

# Sports scene

by Patricia Rivera

If you didn't make it to the P&DCI playing field Sunday to watch the quarter-final soccer game between Carleton Place and Perth Saints because it was pouring rain, I have news for you: The game was played anyway.

Yup. Buckets of rain are not considered sufficient reason to call a match of such import - only time they'll quit pursuing their sport is if the lightning's coming down real close to the field (like if it singles the goal-nets...)

Anyway, the game was played despite the fact that Saints had to pump out the puddle in front of one of the goals, and there was a veritable pool of water in centre field. Now comes the catch, though. The match ended in a 2-2 tie for the teams (I didn't think Carleton Place would do so well in a contest with the Saints, but: surprise) - and officials decided against having any sort of a shoot-out or sudden-death play, to break the tie.

So. The game will be re-played next Sunday (pushing the remainder of the playoff schedule out of whack), same time, same place. It'll give you a chance to see the 'instant replay'...

The field was such a sloppy mess during the game, that Charlie Miller took a dive that skidded him along for 20 yards, spouting water, and not slithering to a halt until he was practically out of sight.

Anyway, that's what Randy Jernigan reports (he was on hand in an 'official' capacity, waving red flags, running alongside the field looking intent, and so forth...) - and he wouldn't exaggerate now, would he?

Speaking of going out of sight, the **Glen Tay Block Race** Thursday last seems to have brought out the sense of humor in the local folk.

Not only did organizers have to resort to using a cow bell to get the **race** started (Peter Code said something about the starting gun "falling through"), other locals displayed their humorous finery as well.

Ralph Willsey, a scribe for Brand X newspaper, was on hand for the **race**, his number all pinned on and everything, but not making any particular effort to warm up beforehand. While the other runners stretched and did deep knee bends (some of 'em even worked up a lather running up and down the main drag), Ralph lingered about the periphery, murmuring about how cool the beer might be by now.

When asked if he wasn't planning to unbend before running, he drawled out as how he had "9.4 miles to warm up," and there wasn't any particular intensity involved in his preparations... (Ralph, you may surmise, runs for fun - not for competitiveness).

And then, after the herd of runners - responding to the cow bell - lurched off toward **Glen Tay**, I espied Bernard Elliott, whom I know walks to work at the highway every day.

Gee, I enquired of him: "Aren't you going to run?" No, he replied, "I'm not sure I could even get out of sight." Heh-heh.

The complete results of the **Glen Tay Block Race** are slated to be run elsewhere on these pages, so I won't go into great detail on the outcome of the **race**.

Let's just say there were no surprises. Doug Scorrar licked everyone else, getting in ahead of the entire bunch, in 48:01. John Clarke was the first Perth runner to finish the course, and Mary Hetherington was the first local female runner to get through the event on that stifling hot day.

There's gonna be fighting at the Middleton household now. Jean Middleton, wife of Sharbot Lakers softball team coach Murray Middleton, is exercising reportorial independence and wondering aloud why the coach forfeited an Aug. 1 game against Mountain Grove, because he couldn't get together enough players.

"I can't understand why he gave up the two points," she says, suggesting a forfeiture wouldn't have been necessary, since the game was to have taken place on a holiday weekend.

Be that as it may (zap, powie), our Sharbot Lake correspondent reports that Maberly played two games Sunday (not exactly a double-header, since they were played on different fields...), and won both the encounters.

In their game with Titchbourne, Maberly exceeded their efforts, with a 2-0 over-run, and in the game against Wagarville, Maberly got a four point advantage, with their final 5-1 score.

The first playoff game is scheduled for August 16th in Parham, starting at 4 p.m., when Wagarville and the Sharbot Lakers step out onto the field.

From the looks of things now, Wagarville, Mountain Grove and Sharbot Lake will be vying for the "A" Championship, while Maberly, Long Lake and Kaladar head out to try to win the "B" pennant.

Bill Bulley, my secret reporter come out of the woodwork, notes that any player interested in playing in the Sportsmen's Hockey League can pay his \$25 registration fee to Ron Young, at 5 George Street, anytime between now and September 14th.

"The draft to fill rosters of teams needing players will take place at the Knights of Columbus Hall on the 21st of September at 8 p.m.," he says.

If you need any further details on the new hockey league, call Bill at 267-4790.

Ernie Boyd, of Lanark, called the office Monday, to relate the following tidbit of information about former P&DCI student Susan Gibson, who is now a student in Alabama, U.S.A.

The daughter of Bill and Edith Gibson, of RR 1 Lanark, earned the national championship Aug. 3rd, in Regina, when she won gold for her Javelin toss in the National Track and Field Meet.

She's going to Venezuela this week, to compete there in the World Cup meet, and Ernie promises to fill us in on how that turns out.

The athlete is no slouch, that's an understatement. She placed second in the USA in her category, for her 53.40 metre throw in the International Games held in Texas.

The athlete has been sponsored by the West Ottawa Lions Club ever since leaving here.

Russ Sullivan said it first. The president of the Perth Flying Club noted recently that whenever the club sponsors (or tries to sponsor, I should say) a special fly-in event: it rains.

Sunday was no exception. That was the day the club was going to have its light plane demo, but, if you recall, it rained buckets, and the whole show had to be called off.

George Uranick reports that the event will be held at another time, but he hasn't heard which date it is, yet.

All I know is: if you wanna know when it's going to rain again, look for the club's ad.

Mind you, I know how the guys feel. I've experienced a similar difficulty in getting soccer pictures. Seems every time I decide to get some soccer pix, the light is miserable that evening, either because it's rainy, or it's threatening to. And the last thing a photographer needs is poor light when she's trying to get action photos...

# Horse trainer needs good common horse sense

By Patricia Rivera  
There must be a thousand tricks of the trade that professional horse trainers can exchange with people like Everton Norris, who's been involved with harness racing for many years.

But even a person with no knowledge of the sport can come away from a discussion with the **Glen Tay** area resident with a head full of intriguing facts.

For instance, who would have thought that male horses run better in hot weather - studs do their best in the sultriest of days - and females run better in cooler temperatures? It may have something to do with the fact that the animals' body temperatures differ slightly by gender, but whatever the reason, it's something which most people don't know.

Consider another tidbit the trainer and driver reveals: females will get insulted more readily than males. If a trainer or handler speaks roughly to a female, or handles her roughly, she's far more liable to take offense (and subsequently refuse to run her best) than a gelding or stud.

And what non-horse person would ever suspect that the people in the horse racing business call certain animals "Cinderella horses," or "Miracle horses?"

"It's all a gamble. All the time, we're looking for that one good horse that's going to make it; it's a miracle that we're looking for," explains Norris.

The miracle horses, or Cinderella-story horse is the one which the buyer gets cheaply, and which goes on to make big dollars.

As the trainer/driver notes, "There have been a couple of miracle horses in this area. There was a horse in Elgin that made over \$100,000, and its owner got him for \$400."

But in real life, of course, the business of earning a living through racing standard-breds in harness is just a lot of hard work, mixed with plenty of risk-taking.

"You've got to like horses, or you shouldn't do it - there are too many hours of work involved," says the trainer, who has had his driving license since he was 18, and who trained his first horse when he was 11. He explains that because the breeding of horses has become more and more scientific, and the resultant animals of higher and higher quality, the sport is getting to be "a richer man's sport."

"It's getting tougher now than it used to be, because of better breeding."

"Horses are getting that much faster. Ten or 12 years ago, if a horse could go a mile in 2.4 or 2.5 minutes, he was a real good horse. Now, it's got to go in two minutes, for this area, and faster for other (tracks)."

"You've got to go into the expensive breeding to get this kind of horse," he says. Costs for an animal of that caliber can be high - witness the \$385,000 colt bought by one owner - before the animal had even been put in a harness!

"The better bred he is, the better the price you pay."

Most horses range in cost between \$30,000 and \$200,000, though on at least one occasion, a horse purchased for \$3.5 million was raced on the night of his purchase, and lost the **race**!

Needless to say, "There are not many who can go for" horses which cost that much, and even those who can have "no certainty it's going to go. You can get a dud."

At the same time that horse purchasing costs have skyrocketed, so have the stakes. "The stakes are getting unheard of. Before, in Toronto, at the Maple Leaf Trot, the stake was \$14,000. Now some of them are about \$85,000."

"It's the same with the pacers in the pacing derbies."

Still, there are limits to what an animal can do. It can be entered in big-money races, of course, but not too frequently, especially when the horse is still in his formative years.

"As a rule, for a young, two year old horse, it isn't advisable to **race** him over 15 times a year. A three year old can go to 25 starts, and an aged horse (over four years) can go to 35 starts."

Norris is currently training seven horses on the 200-acre farm he and his wife have had since 1959, and the job is more than a full-time one.

With each animal getting a minimum of an hour and a half training a day on the farm (not to mention on the road, and at races), the Norrises are frequently working from five in the morning until after midnight.

And not only does their work with the animals include the obvious things, such as keeping up with the racing world - it means being aware of modern veterinary medicine practices.

The field is like a brotherhood, despite its big business

aspects. "We still help one another out. If you have a problem, and you come and ask me about it, I'll do my best to help."

Norris is particularly glad to see innovations in treatments, such as laser and ultrasonic devices.

"Now, with these machines to work with the animals, it's better than it used to be."

He used the laser machine on one animal which "they said would never **race** again," and was able to get the animal in better condition than it had ever been before. The device also proves useful in treating infections which antibiotics don't rectify.

"In some cases, you don't believe it, even after you see it work."

"There's a lot more to training horses than keeping them sound and getting them driving. You have to know conformation, bones, muscle structures, diseases - everything. You're forever learning."

Most of all - maybe as much as a trainer needs patience and perseverance - a person needs "good, common horse-sense," to get along.

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Rain Date: Sunday, August 16, 1981

**PEANUT DIVISION**  
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**Schedule For**  
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Wednesday, August 12:  
7:00 - 10:00 p.m. - Perth Ball Hockey League

Thursday, August 13:  
8:00 - 9:00 p.m. - Len Cardiff

Friday, August 14:  
Arena Available For Rent

Saturday, August 15:  
Arena Closed

Sunday, August 16:  
Arena Closed

Monday, August 17:  
7:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Mark Bovington  
8:00 - 11:00 p.m. - Perth Ball Hockey League

Tuesday, August 18:  
Roller Skating presented by Roll-Arena.  
6:00 - 7:45 p.m. - Junior Session for children, families and beginners  
8:00 - 10:30 p.m. - Senior session for teens, adults and advanced skaters.



**Glen Tay** area resident Everton Norris has trained and driven horses ever since he was a young boy, and though the field is becoming increasingly more expensive to participate in, his sons Steve and Cameron have also found a niche in racing and training horses. The task is one you have to love to do, say the Norrises, since it is exceedingly time-consuming.

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