

Sports

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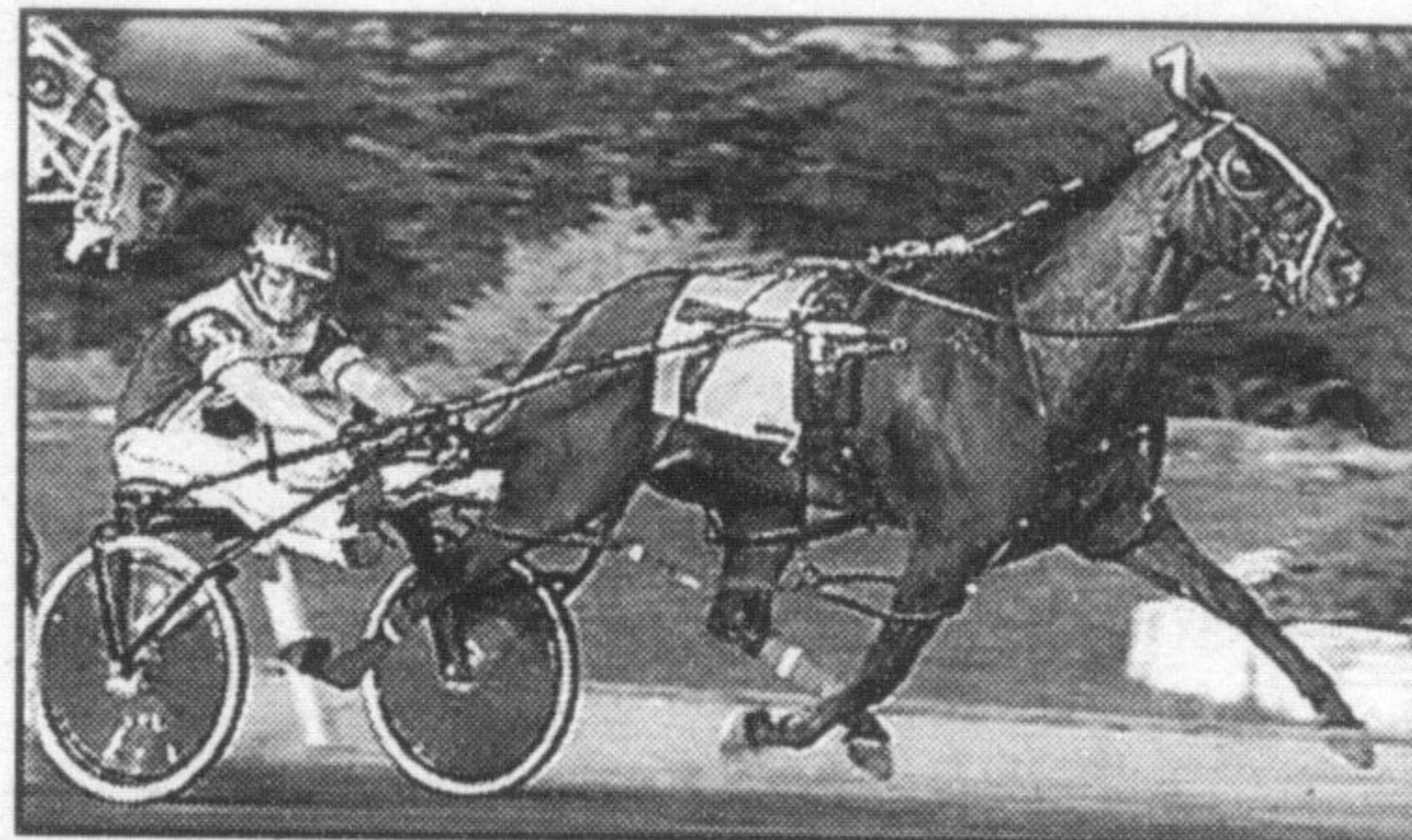
Waples reaches 4,000-win plateau

Milton's Randy Waples recorded his 4,000th career harness racing victory at Mohawk Thursday evening — but it sure didn't come easy.

The two-time Canadian Driver of the Year fought tooth and nail down the wire with nine-year-old pacing mare Makeba to prevail in 1:53.2.

Second-over along the backstretch, Waples tipped the mare out in the lane, took the lead, surrendered it and then battled back for the milestone triumph.

"It worked out really well. She got passed in the stretch and then she battled back on and won it," said the 39-year-old reinsman. "In that way, it was almost like a surprise, so it worked out well. I grew up around this area and the crowd is a lot closer to



Randy Waples guides Makeba to the milestone victory.

you (than at Woodbine). It was really nice. People were yelling over the fence and it was great to hear

all the things that Frank (track announcer Frank Salive) said."

A former commentator on the Woodbine/Mohawk in-house television show, Waples' illustrious career has included piloting such standouts as Million Dollar Cam, Red River Hanover, Dreamfair Vogel, Mach Three and Real Desire.

The charismatic driver is also closing in on the \$60-million mark in lifetime earnings.

"My big dream was to win 1,000 races," explained Waples, who has also won three driving titles on the Woodbine/Mohawk circuit, two of which came in back-to-back seasons (1998 and 1999). "I've just gotten four times lucky."

Fielding miscue

Midget Red Sox Lee Mathé can't come up with the ball on this throw to second base during Sunday afternoon action against the Georgetown Eagles at Brian Best Park. Milton was humbled 12-0. For full results of the seven-inning mercy loss, see page 22.

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