

IN THIS CORNER

George Beahan

Cameras in bank lobbies are a deterrent to stickups. Cameras on race tracks keep jockeys in line. Literally.

So when the cameras are not recording the stick and fist movements of the jockeys as they rodeo for position and important money in the stretch, you can easily imagine the liberties the little athletes are likely to take.

The Sovereign State of New York does not take more out of racing than the law allows. It merely passes new laws to take more than common sense allows. Its latest swindle on the public was that 5 per cent surcharge tax on Off Track Betting's winning pools. In a nutshell, a man who bets \$50 on an even-money choice at the track gets back \$100 if the nag scores. In Off Track, his profit is cut back to \$40. If you think a \$50 bettor does not understand that, check the records of OTB in New York City since the new heist was perpetrated. The volume of betting, which is projected to increase each week, month and year, dropped off by nearly 20 per cent.

This tax comes into our upstate OTB area next month. And since OTB upstate is dragging already and failing to produce a profit, think of the effect the new 5 per cent knock will produce.

Now back to Saratoga, where the jockeys are falling in record numbers. As of a week ago, stewards were dealing suspensions with all six hands. Most of the enforced vacations resulted from infractions committed in the stretch running of the turf course, which does not have camera coverage for the stewards. Saratoga is the only major race track in the nation without this film surveillance.

At this writing, 13 jockeys had

been suspended for periods of either 7 or 14 days. For riding violations. At this rate, Saratoga might have to recruit jocks from Finger Lakes in order to finish the meeting.

Some of the riders are rebelling. To the extent of hiring lawyers to fight the stewards' rulings. Which could be a dangerous thing, because stewards carry some kind of clout in the fine print of the rules of racing. They could set a guy down for life for spitting in the parking lot.

The heaviest suspension at Saratoga this August was laid on Eddie Belmonte, but not for a riding infraction. This is the same jockey who shot his wife earlier this year; the wife survived; the marriage did not.

The stewards did not bust up Belmonte's riding schedule for 20 days for that little incident. But they nailed him last week. Belmonte and his fellow jocks played the turf writers in a twilight softball match. Turf writers are sports writers who became addicted to making an easy living the hard way. They also have love-hate relationships with jockeys.

Newsday's Bill Nack had some words with Belmonte during the game. When Nack slid hard into Belmonte's frame in a close tag play, Belmonte took exception. He grabbed a baseball bat and began swinging. Fade-out scene: Belmonte chasing Nack down the road.

Epilogue: 20 days suspension for Belmonte. I get the feeling that when Belmonte's "ex" read about the 20-day rap, she must have felt like John Dean, doing 1 to 4 years, when he heard Mr. Nixon's getaway speech.

SCHOLASTIC NOTEBOOK

John Deane

Move over George Beahan, Channel 10 hopes to give you a little heat.

Since Mr. B., our co-sports columnist elsewhere on this page, proved to all there can be a transition from the printed page to the magic lantern (Mr. B.'s own definition of TV from an earlier era), Channel 10's ratings have steadily improved during the 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. newscast slots although George is the first to admit that weatherman Tom Wells has had a lot to do with it. Last week Channel 10 announced the appointment of a new sports director, Rich Funke, presently with WAXC as news director, and formerly with WHAM.

The fact that Channel 10 is making Funke a fulltime sports man indicates the seriousness of combat. Previously sports news was announced to the audience as part of the general news package on 10 with a few editorial pieces thrown in by Eddie Meath.

Funke's track record in radio (this is his first TV job) has been good and he is well received by area sports personalities. He's familiar with the high school aspect of the business because for the past few years he's been an assistant football coach at Notre Dame of Batavia (Buffalo Diocese).

Funke indicates he's interested in more than baseball and hockey and says he will devote time to areas not generally covered by local TV: high school sports, particularly football and basketball.

Jim Reilly, news director at 10,

said his station would be using a lot of film shorts on local sports, especially the schools, some of which might lend itself toward 30-minute specials later in the season.

There's no doubt there's room for more TV exposure of schoolboy sports. Annually the only high school event which traditionally receives live TV coverage is Bill Farrell's Section 5 basketball championship showcase from the War Memorial — although last year Channel 21 TV'd the girls' sectional title basketball game from Fairport High (on tape).

Funke starts applying the heat on Monday, Sept. 9. It would be nice if 10 doesn't put him right up against Mr. B. (at about 20 minutes after the hour) because we'd like to watch them both.

FOOTNOTES — McQuaid's John Salamone won a two-extra-hole decision from Knights' teammate Mike Mercier to gain the finals of the Rochester District Junior Golf championship at Penfield, but lost to Fairport's Steve Cruse in the title match. Salamone, 15, qualified as tourney medalist with a 73.

Rick Eichner, former soccer player at Bishop Kearney, is the Kings' new head soccer coach. Eichner is working toward an economics degree at the U of R. He played club soccer for two years at Notre Dame.

Mike Boland, ex-Aquinas and U of R griddier, has been promoted to associate director of development at the U of R.

Jerry Lewis Telethon Labor Day Weekend

The ninth annual Jerry Lewis Telethon which benefits the Muscular Dystrophy Association of America will be seen Labor Day weekend here on WHEC-TV Channel 10.

The national telethon, which originates from the Sahara Hotel in Las Vegas with live pickups from New York and Nashville, will begin at 10:30 p.m. Sept. 1 and end at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 2.

Eddie Meath, Channel 10 personality who has handled the master of ceremonies duties during the previous six telethons, will again be the local host.

Vincent Tofany, former state commissioner of motor vehicles and now president of the National Safety Council, is general chairman and will assist Meath in introducing celebrities and making appeals for contributions.

In the Rochester area there will be 500 volunteers working at the downtown Holiday Inn and at special pledge centers in Geneva, Canandaigua, Newark, Geneseo, Albion and Batavia.

Last year the Rochester phase brought in \$276,000. The national total in 1973 was \$13,500,000.

The TV 10 portion of the telethon will include the traditional "fish bowl" outside the Holiday Inn where children can toss in their contributions of coins.

The Rochester contingent will have 10 minutes out of every hour when TV 10 will cut away from the national telethon to explain the work of the MDA and make appeals. TV 10 will be one of 175 television stations in a special network carrying the telethon.

Among the stars scheduled to appear with Jerry Lewis and anchorman Ed McMahon in Las Vegas are Anna Maria Alberghetti, John Davidson, Jack Benny, David Hartman, Johnny Mathis, Jerry Vale and Dionne Warwick.

The Nashville segment will be hosted by Johnny Cash and Dorothy Collins will emcee the New York show.

The Rochester number to phone when making pledges is: 325-0500. For Geneva call 781-0271; Canandaigua, 394-8000; Newark, 331-7500; Geneseo, 243-3730; Albion, 589-5613 and Batavia, 344-1490.

Special Night At Stadium

Italian-American night is scheduled at 6:30 tonight when the Rochester Red Wings play the Syracuse Chiefs in the International Baseball League at Silver Stadium.

A large display of fireworks after the game will highlight many special events. Further information may be obtained from the Red Wing office.

K of C PICNIC

Dansville — The Dansville chapter K of C held its annual picnic Aug. 21 at the Perkinsville Rod and Gun Club. Nick Hemmer, Brax Middleton and Frank Gilligan were in charge of reservations.



Rusty's an Angel

When the Angel Guardian Home of Brooklyn selected Rusty Staub of the New York Mets as its Baseball Angel for 1974, it sent one of its foster children to Shea Stadium as an emissary to present the award to Staub prior to a Mets' game. Eight-year-old Deborah makes the presentation, reminding Rusty that he was selected for those qualities both on and off the field that can be imitated by children everywhere. [RNS]

The Seven'n Cider.

It's autumn. And time for cider.

Only this autumn, it's time for the "Seven'n Cider."

Just mix fresh apple cider with Seagram's 7 Crown, over plenty of ice.

You'll get a crisp, clean taste of what autumn's all about.

Seagram's 7 Crown.
It's America's favorite.



SEAGRAM DISTILLERS CO., N.Y.C. AMERICAN WHISKEY—A BLEND. 40 PROOF