

GEORGE BEAHON

### "In This Corner"



"Very splendid," says Hollering Henry. "Now the season is over, they are talking about putting these little pinhead burglars where they belong. The FBI is on them, and maybe they'll wind up in the slammer. But where's the fuzz been all season while we been getting our pockets picked?"

"Cool it a little," says Tommy The Tummeler. "All these jocks are not thieves. Like any other business, there's good and bad. A few rotten apples don't spoil the barrel, as they always say in the police commissioner's offices whenever some of their own get grabbed."

"Well, there were about a dozen supposedly involved trying to tie up these Exactas and Superfectas, and I do not consider a dozen just a few."

"I agree," says Hollering Henry, "some of these riders should get life. Some of them think there's only wine, women, song and busting up automobiles in this world. They make 150, 200 a day, even riding at minor league level like this, and they spend much of their spare time figuring out how to rob the public, like us, which supports them."

"There is no excuse for larceny," concedes The Tummeler. "This is why we got racing commissions stewards. The real trouble is the gimmick betting — the Doubles, Exactas, Trifectas, Superfectas — the multiple-wagering stuff brings out the big payoffs and the temptation. Some states have outlawed the gimmick betting propositions. Others are on their way to

ending it. I do happen to know, however, in this particular stinkeroo, you could try in the ninth race on Oct. 24, won by Miss Farmington, and then you would be where the big deal blew open."

"It's beyond that," Hollering Henry complains. "They are overworking their touting privileges this year. They pass around their 'eggs,' their suckers, like umbrellas. They do their best work this season touting in the men's rooms at various watering holes. They show the sucker the inside of an old Timex, tell him it's a battery, calculated to bring a horse up ten lengths, and make the guy bet a couple of hundred for them."

"They are dopes," says The Tummeler. "Most horses won't respond to a battery, and most of these riders wouldn't know how to lay it on a horse at the right time. Or how to get rid of it later."

"How often," asks Henry, "you think they got to cash crooked Superfectas? It's tough to pick a winner, or an Exacta, 1-2, without trying to tab the 1-2-3-4 finishers."

"Their theory sounds good," says The Tummeler. "They got ten horses to work with. They throw out two, figuring they don't logically qualify to be in the first four. Then they work at tying up four other horses. The going fee for a jock to stiff a horse in a Super is three to four hundred, depending on his chances of winning. This means it would take about \$1,400 to stop four horses. Ideally, this leaves only four to finish 1-2-3-4. For \$48 dollars, you can box this combination, so you cash no matter what order the four happen to hit the top four. For a total of \$1,400 in bribes, and say, \$480 in betting, you could 'guarantee' yourself ten winning Superfecta tickets. Right?"

"You fail to answer my question," says Hollering Henry. "How often do the swindlers get to cash big ones, like 5, 10, 20 G's?"

"I'm glad you ask," says The Tummeler. "Because the dummies score very little. They are bad handicappers to begin with. Too often one of the two they eliminate from the beginning jumps up to slip home third or fourth. Or the riders supposed to hold the other four, they can't hold the odd mount, here or there, and this foils the scheme. Or one of the four loose horses, supposed to gallop home in the front four, develops an Excedrin headache, or something, and collapses at the quarter pole. Why, even the incomparable handicapper Billy J could not overcome some of the form reversals we witness in this Superfecta. Like the horse beat 168 lengths his last two outs, but winds up part of the Super duper next time out. The best laid plans, of mice and men . . ."

"You mean rats," says Henry. "Incidentally, who did the ratting. How did this thing break?"

"Well," says The Tummeler, "you are not too smart, or you might wonder why one jock decides to stop riding four days before the story breaks. Why? Self preservation. This should teach you another lesson. Do not bet on woman jockeys. I mean, do not bet on them to keep quiet. The way I get the story, this jock gets divorced last winter, and she's got this new boy friend. The new BF gets ploughed in deep with area fuzz on a couple of bad driving deals, and he needs help. Suddenly a deal springs him, for like a two-bit fine, and the fuzz suddenly owns all this stink about fixed races. Now you should consider this girl jock has always been claiming foul deeds, calling cops, etcetera, thinking everything is one very large plot. Well, anyway, that's how it gets all the way to the FBI. Any time anybody hollers fix around a race track, people love to listen. The guys who are angriest are the ones who wanted in but got shut out. You can make me a bet," says The Tummeler. "You can bet me, there won't be one guy does one day in the slammer on this entire deal."

JOHN DOSER

### Scholastic Notebook



Who kicked the longest field goal in New York State high school football?

Bob Thomas, ex-McQuaid booter, (soccer AND football) who now kicks the extra points and field goals for the University of Notre Dame, ranks among the top five in listings gathered by the New York State Sports Writers Association.

Thomas booted a 45-yarder on Sept. 28, 1969, against Aquinas, to give McQuaid a brief 3-0 lead; the boot was the first ever in McQuaid history and was generally regarded at the time as the longest ever kicked in the Rochester area. Aquinas won, 15-3, with Rich Russo, now at Cornell, scoring two TD's.

Thomas also was McQuaid's leading soccer scorer, and his playing two fall sports at the same time required special permission from Albany, we believe now the rules have since been changed to prohibit such dual sports activities.

The N.Y. State field goal record is 50 yards, turned in two weeks ago by Dan Starkey of Clarkstown North High School. Mat Roberts of Fayetteville-Manlius kicked a 47-yard field goal on Oct. 14, and Jim Bennett booted a 46-yarder for Union-Endicott last year.

Two others are tied with Thomas at 45 yards: Five have recorded field goals of 44 yards and three have hit 42.

HERE'S HOPING Thurm Bodie returns to normal health fast!

Thurm, who stands 6-4½ and weighs 230 pounds, had his left foot amputated a few weeks ago. Courier-Journal

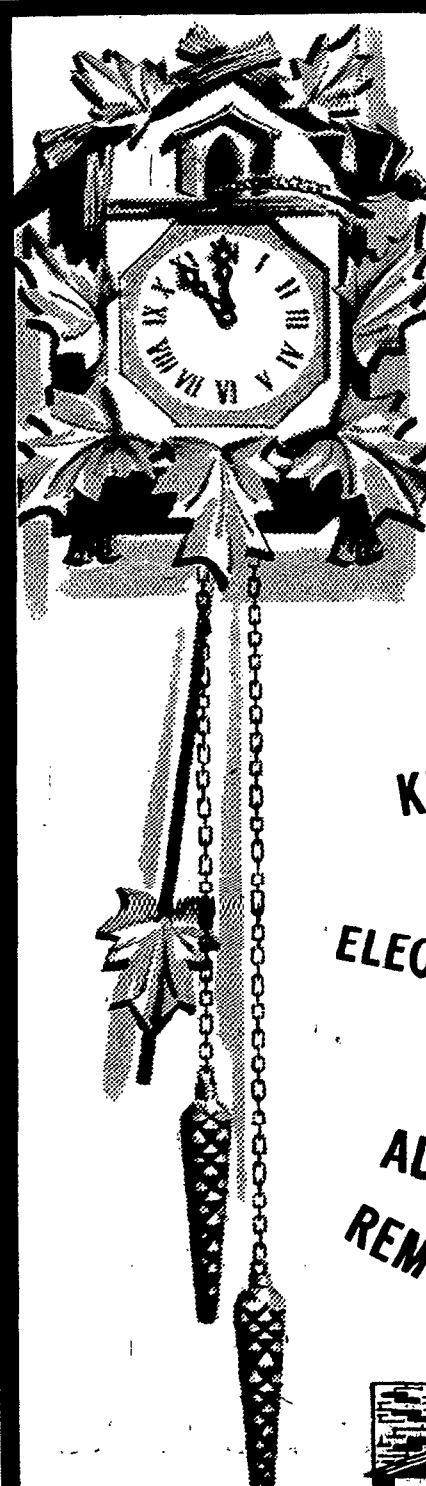
He told sportswriter Bob Matthews that he considered his new handicap as a challenge and an opportunity.

Thurm is probably best known in the inner city where he works as director of the Clinton Ave. Recreation Center, but he's equally known in the outer city as a basketball and football official who calls 'em as he sees 'em and is highly respected by his colleagues and coaches alike.

One of the reasons for his popularity with teenagers, especially the young athletes, is because he believes kids today, black and white, are "beautiful."

He's anxious to get back to work and we're sure his "kids" are anxious to have him back.

NOTEBOOK — Because more schools are going for the two point bonus conversion, some schoolboy grid officials are thinking about reversing the points — one point for a pass or run, two points for a kick . . . Schenectady Linton needs opponents for a Christmas basketball tournament . . . Glen Springs Academy, Watkins Glen, and George Junior Republic, Buffalo area, need basketball games . . . Rome Free Academy blasted Notre Dame of Utica, 48-0 . . . ND beat Mooney, 8-0 . . . Why does one school have to win by 70-0? Susquehanna Valley crushed Norwich by that margin recently . . . White Plains, No. 2 in N.Y. state, lost to Brockton, Mass., 40-8 . . . What's that tell you? . . . Ithaca has longest non-losing streak in N.Y. with a 32-0-1 . . . Longest ever was Massena Central with 55 straight wins (ended in 1957) and Massena again with 47 (ended in 1970)



# IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

THE WM. C. McCOMBS CO. WILL GUARANTEE COMPLETION OF ANY REMODELING JOB BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS

- KITCHENS
- BATHROOMS
- KITCHEN CUPBOARD DOORS
- SIDING
- MASONRY
- ELECTRICAL
- CONCRETE
- ADD-A-ROOM
- REMODEL
- CARPENTRY
- PLUMBING

790 Plymouth Ave. S.



PHONE 436-9696

ROOFING • SIDING • INSULATION • STORM WINDOWS • JALOUSIES

Registered with Corning Chamber of Commerce • Our Corning Office—936-8524