winnings of \$35,360, and a new record of 2:01 4-5. His total winnings at the end of 1956 were \$46,943, which covered all his campaigns to the end of that season.

In 1957, he made 30 starts, and was 8 times first, 3 times second and 4 times third, with winnings of \$31,811. In 1958, he made 31 starts, was 5 times first, 8 times second and 6 times third, with winnings of \$44,344, the biggest season's winnings of his career. His grand total, for all his campaigns to the end of 1958, was \$122,748.

What was probably one of his best performances of all time, considering the weather conditions, was the winning of the AA Pace, purse \$4,500, at Yonkers Raceway last November 8. Under good conditions, his mile in 2:04 1-5 would be equal to at least

Lots Of Action Awaits Richard On Hab Lineup

MONTREAL (CP) - Veteran Maurice (Rocket) Richard has a regular turn awaiting him and an untired rookie will be in Montreal Canadiens' lineup tonight when the Montrealers go gunning for a 2-0 lead over Toronto Maple Leafs in the best-of-seven Stanley Cup final.

Coach Toe Blake of Canadiens said Friday that Bernie (Boom Boom) Geoffrin will be given lots of rest and the 37-year-old Rocket plenty of action.

Blake later announced that Bill Hicke, the Regina youngster who set the American Hockey League ablaze while with Rochester Americans this season, will be dressed for the game.

Like the famous Rocket, the 21-year-old Hicke is a rightwinger who shoots left-handed but he can play at other spots on the forward line.

From the Junior Pats of Regina he moved into pro hockey at the start of this season. He wound up his season with Rochester with 41 goals and 56 assists for 97 points, setting a record for a rookie in the AHL.

The Rocket was used only a couple of times on the power play Thursday night when Canadiens downed the Leafs 5-3 in the series opener.

"I'm ready to get in there now," said the Rocket Friday. "I had told Toe I didn't want to play any lines and force anybody out, but when I feel I'm ready to play - well, of course I want to play."

That was good news for Blake, who has been worrying a bit about Geoffrin. The Boomer has had recurrences of the groin pains that bothered him during the second half of the season and finally sidelined him.

The Rocket has been out - until his brief return in the opener - since Jan. 18 when he suffered a fracture of a foot bone.

Blake didn't say just where he will use the veteran, but it is expected Richard will work with two rookies - centre Ralph Backstrom and leftwinger Ab McDonald - at least at the outset. This would leave the other lines intact.

To make room for Hicke in the lineup, defenceman Ian Cushman will not be dressed for the game. Meanwhile, it was still probable that when big Jean Beliveau will be able to play. He suffered a spinal injury during the semifinal series with Chicago Black Hawks.

After a light workout Friday, Beliveau obviously was in pain, and his face was drawn. "I don't feel very good," was all he said.

TEAMS OFF FORM
There was general speculation as to why both teams appeared below form in the opener. Blake agreed tentatively that perhaps there was some tension on the part of his boys, knowing they are after four straight Cup titles.

The Montreal workout was a light drill of 30 minutes. On the other hand, coach Punch Imlach of the Leafs sent his team through a workout that lasted more than an hour.

Imlach said "We'll win this series. We were anywhere from 25 to 50 per cent below par in that first game."

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Maritime Midget Championship
(Sudden Death Game)
CHARLOTTETOWN ABBIES
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Attention, Horsemen!
23 - PACE OR SLOWER
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30 or more nominations required. Each division to be raced in two dashes at \$200.00 a dash, 3% deduction from money winners. Nomination fee \$10.00 closing May 15th. Horses standing first or second in the summary of each division eligible to the race off event which will be raced in July for \$400.00 plus all nomination fees. In the event of more than one horse standing equal for second in the summary, the horse finishing second in the dash with the fastest time will be the eligible horse, with the exception of where horses finishing in a dead heat for second, the eligible horse will be declared by a draw. If more than six divisions the final event will be raced under the elimination rule. All divisions to be classified. The first race will be on June 15th with any one of the divisions being first to be raced, with succeeding divisions following, one division on each race date. In the event of postponement on account of bad weather each division will move up one race date.

Phillies Nip Redlegs 2-1
PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Rookie George Anderson, a hitting bust all spring, singled home a run in the eighth inning Friday night backing up stout pitching by veteran Robin Roberts and earning Philadelphia Phillies a 2-1 opening day victory over Cincinnati Reds.
The Phillies picked up their winning run in the eighth. They got there other in the sixth.
Cincinnati scored in the ninth inning as Roberts weakened.

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when horse must be named and the \$10.00 fee must accompany horse
Name of Horse
Sire Dam Sex Color
.....
Owner.
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CHARLOTTETOWN DRIVING PARK
P.O. Box 152 E. Frank Acorn, Race Secretary (9).

MARITIME FINAL TONIGHT

Charlottetown Midgets will be attempting to cop the Maritime title tonight when they play host to the champions of Nova Scotia, Halifax Monarchs. Abbies qualified for tonight's battle by defeating Bathurst Midgets 6-4 in Bathurst last Saturday night.

The Monarchs won their berth by trouncing New Waterford 16-4 on the same night. Tonight's sudden-death fixture is to be played at Saint Dunstan's University Arena. Here are three big men in the Abbies' scheme of things. At left, centre Billy MacMillan who joins the Maple Leafs organization next fall. Centre is goalie Eddie Tierney and right is aggressive defenceman Frank Dow. Game time is fixed for 7 o'clock, so everything will be over in plenty of time for the Toronto-Montreal tussle which starts at 9:30.

Two night games were scheduled in the National League San Francisco was at St. Louis, where Solly Hemus made his debut as Cardinal manager. Cincinnati, with one victory already earned, was at Philadelphia.

Spahn took his first step toward his 10th 20-win season. It was his 24th big league victory. The left-hander allowed seven hits.

Eddie Mathews' two-run homer broke a scoreless battle between Spahn and Bob Friend. Billy Bruton had three singles for the Braves and Hank Aaron two doubles and a single as they opened their bid for a third straight National League pennant.

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Braves Shut Out Pirates; Spahn Off To Flying Start

By JACK HAND
Associated Press Sports Writer
Warren Spahn got Milwaukee Braves off flying in the new season Friday with his 44th shutout, seven-hit, 8-0 job against highly regarded Pittsburgh.

Chicago and Cleveland won the American League openers, moving into a first-place tie with idle Washington.

A two-out, two-run homer by Willie Fox, his first since Sept. 9, 1957, gave the White Sox a 7, 14-inning victory over the Tigers at Detroit.

Dick Brodowski came to the aid of Gary Bell and Herb Score by giving Cleveland's 6-4 victory over Kansas City.

Rain and cold weather slashed the opening day program, sparing only three of five scheduled day games.

The Yankee Stadium opener between world champion New York Yankees and Boston was postponed because of rain, snow and cold weather froze out the Los Angeles-Chicago Cub game at Chicago Baltimore and Washington not scheduled.

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SPORTS FRONT

By PIUS CALLAGHAN
TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS, down 1-0 in their best-of-seven Stanley Cup final series with Montreal Canadiens will be pulling out all the stops tonight in an effort to knot things up at 1-1 and to back to friendly Maple Leafs Gardens on an even footing with the defending champions.

Montreal Canadiens' fans don't think the Imlach outfit can accomplish this task tonight and they see the series 2-0 for the Montrealers as the teams head back to the Queen City. That, of course, is not wild thinking and the experts will agree that Canadiens will take tonight's encounter at the Montreal Forum.

HOWEVER, you can't discount a team that played as well as the Maple Leafs did for nearly fifty minutes of Thursday's game. And you, we are not trying to say that Canadiens didn't deserve their victory. There's no doubt about the better team winning the opener on Thursday. All we are saying is that Leafs battled hard and efficiently for most of the contest and had they not the tie-breaking goal in the third, the outcome could have been different. They had their chances to go ahead but Plante was good enough to hold them to three goals.

Canadiens and particularly coach Toe Blake aren't forgetting that Boston Bruins won the first two games in their semi-final set with the Maple Leafs yet they failed to qualify for the finals with the Montrealers. They aren't forgetting that Leafs lost that opener in Boston 5-1 and looked mighty poor in doing so. Thursday the Toronto boys lost a 5-3 decision to Canadiens but this time they looked good in defeat.

THERE ARE THOSE who insist that Montreal didn't have good night Thursday. They'll tell you just to wait till Canadiens really turn on their power and all but drive Maple Leafs right out of the rink. That may happen but we are inclined to think that it won't. We have the feeling that Montreal didn't look extra good simply because the Maple Leafs outskated and out-gunned them for a great part of Thursday's game. Toronto did ease up in the final ten minutes but that certainly could have been caused by the effects of the gruelling seven-game series with the courageous Boston Bruins.

Punch Imlach, one of the greatest sources of sports copy to appear in a long time, is still able to shout. The scrappy Leaf has this to say: "This will be the easiest game Canadiens will have against us. If they can't play any better than that, we can play a lot better. I still think we will win the series."

WE THINK, however, that Imlach is doing a wee bit of whistling in the dark. But, then, he's been doing that for quite a time now and getting away with it. Perhaps, he can keep it up long enough to get his Leafs really rolling against these powerful gentlemen from Montreal.

Punch insists his boys played 50 per cent better against Boston Bruins and he adds "we relaxed at the wrong time." He maintains his club didn't hustle and didn't fight but he assures all they'll be doing both Saturday night.

We don't agree with Imlach's statement regarding the hustle and fight. We thought the Leafs had plenty of it all Thursday night. And we think if Imlach let us know his real feelings, he would say the same things.

But Punch has to say something interesting for the sport scribes and the statement that his team can play much better hockey than they showed in the opener, makes good sport page copy.

IN THE OTHER DRESSING ROOM, Toe Blake wasn't shouting about the Canadiens' victory. Toe thinks his charges showed too much looseness in their own end and he felt several of his players "didn't seem to have any legs."

Toe expects much greater things from his boys in the remaining Cup games. He wasn't impressed with their showing in these first two periods and he has told them so. The fact that Leafs outskated his Canadiens for more than two periods didn't please Mr. Blake one little bit.

He is certain there are better days ahead.

TONIGHT Harry Senter's Midget Abbies will try to bring a Maritime crown to Charlottetown.

The Abbies entertain Halifax Monarchs tonight at Saint Dunstan's rink with game time set for 7 o'clock sharp. The Monarchs, sportedly a strong midget outfit, are champions of Nova Scotia. The Abbies hold the New Brunswick-Prince Edward Island crown.

Local hockey fans should turn out tonight in large numbers and give the local youngsters all the backing possible. This Abbies man is one of the greatest midget clubs ever assembled in this province. It may be quite a time before the equal of it is seen round these parts.

Let's pack the Saint Dunstan's rink tonight and help cheer the Abbies to a Maritime crown.

THE MARITIMES can produce the best and they have done just that as far as sportscasters are concerned.

We think a tribute to Danny Gallivan is long overdue. The keble Gallivan is doing a tremendous job of handling all Montreal games and his impartiality is something that is not found in several others of his profession.

Danny makes his living - and a mighty good one - in Montreal but he doesn't let that influence him one little bit when he is writing a game. Thursday was no exception. Despite an attack of the flu, Gallivan came through with another great performance and there never once was a trace of any sorrow when the Maple Leafs scored.

We haven't the equal of Danny anywhere on this continent for as hockey-announcing is concerned.

The Maritimes are indeed proud to claim him.

BASEBALL
National League
Los Angeles at Chicago, pp snow, rain.
Milwaukee 000 002 240 - 8 13 0
Pittsburgh 000 009 000 - 0 7 0
Spahn and Crandall; Friend, Gross (8), Porterfield (8) and Foiles. L-Friend HR: Mil-Mathews (1).

American League
Boston at New York, ppd, rain.
Cleveland 110 110 002 - 6 11 0
Kansas C 000 200 002 - 4 9 3
Bell, Score (9), Drodowski (9) and Nixon; Grim, Herbert (9), Meyer (9) and House. W-Bell, L-Grim. HR: KCy-Lopez (1).