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Victory of Morvich Vindicates Training Method of Owners

By FRANK G. MENKE

The brilliant triumphs of Morvich in the Kentucky Derby was something more than the twining of news sprays of laurel into the huge wreath already owned by America's super-race horse. It was the vindication of the scoffed at and ridiculed training methods of Fred Burlew; by "smart alecks" of the turf world, who sought to belittle a once obscure trainer.

Morvich came from California, a trifile more than a year ago and was so little thought of by Billy Carroll, who then trained him, that he was entered in a \$2,500 selling race. Afterwards Morvich was sold for \$4,500 to Maxey Hirsch, regarded as one of the shrewdest trainers on the American turf.

And Hirsch, presumed, infallible judge of horse-flesh, sold the horse to Burlew for a figure around \$7,800.

Before Burlew made his purchase anyone could have had Morvich for that sum—perhaps less. But even though Morvich had won three straight races, without drawing a long breath, all of the fashionable trainers around New York parts, gave no thought to him as a great future. They, like Carroll and Hirsch, didn't like his knotty legs, his rather ungainly conformation, his none too aristocratic breeding.

Saw Possibilities

But Burlew saw in Morvich the wonder horse of the age—and every dollar he had in the world was used in the purchase of the then "ugly duckling" of turfdom.

When Burlew bought Morvich, the highbrow trainers sneeringly remarked that "Burlew is a nut for buying that mutt." When Burlew, only a few days afterward, sold a half interest in Morvich to Ben Block for \$40,000, all turfdom, which had been ridiculing Burlew's claims of greatness for Morvich, concluded that "Block is a bigger nut than Burlew."

But when Morvich, under the expert handling of Burlew, won one race after another, whipped every crack two-year-old in the east, gathered in wins of \$15,000 and 11 straight races, those who had scoffed Burlew and Block became silent. Envy had left them rather speechless.

But with the coming of springtime, the chance came again for the trainers and "experts" to scoff and jeer at Burlew. For when Burlew started sending the mighty colt half miles in .46 and miles ahead 1:40, those racing "experts" who long ago cultivated the idea that they were all Solomon-like in their knowledge of turf affairs, cautiously remarked:

Thought Burlew Fool

"Burlew is a fool to run his horse that way—and Block is a double-barreled fool to permit him to do it. Morvich will go to the post not merely over-trained but absolutely worn out by those insane speed trials Burlew is giving him. It's too bad some smart trainer isn't handling Morvich."

To all those who sneered at him and questioned his training methods, Burlew, in a quiet, calm way, answered: "Morvich is a super-horse. I know it—so does Mr. Block. But a lot of persons don't. That's why they condemn. They figure that it's taking the snap out of Morvich to send him a half in .46 or a mile in 1:40. But in the year that I have handled this mighty colt, I have found that it requires no greater effort on his part to do a half mile in .46 than it does for the average horse to run the half in .51."

"The trouble in handling Morvich is not to get speed out of him, but rather to hold him down. In his every workout the boy has had to fight him to keep him from smashing all the stop watches on the track."

Predicted Derby Win

"Morvich will win the Derby—off by himself. The idea that he can't go a distance and still carry his phenomenal speed will be scattered for all time when the finish line is crossed. If Morvich is drawing a long breath after that race is over—if he shows any positive sign of having been in a grueling race with the best three-year-olds in the land—I'll be surprised."

Every prediction of Burlew came true. The amazing son of Runnymede took the lead with the barrier's rise—and never afterward was in danger. He withstood five difficult challenges from behind—and raced every pretender to his crown to the ground. He ran in front for the entire distance, made his own pace, and won easily up. And, when he went back to the judges' stand he was a calm and as cool as though he had just been led from his stall after a night of sleep.

"I don't think the horse lives today—or ever did live—who can take the measure of Morvich," modestly declares Burlew. "The 12 races of his lifetime he has been headed but once—in the Pimlico Futurity. And that was done purposely so Mr. Block and I could find out whether the colt could run from behind. Hard held for seven-eighths of a mile that day he jumped forward when let down—and was in front going away at the end."

"Morvich owns no time records—simply because he never has been let out to his limit. The day may come when some horse will press it home through an entire journey. If it does—whether the distance is six or 12 furlongs—I feel confident Morvich will shatter the world's record for the distance."

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Rail Birds Take Look At New D'Wehr Special

(By Associated Press)

INDIANAPOLIS, May 22—Rall-birds at the Indianapolis motor speedway turned up unexpectedly today for a look at the D'Wehr Special, which arrived from New York yesterday in charge of L. P. Come and Frank Davidson, the latter having been selected as the pilot for the car in the 500 mile race.

Decorations day.

The car is reported to involve revolutionary ideas in engine construction, and is the product of two New York inventors, Rudolph Wehr and J. H. Lehman. The engine will have the smallest piston displacement of any car entered in the race—only 120 cubic inches.

Although Richmond high school's entries in the state meet, did not qualify, the experience which has been reaped from the season will prove valuable to the team members as they start out next spring.

Practically the final curtain fell on high school athletics with the close of the annual track and field meet, which was won by Technical, of Indianapolis. The big meet was acclaimed the most successful in years, there being three records shattered by three of the numerous athletes who competed.

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Human bones used to be kept as amulets and charms, and the oldest known fossil was the thigh bone of a mammoth.

THE RICHMOND PALLADIUM

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YANKS HAVE MARGIN OF TWO GAMES FOR LEAGUE LEADERSHIP

(By Associated Press)

NEW YORK, May 22.—With the league leadership at stake the New York Yankees turned back St. Louis 6-5 in the second game of the series and had a margin today of two games. It took 10 innings to subdue the Browns, who hit Waite Hoyt hard. Babe Ruth got his first hit since returning to the game, a double, and out of five times at bat.

Douche pitched Cincinnati to a 5-1 victory over the Giants, the third straight setback for the world's champions, who are finding unexpected opposition in the west. Jesse Barnes, who recently pitched a no-hit game, was knocked from the box. McGraw benched Ralph Shinners, who has not been hitting, and put Bill Cunningham in.

The St. Louis Cardinals were unable to gain on the Giants, the veteran Rube Marquard of Boston having the better of Shardel in a hurling duel while Southworth's home run with one helped the Braves to win, 4 to 3.

Brooklyn pounded three Chicago pitchers, including Aldridge, for 18 hits and won easily, 8 to 4, behind Dutch Ruether's effective hurling. Tommy Griffith had a perfect day at bat with 4 hits.

Washington, in the only other American League game, continued its winning streak by trimming Chicago 8 to 1, knocking Courtney from the box while Zachary held the White Sox to five scattered bingles.

Chips and Slips

When opportunity knocked

That being about the briefest way of telling that George Murray, young Yankee pitcher, took time by the pompadour when he got a chance in the box with the Yankees.

A few days ago Bob Shawkey started and ended the Indians for the Yanks and was nicked for four runs in one and two-thirds innings before Manager Huggins decided he wasn't there. Then Murray got his chance. He passed Tris Speaker, first man to face him, and then retired the next man for the final out of the inning.

Score was 4 to 0 then. When his turn came to bat in the Yanks' second, two men were on. Murray drove a homer into the bleachers bread basket. Which almost evened the score. Then he slammed out a triple later in the game, while allowing the Indians three hits in the seven cantos he worked.

Which shows that Mr. Murray has faculty for stepping into the midst of things without hesitation.

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