

LIFE AT RACE TRACK IS GAMBLE, JOE SAYS

Once Famous Trainers Now Without Jobs

Human Equation Chance as Fickle as in Mutuals, Williams Writes.

By JOE WILLIAMS

Times Special Writer

MIAMI, March 3.—Life itself around the race track is a gamble. I was reminded of that today when I saw three trainers together in the paddock at Hialeah. The three were Bob Smith, Hirsch Jacobs and Bert Michell. Much of the recent history of the track has been written around these men.

A few days ago the turf world was lyrically agog over the training exploits of Smith, the old prize fight man. Today, in the deep sixties he is without a job and toying with the idea of starting a small stable of his own.

Williams
"I've had seven or eight fellows around me for 30 years and I've got to keep going for their sake if nothing else..."

As recent as the first of the year Jacobs, originally a pigeon fancier, was the most talked of man in racing both in America and across the Atlantic. He had set a new world record for saddling winners. On the basis of cold, austere figures he was the greatest trainer of them all. But today he is just another guy trying to get along.

Michell Top Trainer

In the spring of '35 Michell, once a spectacular figure in racing, found himself stranded in Havana with a string of motley nondescripts. He had reached the end of the trail, an unkempt figure on the frowzy edge of oblivion. Gone was the glory of the hour when he saddled Reigh Count for the Kentucky Derby and Anita Peabody for the Belmont Futurity. Few men in racing ever faced a more dismal future. Yet today Michell is the top trainer in America.

That's how it goes on the track where the gamble in human equations is as fickle as it is in the mutuels. In 1934 old Humming Bob Smith was winning most of the American fixtures with Cavalcade and High Quest, two colts he had bought and developed for the fashionable Mrs. Dodge Sloan, who as a result became the first woman to lead the turf in cash earnings. Now the two have parted and old Bob is looking around for a couple of horses to campaign in the less pretentious stakes.

Hirsch Jacobs' luck has changed, too. The man who was the champion trainer for four years in a row has dropped down to the level of the crowd.

Partial With Grid Coaches

It strikes me there is a definite parallel between horse trainers and football coaches. They are both great when they have material. And of course some are greater than others. A less gifted trainer might not have gotten as much out of Cavalcade as old Humming Bob did; but when he lost the big horse and others, the answer was the same. With no material he could not win.

The story of Jacobs is the same. When he had good horses, sharpened and ready, he could win races. He hasn't any such horses today, not many anyway, and so he is reduced to the status of just another trainer. The truth is he is as good a trainer today as he ever was. He just hasn't the material.

Any football coach who has been forced to build character for several years can appreciate his position.

And now to get back to Bert Michell. He was always a fine trainer. He might have continued a distinguished member of the guild without the humility of dropping to the depths if he hadn't split with John D. Hertz, the sportsman who brought out Reigh Count and Anita Peabody. With this split Michell began to fade until finally he hit rock bottom.

Wouldn't Disturb Horse

The details of this split have never been made public. The popular explanation is that Michell refused to take Reigh Count out of his stall at Mr. Hertz's request when the 1928 Derby winner was in England training for the Ascot Cup. The owner, so the story goes, had called at the barn at midday with a friend, and with a natural pride in his great campaigner wished to display him. Michell is said to have refused on the ground that he didn't wish to disturb the horse.

Whether this is an authentic presentation of what occurred, the fact remains that shortly thereafter the Hertz-Michell combination was dissolved. For a number of years neither the Hertz stable nor the Michell fortunes prospered, indicating that the split, whatever the cause, was mutually unfortunate.

BASKETBALL SCORES

HIGH SCHOOLS

Marengo, 39; Milltown, 11.

STATE COLLEGES

Ball State, 33; DePauw, 28.

Hanover, 31; Anderson, 45.

OTHER COLLEGES

Columbus, 34; Yale, 37.

Oliver, 34; Calvary, 31.

Pittsburgh, 39; Georgetown, 22.

Denver, 32; Colorado, 30.

Rice, 35; Southern Methodist, 32.

Montana State, 56; Utah, 30.

Oklahoma A. & M., 33; Tulsa, 30.

St. Louis (Maryland), 26; Washington College, 21.

Johns Hopkins, 60; Loyola (Baltimore), 41.

Carroll, 35; Lawrence, 27.

Wheaton (Wisc.), 40; Milwaukee Teachers, 32.

Augusta, 48; Lawrence, 25.

Doane, 44; York, 24.

Dana, 51; Nebraska Central, 14.

Lowell, 39; Boston, 36.

Long Island, 64; Catholic, 38.

Davis-Ekins, 56; Fairmont Teachers, 38.

Marquette, 47; Western Michigan, 42.

Akron, 37; Baldwin-Wallace, 33.

St. Louis, 38; Florida, 35.

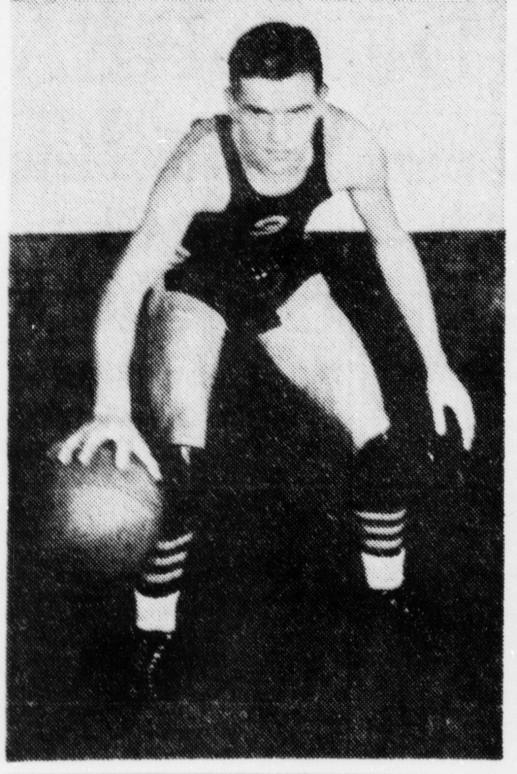
Wayne, 30; Michigan, 25.

Iowa Wesleyan, 54; Central, 48.

Matthews, 37; St. Olaf, 22.

Hannibal, 31; Gustavus Adolphus, 24.

Plays in Pro Game Tonight



Harlan Wilson, at left, former Danville Normal star and now a member of the U. S. Tires, local pro team, will be seen in action tonight when the Tires play the New York Renaissance five in Butler Fieldhouse. Wilson is a leading scorer on the Tires squad. The program tonight will be a professional double header. The Dayton London Bobbies meet the Kautsky A. C. team in the other contest. Linton Girls and the U. S. Tires Girls teams meet in a preliminary, beginning at 6:45 p.m.

OFF THE BACKBOARD

By JOHN W. THOMPSON

Drug Store Experts Pick Washington and Shortridge to Battle It Out in Final Sectional Contest.

A BUNCH of fellows were sitting around a soda fountain in a drug store out on 22d St. Somehow or other the subject of the Indianapolis sectional came up.

Of course that's not news. But the fact that all six of the boys in the group finally agreed on which two teams would come to the final game, is news. I can't even agree with myself about that.

But these boys (I listened in as I fumbled through the magazines) figured it out like this:

Tech, they said, would defeat Warren Central. Tech also, according to the knothole gang, would defeat the winner of the Broad Ripple-Manual game.

Their dope showed that Washington would defeat Oaklawn and would go on to down either Lawrence or Decatur Central. Then the boys decided that Washington would probably eke out a victory over Tech in the first game Saturday afternoon, to get into the final game.

Spivey defeated Larry Shapiro, 50 to 41, last night in a state three-cushion billiard tourney match in Harry Coker's parlor to regain the tournament lead.

Spivey trailed, 30 to 10, after 40 innings, but rallied to win in the 70th. He had a high run of seven against Shapiro's four. Coker, in his match with Walt Ramsey at 8 o'clock tonight has a chance to tie Spivey for first place in the standings.

This season Martinsville turned in a creditable record, losing the South Central Conference flag by a matter of a few points to Connersville. Mishawaka Teams Even

The 12 St. Joseph's County fives at the Mishawaka tournament seem about evenly matched. None were particularly impressive this season. Mishawaka, Riley of South Bend, Michigan City or Central of South Bend all have equal opportunities.

Central and Burris, both of Muncie, and Daleville are expected to dominate the Muncie tourney against opposition from 10 other Delaware County aggregations.

The flood ravaged hopes of a definite tournament threat at the New Albany sectional. Jeffersonville was forced to withdraw and Coach Charlie McConnell has been plagued with bad luck at New Albany. The host school had to cancel three St. I. A. C. engagements and then Jimi Weinmann, star of the club underwent an operation which will keep him out of the tournament.

Young Webb, Haughville, vs. Speedy Langley, Ben Davis; middleweights.

Virgin Ramp, East Side Club, vs. Shifty Dando, Oliver; heavyweights.

SCHACHT TO LEAVE SOX

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., March 3.—Al Schacht, baseball comedian, is leaving the Boston Red Sox, he announced today. He will continue to give his baseball skits and is scheduled to appear at a number of major and minor league parks during the season, he said.

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SHORTRIDGE TRACK TEAM IN WORKOUTS

Shortridge High School track aspirants, under the direction of Track Coach Don R. Knight, have been going through daily workouts in the Butler Fieldhouse.

The Blue Devil squad will be built around the three returning lettermen, Bob Clines, middle distance runner; Dave Crockett, hurdler and high jumper, and Whitten Linger, man, broad jumper and quarter miler.

morning at 10 o'clock at the Kirshbaum Gym.

Tabernacle Presbyterian gym will be the scene of an invitational tourney March 17, 18 and 19. Teams having players more than 18 years of age are eligible. Professional, semipro and high school netters are barred. For information call Martin at Washington 1128.

A basketball game between the 1937 Kirshbaum Center team and a quintet made up of former Kirshbaum stars, is to be played at the Kirshbaum Center Gym, Sunday, March 21, at 8 p.m.

Marty Frankfort, Nate Kaufman, Ducky Becker, Harris Stein, Isadore Sacks, the Rosenthal brothers, and Fern Ford have been asked to report to Leon Klemper coach tomorrow at 10 points each. For games with St. Joe write Len Donahue, 305 Summit St.

St. Joe Juniors of Indianapolis defeated the St. Gabriel five at Connerville, 25-24. The contest was close throughout the second half after St. Joe rallied. St. Gabriel stacked up a lead of 18-6 to the half. John Underback and Harvey Fuchman led the winners with 10 points each. For games with St. Joe write Len Donahue, 305 Summit St.

English Avenue Boys Club Juniors defeated the Free Wheelers, 41-34. Flanagan and Phelan were high scorers and Mc-

Linn starred on defense. The Dearborn Independent B tourney last night, follow:

Keystone A. C., 27; Irvington Whippets, 25.

Kingan Knights, 33; Continen-

ts, 19.

Kramer Manufacturing, 32; Eli Lilly, 26.

K-G Flashes, 37; Shawnee A. C., 25.

The schedule for tonight: 7 p.m.—Service Products vs. Col- legians.

7:30 p.m.—Riverside Olympics vs. Indianapolis Cubs.

8:40 p.m.—Eighth Christian vs. Brown Bombers. The J. T. V. Hill Seniors, state title holders; Eli Amigos, tourney defending champions; Packard and Hill Flashes also are entered.

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