Harness Racing Review

(Continued from Page 8)

September, 1947, when Joe left here to race with a very ordinary stable at Foxboro, none of us ever envisioned that in eight years time he would become the talk of the harness horse world and accepted as the greatest reinsmen of today.

Another Maritime driver that has been steadily gaining in prestige is Earle Avery, formerly of Woodstock, N.B., whose name appears as the driver of Bud Wenger 2.05 1/4, that set up a track record in 1936 at Charlottetown of 2.05 1/2, which still stands. This year Earle made the headlines with such horses as Hillsota that he divided honors in the $75,000 pacing stake in California, winning one dash with Hillsota and having the same summary as Times Square, that won the third dash. He has had great success with this horse and lowered his record to 1.59. But a bigger bid to fame is what he did with the 2-year-old trotting filly Egyptian Princess, that was purchased for a modest sum the previous year at the Hanover Shoe Farms sale by Woolworth Bros., of Winthrop, Maine, and placed in Earle's hands. This mare was a bit notional, but Earle finally got the key to her and at Lexington in the second heat of the Hanover Shoe Farms filly stake she lowered one of the oldest world's records in the books to 2.02. Two important members of Earle's stable were the 4-year-old pacers Top Brass and Wing Commander. Both raced at Roosevelt and Yonkers. Top Brass winning frequently and in his third last start at the latter track won a $4,000. purse in 2.04 2/5—a new record and a fast one under the conditions. Wing Commander, that had a record as a 3-year-old of 2.07 3/5, took a new one of 2.04-3/5. Both the above are owned by Richard Jabalee of North Sydney, N.S., and being young have good racing careers ahead of them. In addition to the above Earle was a big winner all through the season at Roosevelt and Yonkers. In future he will drive exclusively for the Woolworth brothers.

A Maritime driver who many will remember and who was quite popular when racing here, is Angie Allen, formerly of Halifax. Angie left the Maritimes about three years ago and took a position as assistant trainer with the celebrated Aubrey Rodney at Saratoga Raceway, N.Y. Mr. Rodney did practically all the driving, but every once in a while Angie would get a chance and last year he had quite a number of mounts. Early this season Mr. Rodney met with an unfortunate accident which will probably prevent his driving any more and Angie took full charge of the stable. When the fall racing had finished, Angie was given the award as leading driver at Saratoga, which is a great honor as it is one of the best half mile tracks in the world and many of the best trotters and pacers race there.

Other Maritime drivers whose names we have noticed with wins and placings in the U. S. A. are Don Larlee, Wendy Carroll and Jackie Quinn. We can expect any one of these young men to advance in their chosen profession.

Over the Upper Canadian tracks Rannie MacDonald of Sydney made the most starts with the Harry Hirsch stable and others. He had 12 horses in training most of the year, eight racing at Blue Bonnets and Richelieu tracks in Montreal. These horses included June Bee 2.06 1/5, owned by Munroe & LaVatte, Sydney, Super Hal 2.01 3/5, Roll On 2.05, Globetrotter 2.09 2/5, and Florence Harmony 2.08 2/5, owned by Harry Hirsch of Sydney, Fair Play 2.09 3/5 and others owned by C. H. Sutherland, Sydney, Judge Hi Lee 2.06 2/5, Clean Up 2.09 1/5 and Major Rodney 2, 2.11, owned by Nap LeBurje, Montreal. His stable's winnings were in the vicinity of $22,000. Roll On had two firsts, three seconds and six thirds and won in 2.08, but had to be laid off in July owing to injuries. Super Hal was three times first, once second and four times third with approximately $1,000 winings. He did not get to the races until August and won in 2.09. Florence Harmony was seven times first, three times second and five times third with winnings of $2,200. She took a record of 2.08 2/5. Globetrotter had six wins, eight seconds and six thirds with earnings of about $3,100. He took a new record of 2.08 2/5.

One of our best local trainers and drivers, Earle Semple of Kensington, P.E.I., took his stable in mid-summer to Quebec Raceway and had quite a successful season there. The 3-year-old pacers Whispering Willow and Taurida Bay, that he took in part payment for Dean Gallon, were winners several times and each took records better than 2.12. Earle also lowered Bruce's Sister's record to 2.09 1/5. She is owned by B. F. Steele, Bangor, Me., and he also had winnings and placings with Little Delbert 2.14 and Jean Porteous 2.16 1/5. Two 3-year-old colts by Jollity 2.05 1/4, were given some nice preparation and worked easy miles from 2.16 to 2.25. He brought home another promising pacer called Molabbe by Butler, out of Maradale by Abbedale.

Layton Pettigrew of Truro, N. S., had wins with his stable, the members of which included Dorothy Won't Tell, Peterkin Aubrey, Van Baldwin and Prince Counting. J. Henry DeWitt of Woodstock, N. B., made several starts in Maine At Houlton he was twice second in 2.09 and 2.10 3/5, at Gorham he finished 2-2-3 in 2.10, 2.08 3/5 and 2.09 and at Lewiston was 1-5-2-3 in 2.09 4/5, 2.10, 2.09 2/5 and 2.09 with Dominion's Pride. He was only out of the money once and was eight times first. The trotter Tyndall Semple that he took over this season, started 7 times in Maine and won in 2.11 4/5 and was never out of the money.

Another driver that did well away from home was Robert Troy with Bob Brown's Skelter 2.06 1/5.

There have been polls taken for the Horse Of The Year racing over U. S. A. tracks, also for the Horse Of The Year racing over Upper Canadian tracks, but there has been no poll taken for the Horse Of The Year racing over Maritime tracks. Setting ourselves up as a poll of one our unanimous vote is for Bay State Pat 2.02 3/5, that was a winner 5 times at Summerside, 6 times at Charlottetown, twice at Sackville Downs, once at Fredericton, once at Woodstock, twice at Quebec City, once at Richelieu track, Montreal, five times at Blue Bonnets, Montreal, making a total of 23 dashes with all his miles raced being in 2.10 or better with the exception of one.

All his training and all his drives were given him by James "Roach" MacGregor. He set up a new track record at Summerside of 2.06, a new track record at Quebec City of 2.02 3/5 (some of the fastest horses in the world have raced over that track), and a new track record at Blue Bonnets of 2.03 3/5.

He was afterwards sold to Jean Jacques Beaudoin of Montreal for $20,000.

The above completes our Review of the 1955 racing season, which we trust will be interesting and informative to our horsemen readers wherever this issue goes. We have been the recipient of many kindnesses from readers of Down the Back Stretch not only in the Maritimes, but from various parts of the United States and Canada. Quite a number of these friends do not wish public ity, but we want to assure them that they have a very warm place in our regard for the time and trouble they took in sending us items which they believe will appeal to our readers.

We owe a great debt to the race secretaries of Maritime tracks for their co-operation in loaning their judges books to us so that we can verify the entries in our card system and give our readers a correct account of track happenings. From past experience we know the great amount of time and effort that is spent by them in their various duties and we trust that the season of 1955 was a successful one and that 1956 will be even more successful.

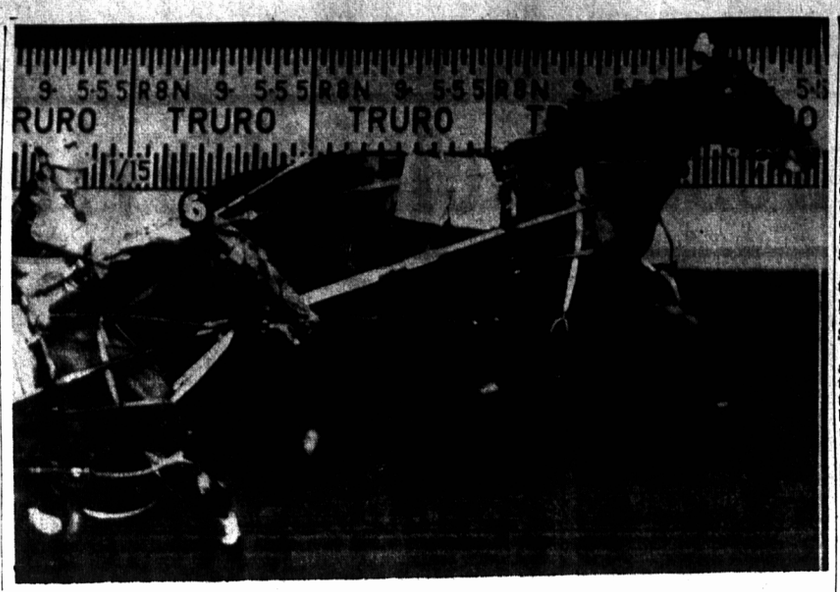
The photo charts of finishes which appear in this Review were very kindly given to us by Mr. Rupert Godfrey, proprietor of the Photo Chart System and an expert technician whose worth has been widely recognized in the Maritime Provinces and elsewhere. These photo charts are undoubtedly the best produced in Canada and naturally so because he has the rights of the best picture system in America. Mr. Godfrey is one of our busiest men during the racing season, commuting between the various tracks where his system is used. The worries incidental to perfecting this system and having it work smoothly must be considerable but one would never know it to judge from Mr. Godfrey's easy-going manner that makes him an ideal employer and causes his associates to do an excellent job wherever employed.

ADDITIONAL STATISTICS

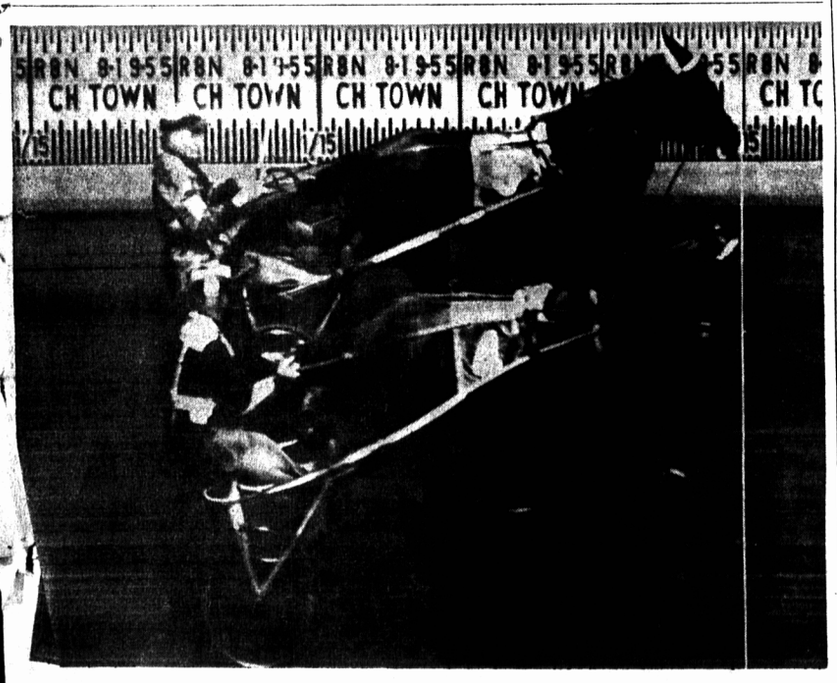
We regret that the results of the racing held at Chatham on July 1st and August 31st do not appear in the above statistics as they were only received by us yesterday. The following horses should be credited with these additional wins and records. There was one mile in 2.09 2/5, stepped by Abbeland, driven by W. Jardine, which increases the number of 2.10 miles to 72. Abbeland won 2 dashes. Beanery Boy 2.10—1 dash; Chestnut G.—1 dash, 2.18-4/5, new record, (W. Jardine); Delaware Chief 2.06 4/5—2 dashes; Janeille 3, 2.11 3/5—2 dashes; Mae Federal—1 dash, 2.16, new record, (H. Cormier); Miss Ellis 2.16 2/5—1 dash; Peter Clegg 2.08 4/5—2 dashes; Pius—2 dashes, 2.16, new record (R. Creamer); Royal Admiral—1dash, 2.23 1/5, new record (LeBlanc); Taurida Bay—3 dashes, 2.13 2/5 new record (E. Semple); Whirlaway 2.15 3/5—1 dash.

And now we wish to conclude by extending our thanks to our reading public and our best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

OTTAWA (CP)—Chaim Shurer, editor-in-chief of Davar, Israel's largest newspaper, says Jewish culture in Russia will disappear in 10 years if present conditions continue. He said that during a 40-day visit to Russia last year he found the Rusian Jew out of touch with Jews in other lands because of a Russian ban on Jewish culture.



Josedale Clansman 2:07 1/5, owned and driven by Donald Turner, Dartmouth, N. S. Lowering track record pace at Truro, Sept. 5th.



Patrick Budlong, owned and driven by George Turner, Dartmouth, N.S., co-holder with April Bud (D. Constable) and Mt. Carroll (F. McAlduff) of record for fastest trotting gelding, 1955.

4 Big Football Battles Scheduled For Weekend

By WILL GRIMSLEY

NEW YORK (AP) — The brilliant Howard (Hopalong) Cassady, Ohio State's two-time All-America, cuts loose again Saturday to kick off a $3,000,000 weekend of Bowl football sure to attract more than 500,000 fans.

Casady, individual standout of the 1955 college campaign, will play with Coach Woody Hayes' East squad against West in the Shrine game at San Francisco.

This is just one of four Saturday attractions, three of which will be televised, to whet the appetite of the gridiron gourmet for Monday's big Bowl clashes from Pasadena to Miami.

Also on the New Year's Eve bill are the Gator Bowl battle at Jacksonville, Fla., between Vanderbilt and Auburn; the Blue-Gray game at Montgomery, Ala., and the Salad Bowl at Phoenix, Ariz., between all-star teams of the Skyline and Border Conferences.

Cassady's presence with the Eastern squad has made that group a one-touchdown favorite over the West in a game which will be viewed by 61,000 in the flesh and untold numbers on television.

AUBURN FAVORED

The Gator Bowl kickoff is 2 p.m. with Auburn, 16 pounds bigger to the man in the line, a six-point choice over a swift Vanderbilt team which finished the season strong.

The Blues—that is, the Northerners—have been established a one-touchdown choice over the Grays at Montgomery, starting at 2:30 p. m.

The four big Bowl games Monday figure to bring in $500,000 each, with the Rose Bowl at Pasadena drawing the largest flock, 100,000, but the Miami Orange Bowl netting the most money, $515,000.

Million Dollar Offer Refused

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—An offer of $1,000,000 for New York Giants of the National Football League has been turned down by the club's owners.

Commissioner Bert Bell of the NFL said Wednesday that he personally had made the offer for a group of men he declined to identify. Bell said the group intended to keep the Giants in New York.

Bell confirmed that this was the largest offer ever made for a pro football franchise. It would have given the owners 400 times their original investment or 40,000 per cent profit.

The commissioner said the Giants were purchased by Timothy J. Mara for $2,500 on Aug. 1, 1925.

Robinson And Basilio May Meet In Bout

NEW YORK (AP)—Away off in the distant future, say September at Yankee Stadium, a Sugar Ray Robinson-Carmen Basilio match is hanging in the sky.

"We're looking toward a Basilio match outdoors," said Ernie Bracca, Robinson's co-manager, Thursday as he discussed the future of the three-time middleweight champ.

"We're anxious to get the rematch with Bobo Olson over as soon as possible," he said. "It's good news to hear they (Olson and manager Sid Flaherty) are going to take up the option. The date isn't definite but they tell us the tentative date is Feb. 24 at San Francisco."

Harry Markson, managing director of the International Boxing Club, said any talk of such a match was "pretty far in the future." He said it had been discussed briefly, only because it had been mentioned but there was nothing concrete.

Friday's Minor Hockey Results

Yesterday's minor hockey games all took place in the Paperweight Division. All games were closely contested except the second of the day in which Leafs packed too much power to defeat Hawks by a score of 6-1.

Following is a summary of games played:

Paperweights:—

Bruins 0, Redwings 0; Leafs 6, Hawks 1.

Leafs goals by G. Kane (3), F Robison, J. Duffy, Flynn; Hawks goal by J. Irwin.

Bluebirds 0, Tigers 0; Cubs 3, Falcons 2.

Cubs goals all by James Kennedy; Falcons goals by B. McCallum and W. Schleyer.

Referees: D. Frizzell and A Doyle.

B.Y.C. Practice

Coach Wally Shepherd has called a practice for the B. Y. C. at the Sports Arena on Sunday afternoon from 1 to 3 p.m. and requests the attendance of all players.

FULLY FURRED

Like the young of all hares, baby jack rabbits—prairie hares—are born fully furred and with eyes open.

Willie Hartack Resumes Riding

MIAMI, Fla. (AP)—With Bobby Ussery gaining steadily on him each day, the indications are Willie Hartack will resume riding at Tropical Park this week.

Hartack's agent, Chick Lang, arrived Tuesday from his home in Baltimore and said the nation's leading jockey may be back in the saddle as early as Thursday, and certainly would be back by Saturday.

The jockey standings for the first 25 days of the Gables meeting show Hartack with 25 victories and Ussery, who scored a triple Christmas Day, with 23.

Hartack has been idle since riding four winners at Tropical on Dec. 21, boosting his 1955 total to 412.

Rifle Scores

Following are the scores for December 28, at the York Rifle Club:

Irene Hardy	99
Raymond Vessey	98
Howard Watts	96
Arthur Brown	96
Christine Proud	95
Dewar Swan	95
H. F. Vessey	95
A. J. Cluney	94
Cecil Watts	94
Leigh Vessey	93
Merrill MacDonald	92
Hazel Vessey	90
Norman Brown	90
Taken Lewis	90
Betty Andrews	90
Harry Lewis	89
Carol Hardy	89
Myron Ling	88
Elizabeth Watts	86
Lloyd Vessey	84
Bonnell Ling	83
Marjorie Lewis	82
Joyce Ling	81
Frank Vessey	81
Frank Watts	80
Robert Cooper	80
Alan Brown	80
Donald Crockett	80

Lions Going To Czechoslovakia

PRAGUE (Reuters) — Wembley Lions hockey team, most of whose players are Canadians, will play three games in Czechoslovakia next month, the Czechoslovak news agency reported Thursday.

The Lions will probably meet the Red Star team in Brno Jan. 8 and in Bratislava Jan. 10, and a Czechoslovak representative side in Prague Jan. 12.

UNITY MEET BIGGEST

OTTAWA (CP)—More than 1,500 delegates are expected at next April's merger convention of the Trades and Labor Congress and the Canadian Congress of Labor. That figure would make it the largest labor convention in Canadian history. The meeting, at which the TLC and CCL will be united, will open April 23 in Toronto's Coliseum.

•Continued from page 9

In This Corner

BOXING:

Five big fight cards were staged on the Island in 1955. Three of these cards were under the promotion of Charlottetown's Ivan Doherty and took place at the Forum. The other two were staged in Summerside at the Raceway Stadium and on each Earl MacDonald was featured in the main bout.

In Charlottetown Cobey McCluskey was the main-eventer in two of the bouts. In his first outing he scored a unanimous decision over Rudy Watkins of New York, in May and in July on the big Centennial card he won a decision over Jimmy Skinner also of New York.

Gaston Roy was a semi-finalist on all three cards winning two of his bouts by knockouts and the other by a t.k.o. Roy k.o.'d Red Graham of Dartmouth and Artie Chorbak, of N. Y., and won a t.k.o. verdict over Johnny Griffith of Halifax.

Earl MacDonald, a newcomer to the Maritimes won a t.k.o. over Don Trainor at Summerside and in his next bout got the nod over Gaston Roy.

On the second Charlottetown card Harry Poulton decisioned Gary Simon of New Glasgow in the main event.

On the McCluskey-Skinner card Don Trainor got a first-round knockout over Bill Crawford of New York and in the second bout at Summerside Bobby Quinn won the P.E.I. lightweight title with a split decision over Walter Arsenault of Summerside.

RIFLE SHOOTING:

There were big doings in the realm of rifle shooting on Prince Edward Island in 1955.

Lt. Mary MacLennan, a Charlottetown school teacher and a native of Alexandra, P.E.I., travelled to the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association prize shoot held at Ottawa and came back with the much coveted title in the Bankers Match. Miss MacLennan had finished in a tie with Major Gerald E. Keeler of Picton, Ont., but in the shoot-off the crack lady marksman shot 5 consecutive inner bullseyes to win the match.

The Inter-Maritime Championships were held at Squaw Point, P.E.I., and the 8-man team from N. B. shot a record-breaking 808 to win the title. N. S. was next with 791 and P.E.I., was last with 782.

Lt. MacLennan took honors in the Jones Memorial Match held at the Provincial Shoot and Tpr. Robert Barwise won the Grand Aggregate and the Ottawa Aggregate.

Ron Atkinson, Charlottetown, won the P.E.I., skeet championship and Glydon Willis of Charlottetown won the trap title at the Centennial shoot and D. G. Morrison of Halifax and E. A. Thompson of Fredericton shot the high scores in the skeet and trap shoots respectively at the Centennial meet.

HOCKEY:

1955 saw the demise of major hockey in Charlottetown. After operating for five years the Charlottetown Islanders finally threw in the towel and called it quits when it was becoming quite clear that Charlottetown was not supporting a major league entry.

Despite the fact that the Islanders finished on top of the regular league schedule fans were staying away from the games in droves and no effort was made to revive major hockey for the 1955-56 season.

After winning the A.C.S.H.L., title the Islanders ran over the Fredericton Capitals in the best of nine semi-finals, but found a stumbling block in the persons of the Moncton Hawks who defeated them 4 games to 1 in the best of seven finals.

In Island intermediate "B" hockey the highly rated Parkdale Flyers were knocked out of contention by the Milton Hornets. The Hornets in turn were beaten by the Montague Primroses who advanced to the finals against the Prince County winners, the Summerside Aces.

In as stirring a playoff as was seen in a long time the Aces captured the title by one goal in a home and home series.

The Aces advanced against St. Bezil for the N.B.-P.E.I., title, but lost out.

Parkdale Flyers won the City League title and Charlottetown's minor teams won 3 out of 4 titles from Summerside in Island playdowns.

The Charlottetown paperweights, pee-wees and bantams each won their home and home total goal series with their Summerside counterparts while the Summerside Midgets took the measure of the Charlottetown Midgets. The paperweights won 10-1, the pee-wees 18-1 and the bantams 4-3. The midgets won 10-9.

After the first game ended in a tie the Summerside Juveniles journeyed to Charlottetown and defeated the Welshmen from P.W.C. 5-3 to take the Island title.

The Abbie Sisters won the girl's Island title with a 4-1 two-game total score victory over Elmsdale.

S.D.U. could rack up only one victory in intercollegiate play that saw Mount Allison clinch the title with a 4-2 win over the Saints in Charlottetown.

CURLING:

It was a red letter year for the curlers. The Island schoolboy champion rink from P.W.C. entered into the Dominion playdowns against the strongest teams in Canada and finished in a three-way tie for second place. Three thousand citizens of Sydney, N.S., and surrounding area watched the final days play between the Welshman and Saskatchewan quartet and although the fans were highly partisan to the Island team the Saskatchewan rink won 12-5 on the last day of the meet to clinch the title for the second year in a row.

Actually the Island schoolboy title was won by a Summerside rink skipped by Dave Silliphant. However following the final game it was discovered that one of the players was over age, and a new playoff was ordered between the Cameron rink of Summerside, the Llewelyn rink of Q.C.S.H. and Barry MacDonald's Welshmen, who eventually won.

The Welshmen team making the trip to Sydney was comprised of Barry MacDonald, skip, George Dillon, mate, Erroll Nicholson, second stone and Don MacLeod, lead.

The Dr. Wendall MacDonald skipped rink of the Charlottetown Club won the Island senior title and the British Consols Trophy and advanced to the Dominion playoffs. Their record in the Dominion 'spiel was 4 wins and 6 losses good for 7th place.

Dr. MacDonald's rink, comprised of Johnny Squarebriggs, mate Andrew Likely, second stone and Elmer MacDonald, lead, won the Island championship over the Horace MacFarlane skipped Summerside rink. Others members of that rink were: Cliff Ramsay, mate, Bruce MacWilliams, second stone and Wally Walwyn, lead.

GOLF:

Cecil Dowling, golf pro at the Charlottetown Belvedere Course, was crowned the Island Open Champion in 1955. In the tournament played at Charlottetown Dowling was four strokes up on his nearest rival Doane Hallett, an amateur from Halifax. Hallett's score was top for the amateurs. Jim Walker of Kentville was the next professional behind Dowling, trailing by 5 strokes.

Dowling also won the Green Gables Open Tournament by one stroke over Bill Beer. Beer shot a sparkling 71 in the Charlottetown Pro's Tournament to beat out Erroll Nicholson.

Nicholson emerged as the Maritime Junior champ at a tourney held at Fredericton and in Willington Cup play both he and Beer qualified for the Maritime team which didn't get very far in the tournament held at Calgary.

Both of P.E.I.'s amateur titles went to Summerside golfers Norman MacLeod won the men's amateur title. His nearest competition was Art MacKenzie of Charlottetown. Miss Blanche Hogg of Summerside dethroned Mrs. F. M. Cannon, Charlottetown, as Island Ladies' champion. Mrs. Cannon was the runner-up, one stroke behind the champ.

TRACK AND FIELD

Under the capable supervision of the Department of Physical Fitness track and field enjoyed one of its most successful years in 1955. Four big meets were held locally. Two of the meets were of an interscholastic nature. One was held in the latter part of June and the other in October and the latter had one of the biggest entry lists ever.

The Centennial meet held on Dominion Day attracted athletes from all over the Maritimes and the Maritime Championships in late September were also largely attended.

At the Maritime Championships the Abbie track team won the Premier MacNair trophy for garnering the highest-point total while Sub. Lt. Peter Watson of Cornwallis won the S. F. Doyle Memorial Trophy for the best all-round performance. Watson was 5 points up on Dave MacLeod of Charlottetown who won the trophy in 1954.

MacLeod and Alfred Groom of Summerside represented the Island and the Olympic Training sessions held at Toronto.

BASKETBALL

The spring of 1955 saw the breaking up of the great basketball team that represented S.D.U., for some years back. When the hoop season opened again in the fall of '55 only one player, John Kelly, remained from the team that made S.D.U. a power in Maritime basketball.

The Saints lost through graduation stars like Jack Reardon, Gus Dorais, Bob Mooney, Frank Slowey and Shea.

The Saints started the '55 season with high hopes, but had them shattered when they were defeated in intercollegiate play by U.N.B.

After this setback the Saints went gunning for the Canadian Senior Championship, but after winning the first game of the N.B.-P.E.I., playoffs from the St. John Atlantics, with Reardon leading the way with 40 points, the Saints lost the total point series in Overtime in the return game at St. John.

A six-team, Island basketball league was formed which included the Summerside Cleaners, Summerside R.C.A.F., Sport Lodge Trotters, Nomads, S.D.U. second team and P.W.C.

The second Saints met the Trotters in the finals and defeated the Sport Lodge representatives in two straight games in the best-of-3 series.

Season's Greetings

To All Horsemen

From The

Prince Edward Island Harness Racing Club

Dr. R. F. Seaman, President
Jack Annear, Vice-Pres.
W. G. Gillespie, Secy.-Treas.
Frank McKay, Director.
Winston Taylor, Director.
Dr. Temple Hooper, Director.
Chas. Willis, Director.
Harold Stead, Director.
Lorne Kelly, Director.
George Brookins, Director.

A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

TO ALL . . . . . .
HORSEMEN AND RACING FANS
MAY 1956 BE A PLEASANT AND PROFITABLE YEAR FOR YOU.

RENDEZVOUS
189 KENT STREET

THE FREDERICTON EXHIBITION RACEWAY

EXTENDS SEASON'S GREETINGS

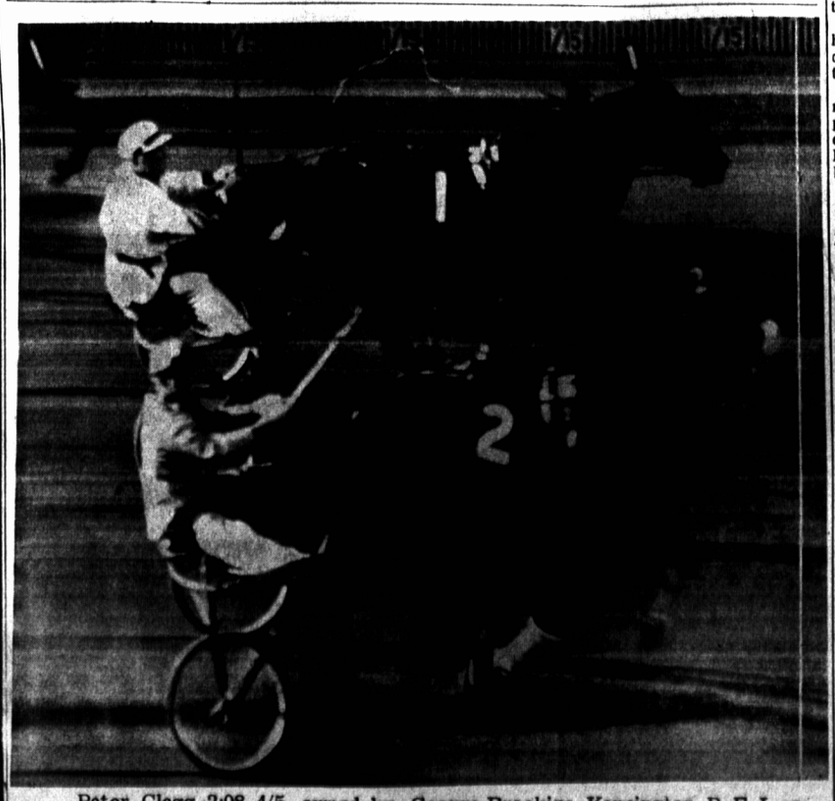
TO HORSEMEN EVERYWHERE

OUTSTANDING RACING PROGRAMME FOR 1956

RACING TWO NIGHTS A WEEK

DURING SUMMER MONTHS

W. HEDLEY WILSON, President
DR. J. T. AKINS, Chairman, Racing Committee
W. R. CREWDSON, Secretary-Manager



Peter Clegg 2:08 4/5, owned by George Brookins, Kensington, P. E. I. and driven by Harlan Harrison. Fastest Maritime Bred Pacing Gelding, 1955. Winning from Jerry's Nightmare (C. Smith) at Truro.