



IN THIS CORNER George Beahon

ITEM: Governor Rockefeller signs bill authorizing off-track betting operations throughout New York State, effective July 1.

Interviewees will state their names, occupations and opinions.

"My name is Fred Herman. I am coordinator of the City of Rochester effort to set up OTB, and I estimate that 10 sites in the city and the County of Monroe will realize about \$40 million in annual handle. We anticipate appointment of a general manager. We have an October first target date.

"We expect no big problem selecting sites, because much of the equipment is portable. We will work with one computer and one betting pool, with Rochester serving as a special betting district plugged into Finger Lakes Race Track. We'll also deal special events, like the Triple Crown races.

"From our statistics, we hope for a net of about \$1.6 million from the \$40 million, after takeouts for the track, state, etcetera. We'll probably split 40 per cent city and 60 per cent county. The customer will be tapped for 17 per cent of regular pools, and 25 per cent on exotic betting, such as Superfectas. We expect no 'flak' from the tracks involved because of the percentages we're prepared to pay them. In Schenectady, they are handling about \$10 million the first year, and showing a profit of \$280,000, which is 5 1/2 per cent. In Rochester we conservatively anticipate a profit of about 4 per cent. We hope to be in operation in the Fall."

Next witness.

"My name is Jack O'Keefe. I am general manager at Finger Lakes Race Track. I don't want OTB. I think it may be a killer of racing here. The horsemen should not object to it, because their percentage is set, at half our take of 3.8 on regular wagering and 6.8 on exotics.

"I figure OTB will cost us about \$50,000 in handle per day, which is a loss to us of \$3,500 a day. If OTB does \$100,000 a day, we'll realize \$3,800, but must give half that to the horsemen. I'm not so sure they'll do \$100,000 a day, but if they do, we come out losing about \$3,500 but gaining only \$1,900.

"Most of our customers are over 50. If it rains, will they come here or go to the OTB parlor? We can't continue to lose attendance and survive. New York City tracks lost \$4 million last year, but Howie Samuels still makes noise.

"If you owned a movie house and another opened next door, playing the same film, wouldn't you get hurt? What we've got here is a case of TV, or OTB, replacing a movie, or the race track. If you can save the overhead of visiting the track to bet, you're going to save it. I say it's a killer. If I were younger, I'd get out of racing because of OTB.

"They tell you they will open in October? Bring me their money. I'll bet them they don't get in action this year. The equipment is too scarce. We have trouble getting delivery on one and two machines from Amtote (American Totalisator) so how are they going to quickly equip ten betting parlors?"

Next witness.

"My name is not your readers' business because I happen to be a bookmaker. I think OTB will help my business. Because the parlors will get people curious and probably develop brand new bettors. Then when they get hooked, they'll realize how much

easier it is to bet with me. We're sitting at this bar. Would you get up and leave and walk five blocks and wait in line to make a bet, or leave it with me or the bartender or just pick up a telephone and call my office? You're going to bet with me because it's more convenient, and you don't have to worry about IRS, and you get credit until settle-up time next week.

"There is one edge for the bettor in OTB. I pay a limit of 100 to 1 on a Daily Double, so he might get \$300 from OTB, but only \$202 from me. But how often does the Double pay that much, and how often do you cash it?"

"I imagine there's the chance that law enforcement might be stepped up against bookmaking when OTB comes in. But I like to look to New York City, where Commissioner Murphy told his police force to lay off the bookies and concentrate on drugs and other crime areas. He said he didn't have enough staff for the important things, so why waste time and money chasing bookies in a non-violent crime area? Actually, OTB doesn't mean all that much. The real money is in sports betting, but they don't understand that in Albany."



SCHOLASTIC NOTEBOOK John Doser

McQuaid's Chris Horton, not "good" enough to compete in Section 5 track tournaments because he chose to attend a Catholic high school, is now the second best high school miler in the country.

There's no other way to look at it after he turned in his fastest mile ever, a 4:09.0, to finish behind Matt Centrowitz of Power Memorial High School, New York City, in the recent Golden West Invitational Track, meet at Sacramento, Calif.

He almost didn't get an invitation, but meet chairman Reginald Young changed his mind and gave Horton a call, taking into consideration Horton's 4:13.7 winning time at the High School All-America meet the week before at Des Moines, Iowa.

Even with that clocking, his best ever prior to the Golden West, Horton was seeded last in the 14th annual championship mile which supposedly puts the 10 top high school runners in the country in the same field.

Horton's 4:09.0 broke his Rochester Diocesan and McQuaid school mark by 4.8 seconds and was the fastest mile ever run by a Rochester high school boy.

He ran fifth most of the race according to coach Bob Bradley, moved to third and then overtook Dave Sandridge, Maryland state champion, who finished in 4:09.2.

Horton ran the first quarter in :60.1, had a 2:04.2 at the half mile, and a 3:09.4 at the three quarters mark.

"He ran about as good a race as he could have," Bradley said.

AQUINAS is really alive and quite well and Dave Missel, recently appointed athletic director who succeeds John Uriah, wants everybody to know about it.

"We've seldom been in better shape. I'll match our athletic records with any school around

Paul Notes Anniversary

Vatican City [RNS] — On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of his election as Pope (June 21, 1963), Pope Paul remarked that he felt deeply the responsibility weighing on his "weak shoulders."

Speaking from his window to a large crowd of pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square on the Feast of Corpus Christi, the 75-year-old pontiff said:

"Today we complete our tenth year as bishop of this (Rome) diocese, as successor — last in time and merit — of the Apostle Peter."

"We take the liberty of mentioning this anniversary," he said, "because it provides us the opportunity to recall publicly the bountiful goodness shown towards us by the Lord."

At the same time, he added, it makes him profoundly conscious of "the responsibility weighing on our weak shoulders."

SCHOOL CITED

Jefferson High School's program of physical education for the severely physically handicapped has been named one of the nation's 107 "exemplary" education projects by the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. A certificate of appreciation has been awarded to the school by the State Education Department.



Power Hitters

St. Andrew's CYO Softball Power Hitters Richard Lounsbury and Christopher Kuech stand with Coach Mel Geraci following a game that saw St. Andrew's defeat St. Rita's 22-11 to take the CYO title for the second year in a row.

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