

Youthful Pacing Series kick off

The spring harness racing meet kicked off recently at Mohawk despite snow flurries and sub-zero temperatures.

Five \$8,500 divisions of the Youthful Pacing Series for three year olds were featured on track.

The Youthful might be better named the 'Hopeful' Pacing Series as many of the starters have just begun the trek to their sophomore campaign in search of the winner's circle and future stake engagements.

Kingsbridge is one such horse whose future looks bright. In the second division, Kingsbridge, a son of Jate Lobell paced to a 1:57.2 one and a half length victory over Star Staker and Apollo Fourteen for trainer-driver Roger Mayotte.

It was the fourth win in four starts since Kingsbridge joined the Mayotte Stable in late January after owner Irving Horowitz (Fern Stable) purchased 100 per cent ownership of the colt from former trainer-driver Doug Arthur. Kingsbridge now has four wins in seven starts and \$18,690 in purse earnings in 1992.

"He's a perfect horse to handle," said Mayotte. "He's nice gaited and we haven't hit bottom yet." Kingsbridge has been paid into many of the major three year old events on the sophomore calendar including Greenwood's One Million Dollar North America Cup on June 20.

Kingsbridge sat fourth until the

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58.4 second half when he pulled first on the outside to stalk the pacesetter Illegal Alien. Kingsbridge paced on the outside, going the long mile until the top of the stretch when he took over the lead to pace to the win.

"I wasn't worried about pulling him first up," explained Mayotte. "He's a tough horse although he does get a little lazy at times."

Leading OJC driver Doug Brown and leading trainer Bill Robinson combined for a hat trick in the Youthful Series.

In the first division Brown guided JCS Skiparoo to a 1:57 victory for trainer Robinson and owner-breeder Joseph Caputo of Far Hills, New Jersey.

It was the third win on the year for the son of Forrest Skipper.

"He was much better this week than last," said Brown. "last week he was rough almost the whole mile. This week he was a little rough but he paced great in the stretch."

Brown-Robinson teamed up for their second Youthful win in division number three with Colts Gait Boca. It was the Albatross' colt third consecutive win as he paced the mile in

1:58.1 for owners John Lichtenberger, Ray Remmen and Doug Brown who purchased him as a yearling for \$40,000 at the Kentucky Standardbred Sale.

"He was disappointing last year and we staked him to everything," said Brown, "but this year he's come around and at least now he's a race horse."

The hat trick was completed in the fifth Youthful division as Village Tavern, a son of Legal Notice, paced to a 1:58.1 win over Camfire and Pipers Landing. The win was the third on the year in seven starts for Village Tavern.

Driver Roger Mayotte guided two winners in the opening leg of the Youthful. Along with Kingsbridge, Mayotte reined the Jate Lobell colt Ambro Kojak to a 1:59.1 victory in the fourth Youthful division for trainer Rheel Bourgeois over Midnight Raider and Bo Knows Jate. It was the third win in six season starts for the colt who is owned by Nick Barbieri of Woodbridge.

The second leg of the series goes postward on Sunday, March 29, the third leg goes postward on Sunday, April 5 and the \$30,000 (estimated) final will swing in behind Mohawk's starting gate on Sunday, April 12.

Harness racing is scheduled five nights a week at Mohawk; Fridays through Tuesdays with a 7:30 p.m. post time each evening.

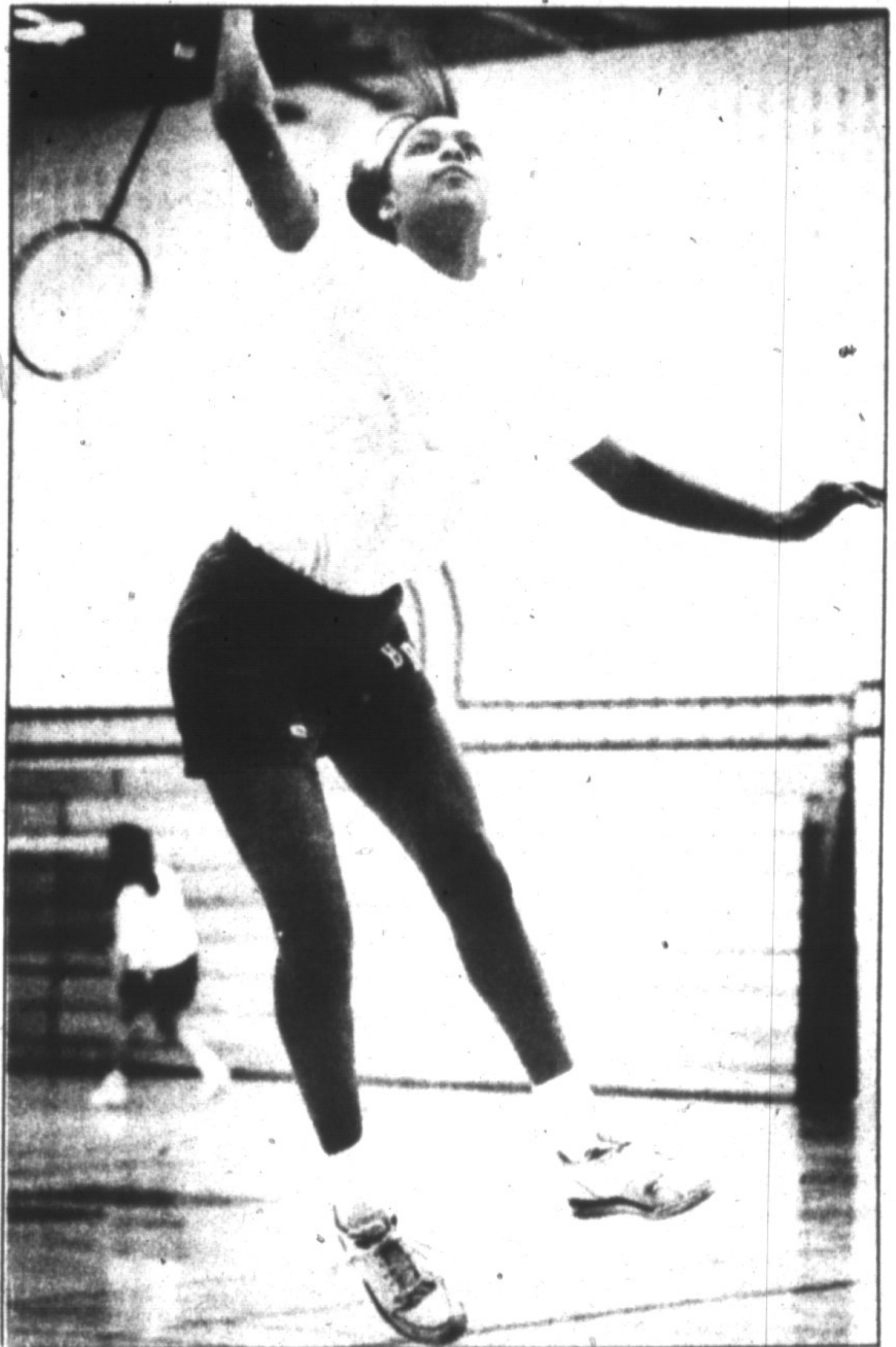


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Watch the birdie

Carla Johnson, 17, a Grade 12 Bishop Reding student leaps at the birdie during last week's badminton tournament at Reding. Johnston won her first two matches in the tournament 15-10 and 15-3. Johnston hosts the Halton Wrestling Championship today (Wednesday), a junior badminton tournament on Thursday and table tennis on Friday.

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