

GEORGE BEAHON

"In This Corner"



May 4, 1968 — Dancer's Image, a gimpy grey horse which stood for hours in ice buckets to reduce swelling in his ankles, came from 14th and last place to defeat favored Forward Pass in the Kentucky Derby today at Churchill Downs.

Owner Peter Fuller, wealthy New England automobile dealer, launched a party to celebrate the victory of the colt.

Jockey Bobby Ussery, a swinger type, started his own party, to celebrate his 10 per cent share of the winning purse of \$122,600. Ussery's tab would make a maharajah blink twice. Festivities lasted for days and nights.

May 6, 1968 — Urine specimens of 18 horses, nine of them Derby Day program winners, and nine others chosen by lot, are examined by laboratory technicians. Specimens are mixed with chemicals. One test turned blue . . . then orange . . . and then red lights went on all over the lab.

The Dancer's Image test had come up positive. The test showed presence of a drug trade-named Butazolidin, which is a non-stimulant, non-depressant analgesic that eases arthritic pain. What it does is enable a horse to train well,

without pain. Nobody cares if it's used within three or four days of race time, because then it supposedly doesn't show and has no effect.

Only four years earlier a longshot colt called Venetian Way had won the Derby, and this runner was practically "hooked" on Bute, and ran with it, because Kentucky had no law against racing with Bute at that time. It changed two years later. Main objection: Trainers could use or not use it, and without the public being informed, could run horses "hot" or "cold" and bet accordingly. It does not make a horse run faster, or slower.

Lou Cavalaris, Dancer's trainer, admitted administering Bute six days before the race, through assistant trainer Robert Barnard, who so instructed vet Alex Harthill. (Harthill had experienced two previous suspensions — one first indefinite, then reduced to 60 days, in Chicago, for administering a stimulant; another time in New Orleans he was charged with bribing a lab official to destroy specimens. He was acquitted on the latter.)

It became a rousing "Whodunnit?"

May 15, 1968 — Churchill Downs stewards, after a three-day hearing, suspend Cavalaris and Barnard, for what's really a token 30 days, in this case, and disqualify Dancer's Image, order the purse redistributed. Forward Pass is the winner; but if you bet on Dancer's Image, you cashed, because the betting doesn't matter when a result is changed after the "Official" light is hung at any track.

May 18, 1968 — Forward Pass wins Preakness; Dancer's Image is third. Dancer's Image is disqualified for bumping in stretch.

June 1, 1968 — Dancer's Image, his ankles hurting more than ever, and his

stable's pride fractured, is returned to stud as Forward Pass finishes second to Stage Door Johnny in the Belmont Stakes.

June 3, 1968 — Fuller appeals disqualification to Kentucky State Racing Commission.

Dec. 23, 1968 — Commission rules colt had Bute in system after Derby, and upholds stewards, awarding \$122,600 to Forward Pass's stable.

Dec. 30, 1968 — Fuller appeals to Kentucky's Franklin Circuit Court.

Jan. 6, 1969 — Kentucky Racing Commission issues formal order awarding money to Forward Pass stable.

Feb. 7, 1969 — Commission orders \$500 fine or 30-day suspension for vet Harthill. (He paid the fine.)

Dec. 11, 1970 — Franklin Circuit Court Judge Henry Meigs overturns commission, finding Bute presence was insufficient to cause disqualification. Money is reordered to Dancer's Image.

Dec. 16, 1970 — Racing Commission appeals Meigs' decision.

July 30, 1971 — Commission appeal filed with Kentucky Court of Appeals.

April 28, 1972 — Appeals Court overturns Meigs' ruling.

Sept. 29, 1972 — Boston sportsman Peter Fuller reaches the deadline for taking his Dancer's Image case to Supreme Court, and declines. Checks are mailed from Churchill Downs to horses finishing second, third, fourth and fifth, in '68 Derby. (Dancer's Image was placed last.)

The race lasted two minutes and a few ticks. It took four years and five months to determine who won it, only last week. Did anyone notice the headlines?

JOHN DOSER

Scholastic Notebook



Lanny Frattare, WBBF's radio sportscaster, is the guy who presents the plaque to the station's choice for high school football team of the week.

The selection is based on the most outstanding Saturday result and doesn't necessarily involve the area's top ranked teams.

Frattare, who earned his share of athletic letters at Charlotte High, awarded the first week's trophy to coach Pete Logan and his Fairport Reds for demolish-Brockport, 32-0.

The following week Fairport lost to Gates-Chili, 15-0, considered by the experts as a "slight" upset.

WBBF's plaque of course then went to coach Clint Treadway and the G-C Spartans the following week for their win over Fairport.

Gates-Chili promptly went out and dropped a 42-0 shocker to Penfield.

Naturally, Penfield was Frattare's third weekly choice and coach Ed Decker almost reluctantly accepted the honor behind the closed doors of a guidance office with only Frattare and a reporter present.

We're not suggesting Decker is superstitious, but we'll say he's moderately cautious.

HERE'S WHAT'S going on in Section 5, the area school athletic governing body which makes the rules all Catholic schools

must follow — but which won't permit Catholic schools to join.

Paul McKee, Rush-Henrietta athletic director, was appointed by Section 5 President Carl Palumbo of Victor as the section's representative to the State Coaches Association.

Dental injuries are now more numerous in basketball than they are in football (rebounding — elbows) according to Walt Moore, of the state's protection plan.

Bob Carr, State Education Dept., reminds that interscholastic sports is "considered educational and not a tenure area . . . coaches for various sports should be assigned (by school personnel) yearly".

Cross country intersectionals will be in Section 5 this fall at RIT, Saturday, Nov. 11.

Basketball intersectionals have been delayed for the present.

State Football Committee recommends if sections wish to experiment in breaking tie ball games, they must use the Nassau County Plan (experiment rejected by Section 5).

There is some desire for fall as well as spring golf.

Student-faculty games, usually basketball, are to be discouraged.

Section 5 soccer tournament, which like all sectional tournaments excludes Catholic schools, will use an at-large basis for some selections this year.

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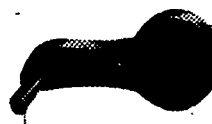
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