

Nassagaweya haven for harness horse breeders

By Bill Galvin

Mohawk Raceway Sunday night ushers in its second decade of night harness racing.

Since Mohawk first conducted its inaugural meeting, April 26, 1963, 2,576,673 racing fans have watched some of the world's best horses and drivers compete for \$8,246,395 in purses. Famous trotters like Fresh Yankee and Une de Mai have graced its five-eighths mile all-weather, limestone racing strip, which is rated one of the finest in the Dominion. Fresh Yankee, a \$900 yearling purchase who last year retired with more than \$1,250,000 in purses for owner Duncan MacDonald of Sydney, N.S., was undefeated here. She won the Campbellville Trotting Stakes in 1970 and 1971.

Une de Mai, the world's richest trotting mare, first set foot on Canadian soil at Wolfgang von Richthofen's Nassagaweya farm last summer. The French-bred millionaire who conquered the globe's best trotters in the \$125,000 International World Trotting Championship at New York's Roosevelt in 1971, visited Canada to compete in the Maple Leaf Trotting Classic, Canada's richest test for trotters, staged annually at Greenwood Raceway in Toronto. Une de Mai was prepped for the Maple Leaf at the Richthofen farm and also at

Mohawk Raceway. Une de Mai is currently racing in France. Her lifetime earnings are in excess of \$1.6 million, the most ever won by a harness horse.

World competition

The sixth leg of harness racing's World Driving Championships, a unique first in world racing, was staged before a record crowd of 11,740 at Mohawk Raceway, April 18, 1970. Eight of the best drivers in the world, each a champion in his own country, showed fierce national pride in the championship, which attracted drivers from Italy, the United States, Austria, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and West Germany.

When Mohawk first opened in 1963, one of the few standardbred breeders in Nassagaweya Township was Lloyd Chisholm. Today there are standardbred farms springing up throughout the township, many of which are veritable showplaces.

There are 300 trotters and pacers bedded down on Mohawk's backstretch, plus an additional 100 head stabled at 20 training sites around the township, which has rapidly developed into one of the most popular horse havens in all Ontario.

Lloyd and Mary Chisholm still raise standardbreds at their beautiful 50-acre Arawana Farm

in the east part of the township near the MacDonald-Cartier Freeway. Chisholm homebreds are easily identified because each horse's name is prefixed 'Arawana'. Arawana Snap Shot, winner of six of 20 starts last season, is presently racing at Mohawk for the Chisholms.

Lloyd Chisholm is one of Nassagaweya's most prominent citizens. His forefathers were the first to settle in Nassagaweya in 1802.

There are 1,200 acres in Nassagaweya township devoted to the standardbred horse. Dr. Russ Furness manages a 125 acre showplace on the Guelph Line for Brampton owner Howard Oster. This modern layout has a spanning new half-mile limestone training track and stabling facilities second to none. Fritz and Hilda Doleschell, also standardbred devotees, transformed their 100-acre farm on the Second Line, just a stone's throw north of Mohawk, into one of the township's most beautiful acreages.

Hilda Doleschell is one of the former ranking Ontario women's tennis players and an equally high ranking baker of apple strudel. Hilda and Fritz both drove trotters in their native Austria and they have driven in Canada, too. Hilda made her lone

Canadian competitive drive in the 1970 Powder Puff Derby at Greenwood.

A school for harness horsemen, a unique course, and one of the first of its kind to be developed in North America, is also located in Nassagaweya. It was started in 1968 by Glen Anderson, a horseman and racing official. The course is presently in progress at Anderson's harness training site just east of Campbellville.

Nassagaweya is also the home of Nelson White, one of the top-ranking drivers on the Ontario circuit. White, 29, and his wife Debbie, and two-year-old son John, maintain a neat 10-acre training camp in the north end of the township on 30 Sideroad and the Fourth Line.

White presently ranks sixth among the circuit's 533 drivers with \$37,000 in purses this season. Last year he reined the winners of \$180,000.

Henderson farm

Stan Henderson of Campbellville, who gave up his position as vice president of a Kitchener electrical firm to devote full time to training a public stable, last year sent out the winners of \$60,000. Henderson's eye-catching standardbred establishment is just south of the village of Campbellville on the Guelph Line.

Mr. and Mrs. Wolfgang von Richthofen are ardent horse people. Their Wolfhill Farm is located on the Guelph Line near 15 Sideroad. Mr. Richthofen was the first horseman to drive a Europeanbred trotter to victory in North America, at Toronto's Dufferin Park in 1955. The trotter was a German-bred named Orbis. Mr. Richthofen is also a successful thoroughbred trainer and a trustee of the Ontario Jockey Club.

Martin and Aina Dzidrms have a 100 acre farm just south of Campbellville. They have a half-dozen standardbred horses, including the fine homebred trotter Easy Living. Martin Dzidrms is a chemical engineer and Aina, who holds a half-dozen degrees from McMaster University and the Sorbonne, in Paris, is a social worker.

Elmer Nicholson and his wife Ilona, have a 35-acre standardbred farm south of

Moffat. Elmer, 36, sold a lucrative catering business in Toronto four years ago and decided to settle in Nassagaweya and enter harness racing. He's been at it ever since with a fair amount of success.

Bruce and Jean Small have a training track on their 100 acre farm on the Second Line, just north of Mohawk, where Milton reinsman Andy Avery conditions a public stable. The Small's stable star is the tough campaigner O C's Hightime.

One of the youngest standardbred owners in Nassagaweya is Steve Haddon Jr. This 17-year-old, who owned his first horse when he was 12 years old, has a couple of standardbreds in training.

Tom Burke resides on 25 Sideroad near the Guelph Line. He has five head in training, while John Currie and Marshall Paul have one-horse stables.

Moffat horsemen

Mr. and Mrs. Oskars Kirnis, both transplanted Latvians who have always been involved with trotting horses, have a standardbred farm just north of Moffat. Their son George, also a Moffat resident, campaigns a public stable on the Ontario circuit.

Joe Grodnis and Doug Given are other Moffat area horsemen. Doug Given is presently racing his half-dozen trotters and pacers at Batavia, New York.

Trainer-driver Mario Ruffalo and his brothers Frank and Harvey have five head at their farm on the Second Line near 20 Sideroad and another four under harness at Mohawk. The Ruffalo brothers are Toronto businessmen who joined the standardbred owners ranks three years ago. Mario started his driving career in 1972.

Other horsemen from the north end of Nassagaweya Township are Bob Croft, Roy Speller and Ed Boland.



THE ARAWANA Farm of Lloyd and Mary Chisholm has produced many fine standardbreds including this outstanding pacer Arawana Snap Shot. Arawana Farm is located in the east half of the township near the MacDonald-Cartier Freeway.

Flyers plan events for summer

Milton Continental Flyers will definitely be in operation next year, the club executive decided at a recent meeting.

A number of events are planned by the executive this summer and spring. The first of several events will be the annual \$10 dinner which is going to be held at the Roma Club on Steeles Ave. April 10.

A golf tournament and ball game are among the other events slated for the summer. The new executive will be elected into office at the end of March.

The annual banquet at which trophies are awarded and presentations made will be held in the near future. A date hasn't been set yet.

Racing in mud

Chris Brading and Joe Winder of Lowville Racing Team had a rough but eventful weekend when they travelled to Malone, N.Y. for the World Series snowmobile races.

Both drivers were among the top five in their class in Ontario and qualified to attend the World Series to compete against the best snowmobile racers in the world. Although it was great experience, they failed to win any races.

Brading said there was no snow, just mud but the races went on in the mud. Of the 1,200 entries, about 90 per cent were factory teams—many of whom refused to drive on the muddy track.

Winder competed in the C Stock class with his free-air Ski-Doo while Brading ran his Polaris 295 in the A Modified section.

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Oldtimers game slated for Friday

Stars of the National Hockey League of yesteryear and well known players who starred on local senior and intermediate teams will provide the entertainment at Milton Arena Friday night when the second annual NHL oldtimers game is played in Milton.

Last year the attraction drew a good crowd and an even better crowd is expected by promoters of Friday's match. Proceeds from the match go to the Adult Rehabilitation Centre at Hornby.

Oldtimers

The NHL oldtimers lineup will

Bowling

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Ladies' high single Maureen Molyneux 242; ladies' high triple, Peggy Romain 654, men's high single, Vic Heaps 314, men's high triple, Pete Vandenhoevel 795.

Other good singles, Jo Vandebroek 240, Peggy Romain 233, Maureen Molyneux 231, Pete Vandenhoevel 333, Chas. Vanden Broek 281, Jim Howard 236, 202.

Other good triples, Chas. Vanden Broek 741, Vic Heaps 680, Martin Vanden Heuvel 648, Maureen Molyneux 588, Asta Windmoller 577, Bev Faulkner 573.

Mike Belvedere won 0 for 88, Vic Heaps 7 for 86, Frank Pedulla 0 for 85, Carolyn Heaps 5 for 84, Bill Laurensen 7 for 84, and Pete Vandenhoevel 2 for 81.

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ACTION WAS FAST and furious around the Milton net at stages during the Novice Minor game in Milton Sunday afternoon. The Novices are competing in Ontario playdowns. The locals lost the Sunday game 6-3. (Photo by S. Dills)

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Reminiscing with the Colonel

The Hillbillies

"When I think of this little story I always have a little chuckle to myself! Time was, back in the twenties when the automobile was the coming thing. So I set up in a service station in a place called Nicholasville, Kentucky. For a while there I was doing a fair bit of business, but then I ran into a spot of trouble. My service station was down in a valley, and it seems I wasn't very popular with some of my new neighbours. There was this bunch of no-good hillbillies up on the hill, who'd sit up there cussin' and shoutin' and taking a pot shot or two at cars as they pulled into my service station. Well, folks don't like to be shot at, no how, so my business began to drop off. I got so darned mad that I decided to give that bunch of hillbillies a dose of their own medicine. So I borrowed me a shotgun and the next time they started their tricks, I gave 'em a blast of buckshot over their heads. I reckon that was the biggest surprise they ever had and they took off like rabbits. I never saw hide nor hair of 'em since that day, and my customers came and went peaceful as you please."

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