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PRECOCITY IN THE PICSKIN

Instances of Jockeys Who Won Races at an Early Age.

TALL TALES FROM BRITISH TURF

infants Placed in Saddle to Win Important Baces and Youngsters Following Hounds Across

Country. ountry on a spirited pony and was always the records. among the leaders. While he was still a and each owner to ride his own animal.

he said to her, "Hand me out George, I'm help his horse. too heavy." And the next moment a little

What am I to do, papa?" he asked. "Hold your reins tight, and directly they say 'Go!' come home as fast as you can," He obeyed these instruction to the let-

e was forty-one pounds. Noted English Featherweight. ight weight of fifty-four pounds. Little David stood at thirty-three to one and carried eighty pounds, but there were not a few keen-eyed sportsmen looking on who were so taken with the boy's riding that hey backed him to win. And he not only von, but Little David ran right away with him into the town before he could be

stopped.

It was a great triumph for the youngster but his master thought it was sufficiently rewarded by a present of a Bible and a or favor. gold-headed whip. On the whip was engraved the motto, "Honesty is the Best NO 18-INCH BALK LINE CHAMP Policy," and to that motto Fordham kept sternly true all through his long and Since Willie Hoppe Returned Trophy splendid career as a Jockey. Two years later, in 1854, Fordham won the Chester up on Captain Douglas Lane's Epaminondas, against a field of twenty-five starters, and his weight then was fifty-two pounds. The late Fred Archer rode to hounds at he age of 7 and he won a long steeplehase at Bangor when he was 13. He never ode lighter than 77 pounds, at which figure he won the Cesarewitch of 1872 on lyanos. Frank Buckle is said to have ridden under 56 pounds, and Sam Chifney once rode at 55 pounds when he was a lad.

Lord Lonsdale a Wonder. For precocity in horsemanship the present Lord Lonsdale would be hard to beat, for he hunted "on his own hook" when he was 5 years of age. And the famous Captain John White, one of the finest horsemen of his day, either with the hounds or on the flat, commenced his career in the saddle about the same age. His first mount was so small, to use his own words, with saddle on he could walk under eaping bar at home." He afterwards galloped over it. Charles James Apperley, the noted writer on sporting subjects, under the pseudonym of "Nimrod," haw said that he rode to hounds "In full hunting fig"-velvet cap and scarlet coat-before was 12, and drove a coach and four when he was but a year older.

Scarcely less precocious was the great Phomas Assheton-Smith, whom Napoleon called "the first hunter of England." his skill and daring in the saddle had revision of the rules. spread pretty far, as the following story one enthusiast. Whereupon Asshetonthe bet. Started at Ten Years.

Sir Richard Sutton, whose prowess on the tions in the billjard world next fail. hunting field was only equalfed by his poverts, was entered to hounds by Squire Obaldeston at the age of 10, and, mounted on Tom Sebright's gray pony, showed his metile on the Burton in a way that gladdened his mentor. Tom Sebright himself, by the the way, whose name is inseparately

duties of the hunting field, but others have egun even earlier. Jack Hills, for example, Heythrop was only 19 when he commenced, and George Carter, who for more Fitzwilliam, was only 10 when he was installed as second whip to Selby Lownden'

Will Dale, successively huntsman of the Fitzwilliam, the Brocklesby, and Duke of Seaufort's, made his debut in the hunting turn hounds for his father, who hunted the Surrey Union, and he was only 15 when he tests. left home to begin life as a whipper in to Johnson's Harriers in Lincolnshire On the other hand, some great horsemen

have given no promise of future prowess in the saddle in their boyhood. The present Earl Spencer, who has been justly described as "one of England's greatest ormen," was a timid and nervous child, who dreaded mounting his pony, even with the helping hand of his governess to cling to. Nor aid he develop the least taste for hunting or penchant for horses till he was a young man at Cambridge.

Speciand Jubilant Over Just.

back. Melvin Sheppard has twice won American Athletic union championships in faster time than that made by Just. It 906 he ran in 1 minute 85% seconds, and in 1907 in 1 minute 55% seconds. The climate may injure Sheppard's chances, and the Englishmen are figuring on this handicap to the American.

AMERICAN TROTTING DERBY

Larger Plans Are Being Made by New England Breeders.

HARTFIRD, Conn., May J.-More details in regard to the American Trotting Derby as the New England Trotting Horse Breed ers' association has elected to call its LONDON, May 2.-Many instances can be \$50,000 mile-and-one-quarter trotting race, ound of noted jockeys who began their has been made public by C. M. Jewett, sec areer at an early age. Undoubtedly one of retary of the association. The race is such the most remarkable of these is that of a novelty that everything in relation to George Thompson, the noted English gen- it is of interest. There are no professional tleman rider. From a boy he had an almost handicappers of trotters in this country ntuitive knowledge of riding and at the as there are of runners, for the reason that age of 8 accompanied his father across the all handicapping heretofore has been by

For the American Derby the handicaping mere child, says "Thormanby," his father will be done by a committee appointed by made a match to run a peny called Maid the directors of the New Eengland Breedof Skeigate against a back at catch ers' association. The handicapping will weights, the distance to be half a mile have to be by distance and not by weight, as with the runners, as weight makes lit-On going down to start Thompson, sr., the difference in the sulky. Just how much discovered that a crack boy who had won has never been satisfactorily determined several races was on his opponent's horse. but from the fact that the average owner Against this he protested, but he was pays little attention to the weight of the shown a flaw in the bargain by which his driver so long as he is skillful, it is eviweighed 154 pounds, and the jockey boy a runner makes little or no difference with omething like ninety-seven pounds. There- the trotter. Whatever difference there is, upon Thompson rode off to his carriage is undoubtedly more than equalized by the where his wife and family were seated and heavier driver being better able to hold and

In the American Trotting Derby a disdark-eyed fellow in a blue cloth frock or- tance of fifty feet will be allowed for each namented with gilt buttons was put out second in the difference of the record. No and mounted on Maid of Skelgate. As he cantered with his father down to the post, without boots or breeches, showing his without boots or breeches, showing his a mile in that time. Therefore, the 2:15 little red legs and trousers, he was loudly trotter would start on the scratch and the 3:14 trotter would start fifty feet behind

The most important work of the handi-

capping committee will be in determining ter and won in a canter, after which he real work of the committee will be to was put back in the carriage. At that time watch the performances of the Derby candidate in their races in the eary grand circuit meeting. If they are satisfied that One of the lightest professional jockeys a trotter with a record of 2:15 can trot who ever appeared in public was Little a mile in 2:08 then the allowance of fifty Kitchener, Lord George Bentinck's famous feet for each second will be made. That featherweight, who rode at forty-nine will mean that that horse will have to start pounds. In his early days George Fordham 250 feet behind the scratch and will have to was lighter, as he tipped the beam at trot a mile and a quarter and 350 feet. forty-seven pounds. He made his first On the other hand, a trotter with a mark tacular event of this kind that the new mark by svinning the Cambridgeshire of of 2:08 made last year or in some previous Louisville Jockey club has arranged. It 1852 on Little David against a field of year, that does not show ability to trot will be open to all parts of the country, thirty-nine, riding at the extraordinary faster than 2:10 will be treated as though and the winner's prize will be the richest 2:10 was its record, and will start 250 feet ever offered by the local association. The of the horse first mentioned. Because this will be twenty-two inches high, with the is the first handicap race of any importance head of a horse in relief, surrounded by a in this country and because of the immense wreath of bay leaves. So far entries have size of the purse, there will probably be more or less criticism.

All horsemen realize the fact, however, that the New England Breeders' association | Rock and Frankfort. will select men for this task who will be above reproach as to character and will do their work honestly and without fear

He Cannot Claim Title. NEW YORK, May 2.-We are now, and will be for several months, without an offiworld. Willie Hoppe will not be contradicted when he advertises himself as the best there is at the game, but since he returned to the donors the trophy he received for defeating George Sutton he cannot claim the title, although he trounced of the game and the boy wonder must abide by it.

play next fall. Except for the amateur who says he had to adopt the gum-shee championship at the Liederkranz club and plan of digging up information, had this such exhibitions as are now in progress the billiard season is dead. With the advent of base ball the cueists are lost sight of and nothing in the way of another tournament to decide the championship would be attempted now, for the simple reason that the gate would not pay expenses.

George Slosson is out of the game for good so far as championship play is concerned and it is extremely doubtful if Jake Shaefer would enter. Sutton would probably play and so would Willie Hoppe if the rules governing title contests are changed to suit his views. His action in returning the emblem has satisfied the publie that he is in earnest when he says he will never again take part in a one-night match for a championship, so it is not probable his entry will even be sought un-While he was yet a schoolboy the fame of less the other parties concerned agree to a

The young players generally are in favor. will show: One day his father was at his of extending championship games to 1,200 club in London among a party of sports. or 1,500 points, but the veterans are against nen who were speaking of the splendid it. If such a provision were made Sutton norsemanship of Sir Henry Peyton and his' would not enter the tournament, leaving ion. "There are no father and son in the the field open to Hoppe, Morningstar and angdom that could beat them," exclaimed Cutler, and the last two of this trio could never by any stretch of the imagination Smith the elder quickly remarked. "I will be placed in the championship class. Casback a father and son against them for signol, the French cueist who fell such an "Name, name!" cried half a dozen easy victim to Slosson and Sutton in voices. "I am one, and my son Tom is matches played in this city, will be in the the other," was the reply. No one took up orient when the tournament is organized, letting him out. There will be some interesting complica-

skill on the stubble or at the pheasant NAVY NOT AT POUGHKEEPSIE

Academy Will Not Have Crew at the Regntta.

NEW YORK, May 2.- The Naval academy will not be represented by a crew in Amateur Athletic the intercellegiste regatta at Poughkeepsia ened to bring, about serious comonnected with the Fitzwilliam hounds as this year. Up to a few days ago it was pilcations at the their greatest huntsman, was entered as hoped that certain obstacles could be over- at London in July, was inaugurated at econd whip at the age of 15 to Jack Mus- come, but when it was announced that Buffalo last week when it was announced Columbia would row the middles on the It was rather early to begin the active Severn on May 9 it put a damper on the athletes would invade American soil at an middles' hopes of rowing on the Hudson, early date. P. G. Mulqueen, the representa-When Columbia challenged the navy the tive of the governor general of Canada, afterward the famous huntsman of the deft was held up with the understanding and Frank Nelson, a prominent Toronto that it would be accepted, provided the sporting man, are making arrangements to crew did not enter the Poughkeepsie rethan forty years carried the horn for the gatta. But when all efforts to get permiasion to row at Poughkeepsie had falled the Buffalo, open only to Canadian Amateur navy notified Columbia that the challenge Athletic union runners who are "on the had been accepted.

The Columbia-navy race will be over two-mile course. There will also be a race between the second crews, and all four runners from Hamilton and Toronto are field at the age of 16, when he helped to crews will be sent away at the same time, the distance being the same for both con-

MANY STRINGS TO KENTUCKY BOW

Up Numerously.

many a string to the bow of the 1908 Kentucky derby. George J. Long has two in pects to strike the high note with Milford. is also planned to import a bunch of Canahis coit performed disappointedly at New Orieans, he still has faith in him as a pos- join hands with local interests that are in NEW YORK, May 2 - England is jubilant sibility in the big race. Then, there is ver the performance of T. H. Just, the Dunvegan, Bill Herron. Synchronized, letic union in order to make the affair Cambridge university half-miler, in the Simon Well, Gilvedear, Stonestreet, Ban-Oxford-Cambridge games, and considers ridge, E. T. Shipp, Marcus Aurelius, Winithat it has the Olympic championship at fred Ryan, Western Knight, Cymbal, Zagg. this distance already won. In the dual meet Frank Bird, Joe Moser and Pink Cap. It is onds, and he had no one to push him, as go to the post on May 5 at Churchill Downs. local athletics will be affected to any apthe second man was twenty-eight yards Men who witnessed the running of the preciable extent.

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Secretary Lyman H. Davis expects the Gentlemen's cup race, which is to be run on Saturday, May 23, to be the most specbehind the scratch horse and 160 feet ahead cup will be of silver lined with gold. It been received from riders in Cincinnati, Lexington, Louisville, Nashville, Indianapolis, Chicago, St. Louis, Memphis, Little

OARSMEN WANT OLYMPIC CREW

Think it is Mistake Not to Be Represented at Regatta.

NEW YORK, May 2.-Some of the best parsmen and coaches of America are asking weather some mistake is not being made in the matter of selecting a crew for the Olympic regretta, to be rowed on cial 18.2 balk line billiards champion of the the Henley course in England July 28, the latest plan being to select the crew from the best oarsmen in the intercollegiate regatta at Poughkeepsie, and the Yaie-Harvard regatta at New London in June.

Definite information of what plans the committee is to follow are difficult to obthe previous holder. It is one of the rules tain except in a general way. Interviews have been given out by Julian W. Curtiss, James Pilkington and James E. Sullivan, In all prebability it will again be put into and one of national reputation as a sculler to say of the outlook.

"I am inclined to think that the Amateur Athletic union is having more to do with the arrangements than the National or Collegiate rowing bodies, for the reason that if the information I have received is correct the American crew would do well to stay at home. In the first place it is proposed to permit the college coaches to pick about thirty-five men from the best 'varsity crews that will compete in regattas late in June. This is an easy matter, but these caremen will all be coached by diffferent men and to a slow stroke for four-mile races. The Olympic race is at one and one-half miles, in which a sprinting stroke is required.

There will be less than one month in which to coach these men at the new distance, and it is proposed to take them to some central point where the coaching will all be done by the different college tutors who may spend a day or two with the crews. It is not difficult to understand how one coach may try to undo the work

of another, and what the result may be. "The English crews have been organized and are now in practice. They are all matured men who have been developed by years on the water, while our college men are practically freshmen in comparison. It would be far more sensible to select a crew from our matured soullers, and we could then beat the foreigners for we have done it before and could do it again.

CANADIAN ARE ON THE WARPTH

Threaten to Invade the American Field at an Early Date.

NEW YORK, May 2-The first move in the war between the Canadian Amateur Athletic union and the American that the Canadian Amateur Athletic union carry the fight this side of the border by holding a Marathon race in the vicinity of outs" with the governing body of the BERTUR.

Already fifty of the best long distance entered in the Buffalo race, including the world renowned Longboat, and special trains have been ordered to carry 2,500 Canadian athletic fans across the border to take in the big race. The start and finish. will be on the same track upon which Entries for the Derby Are Showing Longboat ran when he suffered disqualification by the American authorities last fall.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., May 2.-There is In the event of the Buffalo Marathon being a success, other races will be run Sir Cleges and Balbus. W. H. Fizer ex- at various points in the United States. It Edward Alvey has Dr. Mathews, J. C. dian stars for a big outlaw carnival in Milam relies on R. C. Rann, and although New York next winter. In relation to this event, it is said that the Canadians will opposition to the American Amateur Ath-Skincess.

While the Canadians will undoubtedly suc ceed up-state, where there is more or less opposition to the American Amateur Ath Just hit the tape in I minute and 55% sec- expected that a field of aix or eight will letic union, it is not thought likely that



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