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PREPARATIONS NOW GOING AHEAD FOR THE COMING RACING SEASON IN UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Prominent Racing Man Gives Summarized Schedule on Dates in Various Circuits For Season of 1929—Representatives of Driving Clubs and Fairs Have Been Meeting—Select Dates and Programmes.

(By W. H. Gocher)

During the past five weeks the representatives of the driving clubs and fairs have been holding meetings at different circuits in 1929. The Bay State Circuit was the first in the field with an announcement for six meetings between June 11 and July 12. As Stafford Springs did not ask for dates Northampton, the oldest member of the circuit, was moved from last to second place. This will make the route for 1929 from Greenfield to Northampton, Sturbridge, Avon, Windsor and Springfield. All of the feature events of former years were retained. Avon also renewed its two \$10,000 events, one of which is for the 2.10 trotters and one for the 2.10 pacers. Windsor also opened a \$25,000 pace for the 2.10 pacers and a \$10,000 event for the 2.10 trotters.

Orange Circuit

The Orange County Circuit which added a new member for 1929 follows the Bay State series. It will open at Endicott on July 16. From that point the horses will be shipped to Elmira, Owego, Goshen and Middletown. This circuit closes the week prior to the Grand Circuit meeting at Goshen.

New Schedule

Reference to the Grand Circuit also recalls the fact that this important organization has announced a schedule which will supply fifteen weeks racing between June 17 and October 11, all of the meetings being over mile tracks. For the first time in its history, Lexington will hold a summer meeting. In other words, it will open the Grand Circuit with a five day meeting the third week in June. From that point the horses will be shipped to Toledo and Cleveland. The meeting at North Randall will be held Fourth of July week. The next stop will be at Toledo for its second meeting at which there will be two \$25,000 events for aged horses and a \$10,000 purse for the two year old trotters.

Kalamazoo Next

Kalamazoo follows the next week. It has renewed its \$25,000 pacing feature, it being given for the 2.12 class this year, as well as the \$10,000 trot which has appeared on its programme for a number of years. The other members of the Grand Circuit are Grand Rapids, Detroit, Cleveland, which will give a second meeting, Hartford, Goshen, Syracuse, Indianapolis, Aurora, Cincinnati and Lexington. There is an open week between Lexington and Cincinnati. It is just possible that it will be taken by Nashville as in 1928 the Tennessee State Fair was held at that point the week

prior to the Lexington meeting.

New England

In New England the Northern Vermont Fair Circuit has announced a series of six meetings between August 6 and September 6. Its members are located at Morrisville, Middlebury, Sheldon Junction, Barton and St. Johnsbury in Vermont, and Lancaster in New Hampshire. The horses which follow the circuit can also move on from there into the Green Mountain Circuit which will include Rutland, Essex Junction, Hudson Falls, and Malone, White River Junction has dropped out. Its grounds have been taken for a flying field.

New England also presents another series of fairs. It will start at Hartford Labor Day week and continues at Rockville, Springfield, Worcester, Rochester, Brockton, Danbury and Stafford Springs, where a meeting is always held the second week in October.

Local Circuits

The Maine and New Brunswick Circuit will hold its annual meeting at Woodstock on February 14. On that date it will select the dates for its summer series of race meetings which will be held at Houlton and Presque Isle in Maine and at Woodstock, Fredericton, Moncton and St. Stephen in New Brunswick. These will be followed by fairs at all of the points named except Moncton, while Halifax Nova Scotia and Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, will be added to the schedule.

New England has still another feature in the Mohawk Circuit. It will start at Pascoag, R. I., July 19, and close at Northampton, Mass., Oct. 3. The other members are South Weymouth, Topsfield, Worcester, Keene, Gardner, Sturbridge, Barre, Greenfield, Great Barrington and Groton.

The other Maine fairs also get under way in August at Bangor and Waterville. They will be followed by Lewiston, Farmington, Skowhegan, Gorham, Topsham and a number of other points all of which feature light harness racing.

In 1928 four associations in Pennsylvania inaugurated the William Penn Circuit. Each of them raced off their programmes, notwithstanding unfavorable weather. This year the William Penn Circuit is back with seven members, each of which will give a two day meeting between June 7 and August 20. The first meeting will be held at Hanover. It will be followed by York, Lewiston, Bloomsburg, Pottsville, Allentown, and Reading.

Closing Dates

The closing date brings the horses

within a few miles of Kutztown, where the Central Fair Circuit gets under way the last week in August. This circuit is one of the strongest in the east. Its race meetings are given in connection with the fairs at Kutztown, Lebanon, Allentown, Pottsville, Reading, Trenton, Hanover, York, Hagerstown and Frederick, where the circuit closes the third week in October.

Each year the Delmarvia Circuit presents the first series of fairs in the east. It opens at Harrington, Del. the last week in July and moves from there to Keller, Tasley, Pocomoke City, Cambridge, and Salisbury, closing the last week in August. Usually the horses move on from there to the Virginia fairs at Norfolk, Staunton, Woodstock, Woodland, Edenton, Galax, Winchester, Marion and Suffolk.

The announcement made by the Western New York Fair Associations shows that the first fair in the Empire State in 1929 will be held at Caledonia it will be followed by Brockport, Hamburg, Dunkirk, Batavia, Albion, Hornell, Little Valley, Hemlock, Palmyra and Bath. The series of stakes featured by the Buffalo Road Drivers' Association will be contested at four of the meetings in this circuit.

New York state also has a Central Fair Circuit, its members including Courtland, Owego, Binghamton, Elmira, and Ithaca, as well as a Capitol Fair Circuit in which Carlo, Nassau, Chatham and Altamont appear as members.

Met in Pittsburgh

During the past week the representatives of the Keystone Circuit as well as the Coal, Oil and Iron Circuit met in Pittsburgh and selected the dates for their members meetings. The Juniata and Susquehanna Valley Circuit will hold its session at Philadelphia on February 7.

While the Virginia Fairs were in session at Roanoke, the Virginia and Carolina Circuit was organized. It will open at Marlinton, W. Va., August 20, and close at Concord, N. C., October 12. The other members are Lewisburg, W. Va., Marion and Galax in Virginia, Mount Airy, Shelby, Winston-Salem, and Concord in North Carolina. This circuit will be followed by the North Carolina Circuit of which the members are Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Greenville, Raleigh, Kingston, Wilson, Fayetteville, Tarboro, Rocky Mount, and Clinton, where the last meeting will be held the first week in November. Six of the members in this circuit will each give four \$1,000 events.

Short Ship Circuit

In Ohio the Short Ship Circuit will put on a series of summer meetings at Urbana, Marion, Mansfield, Findlay, Fremont, Norwalk, and Sandusky before the fairs start. From that time there will be three or four meetings a week until the season closes as usual at Lancaster the middle of October.

According to the present schedule there will be more racing in Ohio in 1929 than has ever been planned for one season. In addition to over eighty fairs there will be seven half-mile track meetings and five Grand Circuit meetings. Of the latter Toledo and Cleveland will each give two and

Sporting Splashes

Bathurst seems to have a strangle hold on first place in the North Shore hockey league. The only logical contender for similar honors, appears to be the Newcastle sextet, and in a playoff, this club may prove the superior.

Percy Williams, Canada's youthful speed marvel, will probably receive a lot of temptations on his invasion of United States and many fear that he will eventually succumb to the lure of America's gold and cast in his lot with the "money" country. There is one thing certain, plenty of bait will be held out to the young Canadian by wealthy enthusiasts and, well—it's quite a temptation.

The Commercial and Intermediate leagues which are in operation here this season, will undoubtedly produce good hockey material for the coming years. Already we have in mind, several outstanding youths on the Devon Cubs' lineup; about four in the Commercial loop and one or two from the High school. The big problem is obviously not so much to make players, as to keep them here after they are made.

Has anybody picked the Canadiens to win the Stanley Cup this year? Well, they look pretty good right now and that's no lie.

Looks as if the game of Badminton was gaining a firm foothold in the capital city. Everywhere one sees, a young, middle aged or old person, capering around the streets with a new badminton club, in preparation for this or that tournament. Personally, we don't think that it will ever come about that little groups will congregate on the corners, and other places and argue and fight and replay the games, as is, and always will be the case in baseball, football, or hockey. However, that's only our opinion.

Fond mother—The baby's picture isn't he.

Grandparent—Well from the rate he travels I'd say he's a moving picture.

Cincinnati one.

Valley Route

In a few weeks the members of the St. Lawrence Valley Circuit will meet at Montreal and announce the dates for its meetings at Valleyfield, Sherbrooke, Three Rivers, Quebec, Rawdon, and St. Pie. The Tennessee Fairs will also meet at Nashville on February 5 to select dates for the meeting at Nashville, Chattanooga, Memphis, Murfreesboro, Shelbyville and Jackson, while later on announcements can be looked for from the fairs in Illinois, Arizona, Oregon, Washington, Montana, North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, Alabama, Georgia Mississippi and Louisiana, where the 1929 campaign will close in November.

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