

DOWN THE BACK STRETCH

Jerry Patch 2:10 1/2, the last living male-line descendant in service of the greatest of all harness horses, Dan Patch 1:55 1/2, died recently, closing out the final chapter on one of the very greatest horse stories of all time. That we will never see the equal of Dan Patch again is the opinion of some of the greatest authorities on harness horse racing. He was foaled on a small farm in Indiana in 1896, took his record in 1905 and never met defeat in a race and went on to become the best known harness race horse in the history of the world.

From the day that Dan was purchased by M. W. Savage, manager of International Stock Food and other horse and cattle remedies, until his racing career ended, he was featured as the greatest harness horse living or dead. In 1903 at Brighton Beach he started to beat the world's pacing record of 1:59 1/2 held by Star Pointer and he paced the mile in 1:59. His fame became prodigious and he became the idol of tens of thousands of men, women and children. The small boy's sled and the baby's harness horse were named Dan Patch. No horse ever had such a press as Savage's brown pacing stallion. Not only the story of his exploits but accounts of his home life were broadcast to the nation.

The Racing Life of Dan Patch was a book that had the widest circulation and it said that he was "an amiable and sociable horse. He likes people. He likes to turn his head and look at the crowds when he is on the track. He likes to listen to the band. He is a good mixer, that is why he has friends as well as admirers." In 1904 driven by Harry Henscy, trainer for M. W. Savage, Dan entertained audiences estimated to have numbered 600,000 people. He travelled 10,000 miles to meet them. On his return to Minneapolis at the end of the season he was met with a brass band and escorted through the streets of the city by a parade of 2,000 home-town admirers. In 1905 the crowds that came to see Dan Patch were larger than ever. At the Minnesota State Fair an audience of 75,000 people greeted him. In Indianapolis an audience of 66,000. The banner crowd of the year was at Allentown, Pa., where 82,000 people on Dan Patch Day had swarmed the facilities of the race course.

In 1906 at Lexington Dan Patch paced his fastest record. It was not Dan Patch's fastest mile. In 1906 at the Minnesota State Fair before a crowd of 93,000, the largest ever assembled at a harness racing track, he paced a mile in 1:55, but by that time the governing bodies of the turf had put their heads together and disallowed the record because Dan was working behind a passing mile. In protest against the rejection of this record Savage re-named his achievement "The International 1:55 Stock Farm."

Dan Patch entertained the public for ten years; the crowds did not grow tired of him. During his decade on the turf he paced 53 miles at an average speed of 1:50 1/2 and lowered the world's records fourteen times. This impressive statistical record is no measure of his place in the annals of harness racing. To millions of people Dan Patch was neither a racing machine nor an advertising medium for his owner's products but the embodiment of gentle and heroic fortitude. He was in every sense a royal horse, wrote John Hervey. There has never been another like him. Long after Dan Patch closed his racing

career thousands of his admirers continued to travel on the Dan Patch Railway out to the Savage farm for a glimpse of him.

One of the first men to realize the advantage of swimming a horse was a Canadian named Charles Wagner, who owned a trotting mare named Phyllis. She won quite a number of races through Ontario and in 1882 Wagner took her to the U.S.A. where she had good luck—also bad—but Wagner was a patient type of man and he bided his time. In those days the principal money to be made out of horses was through the pool box and if a man could keep a horse under cover and not let the betting fraternity in on a good thing, he could clean up a lot of money; so Wagner shipped Phyllis to Cleveland in 1905. The Forest city was then one of the greatest horse centers. When he arrived there he hired a scow which he had anchored in Lake Erie near Cleveland's old Cleveland track. Every day or so Wagner would load Phyllis onto the scow, have it towed about a mile into the Lake where Phyllis would be dumped off, forcing her to swim to shore.

People became curious and asked Wagner what he meant by that system of training. He said Phyllis was getting old and that rheumatism had and that swimming helped her. It was a great joke and they dubbed her "Wagner's swimming mare", and laughed uproariously when Phyllis, who had not been clocked in any kind of good time in workouts in Cleveland, was entered for a race in rather stiff competition. As time neared for the contest, Wagner wandered around the places where they conducted the auction pools. When no one would make a single bet on Phyllis the owner would mention five dollars, and thus had his mare racing for him at odds that scaled from fifty to one up to over one hundred and fifty to one. Phyllis won the race and the canny Wagner scored a small fortune.

Asked how it happened he said, "Phyllis's muscles had gone a little soft. Swimming hardens muscles so I made a swimmer out of her. When people laughed at Phyllis and me I figured to make them pay. I worked her out when no one was around, early in the cool of the evening. I saw she was real sharp. The swimming did it so I bet some money on her and Phyllis did just like I knew she would." After her racing days were over Wagner sold her to a group of foreign breeders. They loaded her on a boat headed for Europe. During the voyage she died and the "swimming mare" of Lake Erie waters was given a grave in the Atlantic Ocean.

When the great driver Thomas W. Murphy was at the peak of his career as a trainer of harness horses he was asked for the success recipe. "A fellow I used to know when I was a boy trained fighting cocks," explained Murphy. "I saw he wouldn't let them continue training when they showed the slightest sign of getting tired. When sent into action had plenty of reserve energy when it was needed. I thought it was a good system. I never forced my horses to work after they indicated they were tired. The result—well, I always was lucky in having fit horses to step through the last quarter of a race."

Four Canadian 3-year-olds have been kept eligible to one or the other of the world's richest harness racing classics, the Hambletonian for trotters and the Little

LITTLE SPORT



IN THIS CORNER

The Islanders and the Sydney Millionaires played their last regular game of the Maritime Major Hockey League schedule at Sydney last night. The Charlottetown team was directed by captain Gus Gustavson in the absence of coach Wes Trainer who remained at home to get some needed rest. The Islanders also played without their regular coach, Roger Bessette, who was in his place was scullender Frank Roper of Charlottetown. Roper spent most of his time this winter playing nets for the Kentville Wildcats in the Valley League and according to all reports did a fine job.

The Islanders got the jump on the Atlantics next week in at least two ways. They have that important first playoff game at home and they will also have an extra day's rest as the Atlantics must play in Cape Breton tonight. Unless the Islanders received some injury last night they will be going into the playoffs in almost perfect shape. All the players are in the Island camp as the players feel confident they can eliminate the Atlantics in the best of nine series.

The Islanders' great centreman, Buck Whitlock will definitely play all the games during the playoffs. It was announced by coach Trainer last night, Buck has been playing fine hockey for the Islanders all season but unfortunately was forced to miss quite a number of road games due to pressure of his business. In the final analysis this may prove to the Islanders' advantage as Buck will be going into the playoffs in top condition. Other years, Whitlock had been used so much during the regular campaign, that he was a tired man by the time the playoffs rolled around. This year he is in mid-season form.

Trainer has been very impressed with the play of Eric Gray during the past couple of weeks. He stated last night that Gray's inspired play of late had certainly brightened the Islanders' chances of eliminating the Atlantics. Big Bob has been used on both defense and offense this year. He started as a forward until he was forced out of action for about a month with pleurisy. On his return he played defense but in recent games he has been used up front where he will operate during the playoffs.

The addition of Danny O'Connor will give the Islanders two strong defensive units and will insure Roger Bessette of good protection. Here again the Islanders have another point in their favor. Bessette has always been very good on Halifax ice and has been one of the big reasons why the Islanders were able to win six games at Halifax this year. Roger has played heads up hockey for Bucko Trainer all year and ranks with the best goalies that we have seen in the Maritimes during the past few seasons.

Claude Robert will be one of the key men in the series. Robert, showing the form he displayed here in January, can keep the Halifax defenses reeling. Vip Palladino can be counted upon to keep scoring those important scores as something of a question mark. Saindon has been like a butter in a slump. He has been having tough luck around the opposing net and as a consequence his all-around play has suffered. However he is giving indications that he is coming out of the

THE GUARDIAN, CHARLOTTETOWN MARCH 6, 1954

Parkdale-Milton, Nine Mile Creek And Cornwall Play At Forum Tonight

The final games in the Queen's County Intermediate B semi-final play-offs will be played tonight at the Forum with the Nine Mile Creek Bulldogs meeting the Cornwall Meteors at seven o'clock and the Parkdale Bombers taking on the Milton Hornets at nine. The Meteors defeated the Bulldogs 9-8 last Monday night in the opening game of the two game, best of three series and will be protecting that one goal lead tonight when they cross sticks with the determined and well conditioned Bulldogs.

Curling Championship Retained By Alberta

EDMONTON, (CP)—Matt Baldwin, 27-year-old Edmonton draw artist, brought Alberta its fifth curling championship Friday when he won the 1954 championship here with a 10-5 victory over R. T. McCully's New Brunswick rink.

Baldwin, leading 9-5 with a rock coming home, and with a slick almost half way down the ice before releasing his rock. It went to the button behind the New Brunswick rock.

There was some confusion as to whether the curling rock would award Baldwin one on the last end. Immediately after the game Baldwin and his Edmonton rink were presented with the Brier Tankard, emblematic of Canadian curling supremacy.

From Canada's 10 provinces then formed up behind a massed Highland pipe band and paraded through the Edmonton

slump and that next week he will be the same dangerous, goal-scoring Paul again.

A game of great interest to basketball followers will be played in Antigonish tonight when St. Dunstan's University meet St. F. X. in the first game of the Maritime Interscholastic Finals. The Saints, by virtue of their showing against strong competition from Mount Allison University and the University of New Brunswick, earned the right to represent New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island in the intercollegiate finals. The Saints have a wonderful 9-1 record for N. B.-P. E. play during the past two seasons.

They clinched the crown here last Saturday by defeating the University of New Brunswick in the final game. It was in that game that Gus Dorais gave such an outstanding ball handling and passing display and this combined with Jack Reardon's shooting kept the Saints in the lead throughout. U.N.B. had a much stronger team than they had in the year would indicate and to us they looked almost as potent as Mount Allison.

Yet Mount A. walloped U.N.B. by more than 20 points on the previous night and in the college series they defeated the University of New Brunswick ball players twice. The surprise of the N. B.-P. E. I. series was the strong showing of the Saints at Sackville. St. Dunstan's walloped the Mounties 69-47 at Sackville after edging Mount A. 55-49 on their home court the previous week. This was the crucial game of the series and the Saints more than measured up. They always play well with the odds stacked against them. Tonight they are going to the series as underdogs against the strong Xaverians but St. F. X. will know they have been in a ball game before the evening is over.

The Maritime Major Hockey League semi-finals between the Islanders and the Halifax Atlantics will commence on Tuesday night at Halifax. It was learned here last night from Islanders Secretary Jim MacCallum.

According to tentative plans the second and third games will be played in Charlottetown on Wednesday and Thursday nights of next week. The fourth game will be played in Halifax on Saturday night.

The week after next the Halifax Forum will not be available for the Atlantics home games on account of Ice Follies. The Atlantics plan to play their home games at Dartmouth.

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HUNTERS' CORNER



So this the spring break-up? Is the question voiced by many after the thaw that began shortly after mid-February and by March 4 shows no appreciable sign of abating. Mill dams are open, the streams are running brim full from bank to bank and rivers are beginning to break up. Methinks no one need worry over having to cut holes in the ice on the 15th of April... or worry after the holes are cut is more like it.

On Wednesday afternoon of the end of a gravel road and struck off across country for an old fashioned hike. Returning carward in late evening I followed the Murray Harbour railway tracks for a couple of miles. It was more like an evening in late April than March 3. The gurgle of running water was an ever-present melody but it was the soft spring glow on distant hillsides and ridges outlined against a fading sunset that told plain-er than words that spring had crept in and winter had packed up and moved bag and baggage. All that was needed was a robin chirping its evening song atop a spruce spire to lend a true April touch. Undoubtedly we'll have some sharp frosts and snow squalls before the farmers start working the land but it is my own personal opinion that King Winter has lost his grip. Time will tell how accurate I am in this prediction but, it's all on my own... I haven't heard Mr. Saville's forecast yet.

Trout fishermen will have cause for rejoicing. This coming opening morning... 12:01 a.m. on April 15... should see trout well fed and scrappy. During winters when streams are ice bound and low in water trout are sluggish and in a state of semi-hibernation. It takes rushing water, carrying food near

NINTH ROUND

P. C.	210 202 052 000-14
Manitoba	001 019 200 112-8
Sask.	221 005 030 101-13
Ont.	000 220 101 020-8
Quebec	020 030 201 030-11
N. B.	101 101 010 101-7
P. E. I.	020 101 002 012-9
N. Ont.	102 030 320 100-12
Newfld.	001 013 000 100-5
N. S.	210 100 211 030-11

TENTH ROUND

P. E. I.	110 103 010 100-8
B. C.	002 011 203 021-11
N. S.	210 000 300 001-7
Ont.	001 001 241 011-15
Sask.	200 020 203 030-12
Que.	001 003 020 201-9
Alta.	100 101 210 301-10
N. B.	001 010 010 020-5
Nfld.	000 010 020 100-4
Man.	312 000 303 003-15

Curling Standings

EDMONTON, (CP)—Final standings in the Canadian curling championships:

Alberta	9	1
Saskatchewan	8	2
Nova Scotia	6	4
Ontario	6	4
Northern Ontario	6	4
British Columbia	6	4
New Brunswick	4	6
Manitoba	4	6
Quebec	3	7
P. E. I.	3	7
Newfoundland	0	10

Islanders-Halifax Play-off Dates For Next Week

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Prince Street Win 6-3 From Unit No. 1

Prince Street School defeated School Unit No. 1 in a fast and rugged game of hockey following the ice sports last night. George Ward of Prince Street led his team with three goals and an assist while other three goals were scored by D. MacCallum, accounted for the other three goals. Marvin Gillespie was the marksman for the School Unit, scoring two and assisting on the third which was scored by Coles.

Referees—John Richard, Art Perry.

Timer: Bill Bevins.

Lineups:
School Unit No. 1—Goal: S. Ward, sub. T. Murphy; defence: J. Pound, R. Gregory, N. Shaw, G. (Seaton); forwards, W. Gillespie, Murray, M. Gillespie, Clark, R. MacDonald, E. MacKenzie, D. Stewart, R. Thomson, I. MacDonald, J. Kelly, G. Murray, Coach, N. Larter.

Prince Street School—Goal: G. Acorn; defence: D. MacCallum, R. MacKay, D. Worth, J. Llewellyn; forwards, R. Lea, G. Ward, R. Tanton, G. Wallis, A. MacFadyen, Coach, J. Turner.

Summary First Period

1—School Unit, M. Gillespie (J. Pound, W. Gillespie)
2—P.S.S., MacCallum
3—School Unit, Coles (M. Gillespie)
4—P.S.S., MacCallum (Lee, Ward)
5—School Unit, M. Gillespie (Penalties: Pound and Lee)

Summary Second Period

7—P.S.S., Ward
8—P.S.S., Ward
9—P.S.S., MacCallum (Lee, MacKay)

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

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Canada Goes Ahead In Hockey Series As Russia Held To Tie By Sweden

STOCKHOLM, (CP)—A fighting Swedish hockey team tied Russia 1-1 Friday night and shifted the pressure onto Moscow Dynamos in their pay-off game with Canada Sunday for the world title.

Both the Dynamos and Toronto East York are unbeaten in six games. But Friday night's tie left the Russians one point behind the Canadian entry, which needs only a draw in Sunday's game to regain first place.

Canada's representatives had troubles of their own earlier Friday before they disposed of Czechoslovakia 5-2. The Czechs trailed 3-2 at the end of two periods and were battling hard to get back into the game until insurance tallies by Russ Robertson and Eric Unger set up East York's winning margin.

Toughest Test

It was by far the toughest test of the tournament for the Canadians. All their previous opponents lost by seven goals or more.

A crowd of more than 10,000 watched the game, cheering wildly as the Czechs gave East York goalie Don Lockhart his busiest day of the tournament.

Stockholm Three Crowns, fighting to retain a title won last season when Canada, Russia and Czechoslovakia were not entered, barely missed a victory that would have kept them in the running. A Swedish goal was scored less than a second after the bell ended play in the second period.

Take Early Lead

In a game hampered by soft ice, the Canadians took an early lead over the Czechs as Earl Clements scored shortly after the seven-minute mark, but a goal by Backle evened the count less than two minutes later.

The Canadians launched a steady attack which was rewarded by two quick goals by George Sawliss and Moe Galand before the first intermission. It was the 15th goal of the series for Galand, the tournament scoring leader.

In the second period the Czechs abandoned European-style combination play and began driving in on goal in the Canadian manner. The switch in tactics, together with improved defensive work, appeared to unbalance the East York line.

Finally centre Martin Zahorsky,

Hockey Standings

STOCKHOLM, (CP)—Standings at the end of the eighth day's play in the world hockey tournament:

	W	L	T	F	Pts
Canada	6	0	0	57	5 12
Russia	5	0	1	30	8 11
Sweden	4	1	1	26	16 9
Czechoslovakia	4	2	0	39	17 8
Germany	1	4	1	15	31 3
Finland	1	5	0	9	48 2
Norway	0	5	0	36	2
Switz.	0	5	1	12	31 1

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—9 P. M.—
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