

Harvey the racing buffalo wins again handily

Harness racing's fastest horse and the world's only racing buffalo shared the spotlight in Mohawk Raceway's winner's circle Sunday night, proving once again why they are the best at what they do.

Actually, Harvey Wallbanger, the buffalo, is the only such racing animal around, but he just keeps on getting better.

Harvey improved his record to 44 wins in 53 starts after romping to a three-length win over three harness horses in a one-sixteenth mile dash. The time for the race was a swift 10.1 seconds.

Harvey led from start to finish and was welcomed by thunderous applause at the winner's circle.

"He raced great," commented owner, trainer and rider T.C. Thorstenson, who raised Harvey from birth. Thorstenson owned a herd of buffalo at the time and Harvey's mother was killed by a poacher.

Harvey became a pet to Thorstenson and rode everywhere in the car with his surrogate father until he was at least 300 lbs.

Harvey now earns his keep by racing against harness horses, quarter horses and thoroughbreds. He's raced in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico.

Hoof Beat

with KATHY WADE



"I named him Harvey Wallbanger because he was always banging his body against the wall in the stall," explained Thorstenson.

Harvey weighs in at just under 2,000 lbs. and comes to Mohawk from his home in Wyoming, the aptly named Buffalo Flats Ranch.

"He's a ton of fun," said Thorstenson, "and he thinks he's a horse."

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Speaking of heavyweights... Matts Scooter just keeps on winning races. Harness racing's fastest horse paced a spiffy 1:53.3 mile effort on a brisk night at Mohawk last Sunday in the \$30,000 prep race for the \$154,000 Mohawk Gold Cup scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 1.

Soft Light was second and Bays Fella third.

The win was number 16 in 23 starts for Matts Scooter and increased his

career bankroll to \$2,529,841 for owners Gord and Illa Rumpel and Charles Juravinski.

Mike LaChance was in his usual seat behind the four-year-old son of Direct Scooter. "He surprises me. He just keeps going," said LaChance after the win.

"He was better tonight than the last two times he raced here. The track is better tonight; perfect for him."

Coming up at Mohawk... September 29 — Robert Stewart Trotting Stakes for two-year-old fillies — eliminations. Sept. 30 — Robert Stewart Pacing Stakes for two-year-old fillies — eliminations.

Oct. 1 — Horses with the Midas touch are back in action to compete in the \$154,500 Mohawk Gold Cup for three-year-olds and upwards. The field from the rail out is; Matts Scooter, Soft Light, Bays Fella, Barely Visible, Take a Look, Money Lender, Runnymede Lobell, Bond Street.

Also on Oct. 1. — Find out who's the fairest of them all... the distaff side moves into the spotlight for elimination tests for the Milton Pacing Stakes for three-year-olds and up.

The Milton should attract such talented stars as world record holder

Armbr Feather, the Ontario Jockey Club's star performer Storm Tossed, topnotch Ontario Sire Sakes filly Sal Harbor, 1988 Jugette winner Leah Almahurst, and Annecrombie — defending champion of the Milton.

The Mohawk Fall Fair (Oct. 27-29) is a tradition at the Campbellville oval. Along with the great racing, fans can enjoy more than 40 booths filled with handicrafts, homebaked goods and specialty craft items.

Reding plays host for Kelso cross-country races

Kelso Conservation Area will be the scene of what is rapidly becoming one of the most popular high school cross-country races in the region Thursday.

Bishop Reding Roman Catholic High School will play host for the Royal Invitational cross-country meet, which will feature some of the top runners from 50 schools. Between 600 and 700 athletes are expected to take part.

Although Milton District High School is always a power in such events, "we're getting some real heavyweights" to offer competition, said Bishop Reding athletics director Brian Arsenault.

The event has become "bigger than we ever thought it would be" he admitted. Athletes will come from as far away as Fenelon Falls and Windsor to compete. "I'm especially proud that Bishop Reding is hosting it," Arsenault said.

The hosts are creeping up in the cross-country rankings, too. The senior boys team won at a McMaster University meet two weeks ago and last week at St. Michael's in Toronto "we had several top 10 placings," Arsenault pointed out.

In a related development, the school played host for a senior girls basketball tournament on the weekend. Southwood Collegiate of Cambridge won the event, downing Assumption of Burlington 55-41. Milton was winless in the tournament, doubled 40-20 by M.M. Robinson, edged 30-27 by St. James and beaten 56-16 by St. Martin's of Mississauga.

Bince...

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But Bince stressed that the primary responsibility of any coach is instruction, all of which must take place at practices, not in game situations.

"A good coach coaches at practice. He watches the game. Then his real job is having the right people on the ice at the right time."

For the first time this week as a Merchant boss, against highly regarded Burlington, Rick Bince will attempt to do just that.

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