

SUMMER RACE MEET OPENS

Omaha Fair and Speed Association Series Some Excellent Sport.

THREE WELL CONTESTED, FAST EVENTS

Good Crowd Watches Game Fight for the Money and Sees Some Very Creditable Time for the Season Made.

A nice card of sport was furnished a fair crowd at the fair grounds track yesterday afternoon, the opening day of the summer light harness meeting of the Omaha Fair and Speed Association. For an opening day the crowd was as good as could be expected, and gave promise of good assemblages during the other four days of the meet, when better cards will be offered.

Today and Friday will probably be good in attendance, for they are ladies' days, when all of the gentler sex will be admitted free of charge. Thursday and Saturday will be the crackdays in the way of offerings.

The weather was fine except in one respect. It was warm enough to get all the speed possible out of the flyers, and the sunshine was plentiful enough to set off the pretty basin that stretched out before the eyes of the spectators beyond the track. But it was uncomfortably windy. Possibly it did not affect the results in any respect, but the crosscutting of the breezes across the track very seriously interfered with the going of the horses.

At that, though, there could be no kick coming on the article of racing that was exhibited. Every one of the heats was a corker, and were decidedly exciting and called forth the applause of the grand stand. There were several that were not won until the home stretch was reached, and that's a hot enough proposition for anybody.

The great racing of Paxton's Merchant was one of the best heats of the season, when he made the mile in 2:25—a great record for a 2-year-old in June weather. In both the other events on the card, the 3:00 pace and the 2:35 trot, there were miles made in 2:14 and 2:15—not so warm.

The guiding wonder, however, was not the mile, but the 2:14 and 2:15. The horses were in condition to go on the track, but he was exhibited and will take his turn today.

The work of the officials was eminently satisfactory. The starter was the well known western horseman, P. Undergar, who got the animals off in great shape. The judges were Dick Smith, Walter Phelps and George M. Swigart, and the timers were Herbert Martin of Columbus and Warren Cowles of St. Joseph.

Only Two to Start.

It was shortly after 2 o'clock when the first event of the afternoon's card, the trot for the 2-year-olds, was called. There were four entries, but two were scratched, leaving only Crito, a Falmost colt from Ellsworth, Kan., and the Merchant, Billy Paxton's great colt, by the Conqueror. In the first heat the two went away beautifully after they had been called back a couple of times.

The second heat was much better, faster and prettier race, with only Hooper, B. C. and Querist in it. B. C. started at the head and seemed to be the defeated at the quarter, for he was several lengths to the bad and appeared to be stepping on his toes. He immediately commenced to chase B. C. Hooper, who had been second, and Mabel Wilkes at the three-quarters and was second easily. Hooper was third and Mabel Wilkes and Wert were both distanced. In the first heat was very good, 2:15 1/2.

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Lots of Side-Wheelers.

There was a big field of entries in the second race, the three-mile pace, but only a pair of \$500. They were Fanny Putnam, b. m., Christmas (McDowell), W. Stevenson, Washington, B. C.; J. H. B. (Nelson), John N. Nesbitt, Dallas, Tex.; Sam A. S. (Eller Wilkes (Anidion), H. M. Anidion, Wichita, Kan.; Nashawana, b. m., Baron Wilkes (Chandler), Riverside, Minn.; Helen, W. John H. Bluebell (Russell), Ed Robertson, Omaha; Wiganetta, k. m., Dumas (Kilby), Russell & Kirby, Jacksonville, Ill.; Brightlight, b. m., Knight (Creary), W. J. Creary, La Belle, Mo.; Le Roy, ch. g., Fergus McGregor (Parker), Edward Parker, Colorado Springs, Col.; Lulu Lobasco (Hilmore), M. Hilmore, Alliance, Neb.

In the first heat they went out under the wire in a nice bunch, but were strung out by the time the quarter was reached, with Lulu Lobasco in a good lead. Fanny Putnam, the favorite, was well up, but broke badly at the quarter, was a procession all badly at the three-quarters, and was second, John R. into the lead, but McDowell with Fanny Putnam, who was fourth, overtook him before the distance was reached. Fanny Putnam, with Wiganetta second, John R. into the lead, but McDowell with Fanny Putnam, who was fourth, overtook him before the distance was reached. Fanny Putnam, with Wiganetta second, John R. into the lead, but McDowell with Fanny Putnam, who was fourth, overtook him before the distance was reached.

Card for Today.

The events for today are: Pacing, 2:35 class, under 2:35 class, 500. Entries: Flossie, K. Ed R. Lillman, Nevada, Ia.; Critical Wilkes, Riverside Farm, Franklin, W. Va.; Ed. Lillman, La. Lillman, La.; Fannie V. G. M. Kipper, La. Lillman, La.; Lillian C. W. M. Boyce, La. Lillman, La.; Omaha, K. M. Gibson, Omaha, Neb.

Events on the Running Tracks.

Esprague Wins the Covington Stakes at Latonia. CINCINNATI, June 28.—Esprague won an easy victory in the Covington Springs stakes for 2-year-olds at Latonia today. The race was at five and one-half furlongs and a field of seven started. Esprague was installed an odds-on favorite at 3 to 5 and he held his position as winner by five lengths. The race was a delay of thirty minutes at the post because of a heavy rain. Esprague was a poor runner by five lengths. The race was a delay of thirty minutes at the post because of a heavy rain. Esprague was a poor runner by five lengths. The race was a delay of thirty minutes at the post because of a heavy rain. Esprague was a poor runner by five lengths.

third heat between Wiganetta and Fannie Putnam. The latter went from the wire ahead and Wiganetta was pocketed clear past the quarter. The gray mare went around, however, and nearly beat her. At the end with Fannie Putnam at the half. It was a race all the way in. McDowell let out a length and Fannie Putnam showed daylight between herself and her rival. At the three-quarters Wiganetta went faster and had the other mark lead. The distance she was two lengths ahead under the wire. It was a procession for all the others till the home stretch was reached, when a hot fight occurred between J. H. B. Lulu Lobasco and Brightlight for a place. Lulu Lobasco won. The time was a better than that of the previous heat, 2:14 1/2.

Shuts Out Several.

The fourth heat, was a great race. Its feature was the running of J. H. B. who held the lead of the bunch until the head of the home stretch. Fannie Putnam was a good second all the way around, and the grey Wiganetta was a bad third. All the others were scratched. At the end Wiganetta was a surprising spurt of speed and outpaced both the others on the turn, although she had the outside position. Looking as a sure winner and a length ahead of Fannie Putnam, she broke opposite the distance flag. Fannie Putnam was second, and Wiganetta was third. The race was a hot one, and the wire lengths to the good. Wiganetta recovered in time to get second and J. H. B. was third. All the rest, four, were distanced.

The windup heat was a hot one. Fanny Putnam, Wiganetta and J. H. B. they went to the quarter in that order with daylight between them. Both the hindmost horses came up fast and at the half Wiganetta was a neck to the good, with the other two even. J. H. B. then jumped ahead, but Fannie Putnam was given an easy spurt, and at the three-quarter mile she and J. H. B. were neck and neck, with Wiganetta a couple of lengths behind. Wiganetta got a wiggle on herself at this stage and at the head of the stretch went ahead of both the other two. Fannie Putnam was driven hard by McDowell, but could not get the mustard, and Wiganetta took the lead. Fannie Putnam a length behind. J. H. B. was a poor third. That was the way the money was divided.

Last on the Card.

The concluding race of the card was the 2:35 class trot, with the following entries: Mabel Wilkes, b. m., Empire Wilkes (Chandler), P. E. Wickham, Omaha; B. C. (Nelson), Bourbonage (Tapp), Charles Tapp, St. Joseph, Mo.; Hooper, b. h., Ashland Springs, Colo.; Querist, b. g., Mascot (McDowell), J. V. Collins, Anacostia, Md.; Wert, b. g., Williams (Beauchamp), P. L. Clark, St. Charles, St. Joseph, Mo.

The first heat was a procession. The favorite, the Querist, broke shortly after leaving the wire and B. C. jumped forward with a big lead and came under the wire an easy winner. Querist reached the quarter in four seconds, but was overtaken by Hooper, who had been second, and Mabel Wilkes at the three-quarters and was second easily. Hooper was third and Mabel Wilkes and Wert were both distanced. In the first heat was very good, 2:15 1/2.

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SOUTH OMAHA NEWS.

An ordinance providing for the holding of a special election on Thursday, July 26, for the purpose of voting on a proposition to float bonds to the value of \$40,000 for the purchase of a site and the erection thereon of a city hall building was passed under a suspension of the rules by the city council last night. These bonds are to be of the denomination of \$1,000 each and are to run for ten years, bearing interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum. The ordinance also provides for the levying of a special tax each year for the payment of the interest on the bonds. All of the members of the council voted in favor of the proposition.

The appropriation and annual levy ordinances, in blank, were read for the first time and referred to the judiciary committee. This committee will report these ordinances back at a meeting to be held Tuesday evening, July 12. Property owners petitioned for a fire hydrant at the corner of Twenty-second and L streets and the matter was referred to the fire and water committee. Another petition from residents on Twenty-fifth street for water mains was extended to the city water main committee for consideration. The people on this portion of Twenty-fifth street assert that they have sewer connections but no city water. A lengthy petition asking the appointment of R. H. Jones as city weighmaster was placed on file after being read by the clerk.

Members of the park commission sent in a communication asking for a levy of 1 mill for the fiscal year ending August, 1899, and the request went to the judiciary committee. The committee on fire and water was authorized to buy an exercise wagon for No. 1 fire hall. John Ryan filed a complaint about the dangerous condition of Twenty-seventh street between F and G streets, and Street Commissioner Ross was directed to make the needed repairs at once. The sum of \$500 was transferred from the occupation tax fund to the interest fund for the purpose of meeting obligations due at the Packers' National bank.

Clerk Carpenter was instructed to draw a board of estimation on the purchase of a lot and building at Thirty-third and I streets for fire hall purposes. President Barrett, who occupied the chair, appointed W. D. Sherman a member of the paid fire department and the appointment was confirmed. L. G. Wallbridge was also appointed as trainer, overruling the protest of Ross removed. The appointment of James P. Murphy as a fireman was confirmed. Murphy was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of John Briggs and has been working for some time. The council was then called to order as a board of estimation and the complaints filed during the three days' session last week were read. The complaint of C. M. Hunt, P. C. Caldwell, Andy Meyers and others against the assessment of the packing houses and stock yards was taken up first and Mort made a motion, which was seconded by Trainer, overruling the protest, as no evidence was produced to show that the assessment was too low. Kelly thought the signers of the complaint ought to be served with a notice to attend a meeting of the board, and after Mort's motion to overrule the complaints had been voted down, it was decided to meet on Thursday evening for the purpose of considering the complaints.

Board of Education Affairs. As a result of the reorganization of the Board of Education approaches considerable interest is manifest in the election of