

SPORT TALK • SPORT TALK

Canadian takes over reins at Portland Meadows

Buford Mills, Jr., a 20-year-old reinsman with strong Exhibition Park connections, is the new riding leader at Portland Meadows following the departure to Golden Gate of front-runner Jody Davidson.

Mills, who had a highly successful season at the Vancouver, B.C., track last season, has booted home 38 winners during the first 54 days of the 99-day PM meet. He is actually one behind Davidson's standings-topping number of 39, but the 22-year-old Davidson is now toiling in San Francisco where his younger brother, Kevin, 17, is making a name as a promising apprentice rider.

With any success this week, Mills should pass the departed Davidson on the standings, but young Buford faces

strong competition for the top spot from 22-year-old Californian Brian Long, who currently counts 32 winners.

Long, who came to Portland after winning meets in Regina and Marquis Downs in Western Canada, has moved steadily up the standings. Also on the upward climb are young riders Doug Moore, 26 wins, and Frank Gonsalves, 25 wins.

The jockey colony suffered the loss

of veteran Gary Baze, the 29-year-old five-time riding champion of Longacres. Baze suffered internal injuries in a two-horse spill Feb. 1 and was listed in satisfactory condition in Portland's Emanuel Hospital, Wednesday.

Mike Baze, Gary's 25-year-old brother, piloted Midnite Dawn to a photofinish victory in Sunday's \$7,500-added Post Deb Handicap, earning \$5,520 for Richard E. Benschoter of Ridgefield, WA, owner of the roan

filly. Mike substituted for brother Gary, who was named originally on Midnite Dawn.

Portland Meadows patrons were building another Perfect 8 jackpot pool after Gary Fry, 35, and Paul Parise, 45, both of Salem, Oregon, collected \$148,093, wiping out the old one. It was the largest pari-mutuel payoff in Oregon racing history and the Salemites won it on a combined investment of \$48.

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Good seats still available for Breakers

A total of 13,500 season tickets have been sold for the upcoming Portland Breaker football season, according to Jack Galmiche, vice president and marketing director for the USFL franchise. However, the team's early success with ticket sales seems to be working against the club.

"There's a misconception that all of the good seats have been sold, that there are no more covered seats left," said Galmiche. "Actually we have nearly eight-thousand covered seats in the north end of the stadium. And in a stadium the size of Civic, there really are no bad seats."

A rush on season tickets sales in November and early December pushed the Breakers' total to 10,000. The publicity which followed the early rush left many fans thinking that all the good tickets had been purchased.

"We have some great seats for sale, probably as good as any in the house as far as I'm concerned," said Head Coach Dick Coury. "I personally enjoy being up high at either end of the field — it offers a number of advantages. A fan in the north end bleachers gets to see the offensive linemen opening holes for runningbacks, the defensive backs moving into their coverages, and this kind of thing."

Season tickets remain on sale at the Civic Stadium box office and at the Breaker front office. Call 246-1110 or 228-8735 for information.

Celebrate Presidents Day at the track

A pair of \$7,500-added handicaps for three-year-olds and a half-mile dash for both quarter horses and thoroughbreds will highlight the four-day Presidents Holiday weekend at Portland Meadows.

Following the Wednesday program, Feb. 13, PM will stage four days of action: Friday, starting at 7 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, at 1:30 p.m.; then Monday, Feb. 18, with a special 2:30 p.m. post time.

Polynesian Flyer, winner of three stakes so far this meet including the \$22,000 Oregon Thoroughbred Futurity, looms as the heavy favorite in the Mt. Hood Handicap, a mile test for sophomore colts and geldings scheduled Saturday. Lightning Spirit, winner of the \$7,500-added Doctor Spark Handicap, is a likely entry in what could be a small Mt. Hood field.

The Mt. St. Helens Handicap, for three-year-old fillies, will be run Sunday, also over a mile for \$7,500-added. The early favorite off her victory in the \$7,500-added Post Deb is Midnite Dawn, which races for Richard E. Benschoter of Ridgefield, Washington.

Racey Louise, beaten a nose in the Post Deb, is also expected to enter, along with Branford's Lass.

Quarter horses and thoroughbreds will clash for the first time in several years, come Monday, if the mixed race goes. Racing director Stan Blank said and four-furlong dash will be named The Destiny Drummer, honoring the famed quarter horse which won the celebrated match race with the thoroughbred, Flashway at Portland in the fall of 1982.

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