

Umatilla Song

Smiles of anticipated elation can quickly turn to sour scowls at the horse track.

In a quick matter of about two hours, my brother Kelly and I watched a Jackson and a Lincoln climb from our pockets and into that of the state of Washington.

Now losing 25 smacks at a horse race doesn't sound like such a big deal. But it was to us...we had tips.

And we won the daily double!

Kelly is a semi-avid race track frequenter. But he's smart. Or his "financier" (derivative of fiance) is. He raps a ten spot around his thumb when he leaves and when he finds the thumb bare, he's done.

But he knew a few people at the Yakima Meadows, and he thought he had some excellent tips for us Sunday. In a couple cases, the tips turned out to be favorites and in a couple cases, the tips turned out to be dud.

Let's see, the daily double. We'll go with Steel Neck in the first and Candy Matt in the second. One and nine, we say at the two dollar daily double window.

But Kelly overhears an acquaintance putting some heavy bread on four and nine. We'll try that one, too, he figures.

The first race starts and Steel Neck stretches to the line and noses out Sweet All Over. We're halfway home and getting excited. I never thought my heart could beat as fast watching horses run as it does during participation sports.

The announcer breaks over the loud speaker and with a horse racing drawl, counts down the list of horses in the second race, matching them with Steel Neck and giving the daily double payoffs.

Steel Neck and Greco Aereo, \$28.60. Pasa Lista, \$70.90. Chevalert, \$57.40. Born a Maiden, \$20.10. Instant Monarch, \$74.00. Suhail, \$320.90. Ottawa, \$120.10. Hot Fleet, \$297.30. All right, Kelly and I are sitting on the edge of our seats, waiting for him to wheel Steel Neck with Candy Matt, anticipating a huge payoff if the horse comes home.

The horse came home. Candy Matt won by six lengths, destroying Born a Maiden in the final stretch.

But the payoff was a dud, like a couple of tips we got. It paid \$6.70. From the two, \$2 tickets we tried, we yielded \$2.70 on winning daily double tickets.

If not my heart, then my stomach sunk about three feet. I went and scarfed a hot dog.

"Well, at least we can say we won the daily double," Kelly sympathizes. The third race is the biggie anyway, we figure. We've got tips here that aren't favorites.

Moon Ace and Lotta Lahk on a quinella ticket. A claiming race of five and a half furlongs. We got the tip and we're gonna win. No doubt.

Moon Ace lists at 7-2 odds and Lotta Lahk is at 12 to 1. With those odds on the second horse, we can rake a bundle. But Lotta Lahk wasn't the second horse. He finished third...and Moon Ace was straggling for the finish in the pack about fifth.

We couldn't figure it out. Kelly even knew the Moon Ace trainer, Jim Mayer, about six times removed.

The fourth wasn't much better. A horse by the name of Umatilla Song was the number nine horse and out of sentimentality, I was going to wager a couple bucks on him. 'Till I saw him.

I told Kelly, when he got back from the cashier's window with our daily double earnings, that I thought I might be able to outrun Umatilla Song in this 350 yard sprint. The horse, I told him, looks like a dink. Those Shetland ponies can move pretty fast in the short races, Kelly reveals. Short little legs, he says.

I said nope and didn't let on that I'd turned a \$6 combination on the number seven horse instead. It wasn't a long shot. Hi Ho Caviyo was six to one when I went to the window. When the race started, he was seven to one and listed fourth by the odds makers.

He came in third, behind the two favorites and ahead of the third favorite. But the combination paid for third only and a show was worth just three bucks. So I lost half my money. I could have made a buck on a simple \$2 show ticket.

Mid-afternoon and the sun was shining, the track was termed fast and so were a couple dishes walking along the fence line. Kelly and I both agreed it was nice the races only lasted about a minute and that there was a 17 minute intermission between races.

In the fifth, Kelly figures, was our best bet. It was Tacky-on, an eight to one odds horse with John Champie on his back. Kelly had heard about this one from the wife of his girl friend's father, who wouldn't give Kelly the tip.

Then we heard it from another source. So we figured the horse was ours. But like a couple other tips that day, when we bet, the odds were good at about eight or seven to one. But by race time, the whole Meadows wagering gallery must have heard the tip and the odds made old Tacky-on the favorite.

There were a lot of people mad at their tippers. The nag finished in the pack, with our bucks tucked in his pocket. One jockey fell off in that race. His horse finished first and he finished in the ambulance.

Kelly had it figured out how much we were out. We'd won the daily double and still were down about eight bucks. I had to add three from Umatilla Song's buddy, Hi Ho Caviyo.

The races carded ten featured races, but Kelly and I decided to get out of that joint after the sixth. We put a pair of win tickets on a favorite, hoping to regain at least a couple bucks.

Rambling Reb. The Clocker picked him and the paper picked him and the racing form picked him. So did we. So did a lot of people. He started the race at an 8-5 listing and by post time was a 4 to 1 favorite.

Even if he'd have won, the best we could have made was 50 cents on the win tickets. He came in third anyway.

The whole day was one big show ticket and we were holding the winners.

"...and it's Rambling Reb by a nose. Here comes All Salt on the outside. It's Rambling Reb by a nose. It's All Salt and Rambling Reb. All Salt and Rambling Reb. All Salt and Rambling Reb. And Sure Nuf wins it at the wire!"

Sure Nuf. So it goes.



WIL PHINNEY

Mustangs pound WM, 12-11

Heppner's Mustangs pounded out a 12-11 six inning win over Weston-McEwen Tuesday. The slugfest included 27 hits, 16 by the winners.

Heppner took revenge on the Tiger-Scots, who beat them the same way with bats last week, 17-12. Randy Worden led the Mustangs, smacking four for four, including a double.

Bruce Young continued to perform well at the plate, hitting three for four and Dale Holland broke an early season slump with a three for four evening. Holland's first basehit of the year was a three run homer in the third.

While the bats were hot, so was Heppner's mound work. Worden was relieved in the third by Dennis Peck. Peck, who hurled a four hitter at Pilot Rock Saturday, gave up two hits in almost four innings and didn't allow a run.

Weston-McEwen started the scoring, scoring eight runs in the

first inning on five hits. The Mustangs came back in the bottom of the first with four runs on three hits, singles by Peck, Worden and Young.

In the second, the Tiger-Scot lead grew to 11-4. The Mustangs were shut down in the second but came storming back in the third.

An error put Peck on base and Worden and Young singled before Holland's blast cleared the bases and put Heppner within three runs, 11-8.

Peck took over the yard work in the fourth and didn't let the Tiger-Scots get another chance.

In the bottom of the fourth, Kindal Thomas reached first on an error, then Peck doubled. Another error put Allstott on base before Worden doubled, Young singled, and Holland singled. The result was four runs on four hits and a 12-11 lead.

The Mustangs tried to rally in the bottom of the sixth, before the sun went down, when Worden and Holland collected singles again.

The game was called because of darkness. Leland Jones carried a hot stick for Weston-McEwen, rapping four hits in four trips to the plate. The TS third sacker had a pair of homers, one in the first inning and another in the second.

Peck struck out eight Tiger-Scot batters in his three and two-thirds innings on the mound. Worden k'd two.

HEPPNER 404 400-12 16 2
WMcEwen 830 000-11 11 5

Heppner: Worden and Peck to Holland. Thomas 1-3, Kenny 2-4, Peck 2-4, Allstott 1-3, Worden 4-4, Young 3-4, Holland 3-4, Sweek 0-3, Marlatt 0-1, McEwen 0-2. Homerun, Holland.

Heppner women leading state bowling tourney

As the pins fall, so do the weeks. Heppner women are doing a good job of trying to nail down top honors in Pendleton at the Women's State Bowling Tournament.

Heppner keggers lead three

divisions and eight Heppner women have their names listed among the leaders in eight different events.

The top leader as of April 1 is Barbara Strahm. The Heppner league bowler, sporting a

112 average, is sitting in first place in class "D" singles with a 505; is currently first in class "D" all-events; and is third with Jackie Allstott in the class "C" doubles competition.

Strahm rolled a 1338 to lead the all-events action by seven pins over Cook of Pendleton at 1331. Strahm's singles' lead is also slim, a four pin edge on Cook.

Martha Doherty stepped into the limelight two weeks ago, busting the class "C" all-events roster with a 1404 tally. Her closest competitor is Franklin of Independence, 13 pins back at 1391.

Doherty got to the all-events lead with a good performance in the singles' competition for "C" class bowlers. Her 498 is second behind Carey of Hood River, the leader at 505. Pat Harshman, another Heppner bowler, is fifth in that category with a 481 total.

Jackie Allstott is making her presence felt at the lanes in Pendleton. She is currently listed fourth in class "B" all-events with a 1512 total. The first place leader is Brown of Monmouth-Independence, who holds a big lead at 1560.

Allstott is seven pins out of third place in all-events action. Faye Ruhl is listed fifth in that class "B" all-events, four pins behind Allstott. Ruhl is also fifth in class "B" singles with a 538 total, 23 pins out of first place.

In doubles, Hilda Yocom-Iris Campbell have emerged as the second best class "C" doubles unit. The Heppner duo rolled a 982 to bump out third placers Allstott-Strahm at 926. Following Strahm in class "D" singles, Yocom is listed sixth at 442 and Betty Brown is eighth at 438.

The action is five weeks old in the five month long tourney. It will end in the first of June.

Condon girls blank Ione

"Condon is good. They really are," Ione netter mentor Martha Doherty acknowledged. Ione's tennis team agreed after the Blue Devil netters leveled Ione's opening win hopes with an 8-0 girls' triumph.

Condon swept through the singles and didn't stop there, destroying Ione doubles players in the same fashion.

Jennifer Bauman stopped Susan Thompson, 6-0 and 6-0 to take the first singles' win. Jana Miller bumped Ione's Arlene Cannon, 3-6 and 2-6. Leah Potter took Jan Peterson, 3-6 and 3-6 before Michelle McElligott ended on the short end of a 0-8 proset match with Cindy Sattland.

In doubles, things didn't get any better for Ione, who hosted the match under a sun-filled sky. Carol McElligott-

Jan Peterson fell 1-6 and 0-6 to Rene Rattray-Sue Riney. Carol McElligott-Natalie Tews dropped a 2-6, 2-6 match to Kim Learman-Rose Kackley.

In third doubles, Natalie Tews-Tammy Ticker fell to Hildred Davis-Tami Harrison, 4-6 and 3-6. In the fourth doubles, Amy Harrison-Carol Hartley beat Martha and Michelle McElligott in a proset match, 2-8.

Ione faces Oregon Trail in a girls' and boys' match in Stanfield today (Thursday).

Gentry hurls three hitter

Jerry Gentry of Heppner pitched the second game of a Tuesday double header as Oregon State University JV's swept through the Lane Community College varsity, 10-6 and 6-2.

It was a no-hit shutout for Gentry during the first five innings of the second game. Lane scored twice in the sixth on two hits. The third hit came in the seventh inning.

Gentry came away with the win, allowing three hits and three bases on balls. There were no strike outs for the Oregon State sophomore.



Cindy Kerr

Bucks whip Mustangs

Mark Sargent was medalist for the field at 68, but Pendleton came on strong in a pack to nip the Mustangs at Willow Creek Country Club Saturday, 295-299. Cindy Kerr led the Fillies to a two stroke edge over the Pendleton junior varsity boys.

Sargent toured the par 60 course, eight over par to take top honors. Charlie Rawlins, the Mustangs' leading sticker, was playing in a valley tourney on Saturday.

Jeff Edmundson, a freshman, was second at 70 before the Bucks put four in a row: Rinehart 71, Kottkamp 73, Christensen 75 and O'Rourke 77. Two more Mustangs, Don McEwen and Jerry Cutsforth, finished in 79 and 82, respectively.

Kerr fired a 75 to lead the Filly attack against the Buck JVs. Following that score was Vicki Edmundson at 80, Kristi Edmundson at 90 and Joan Warren at 96.

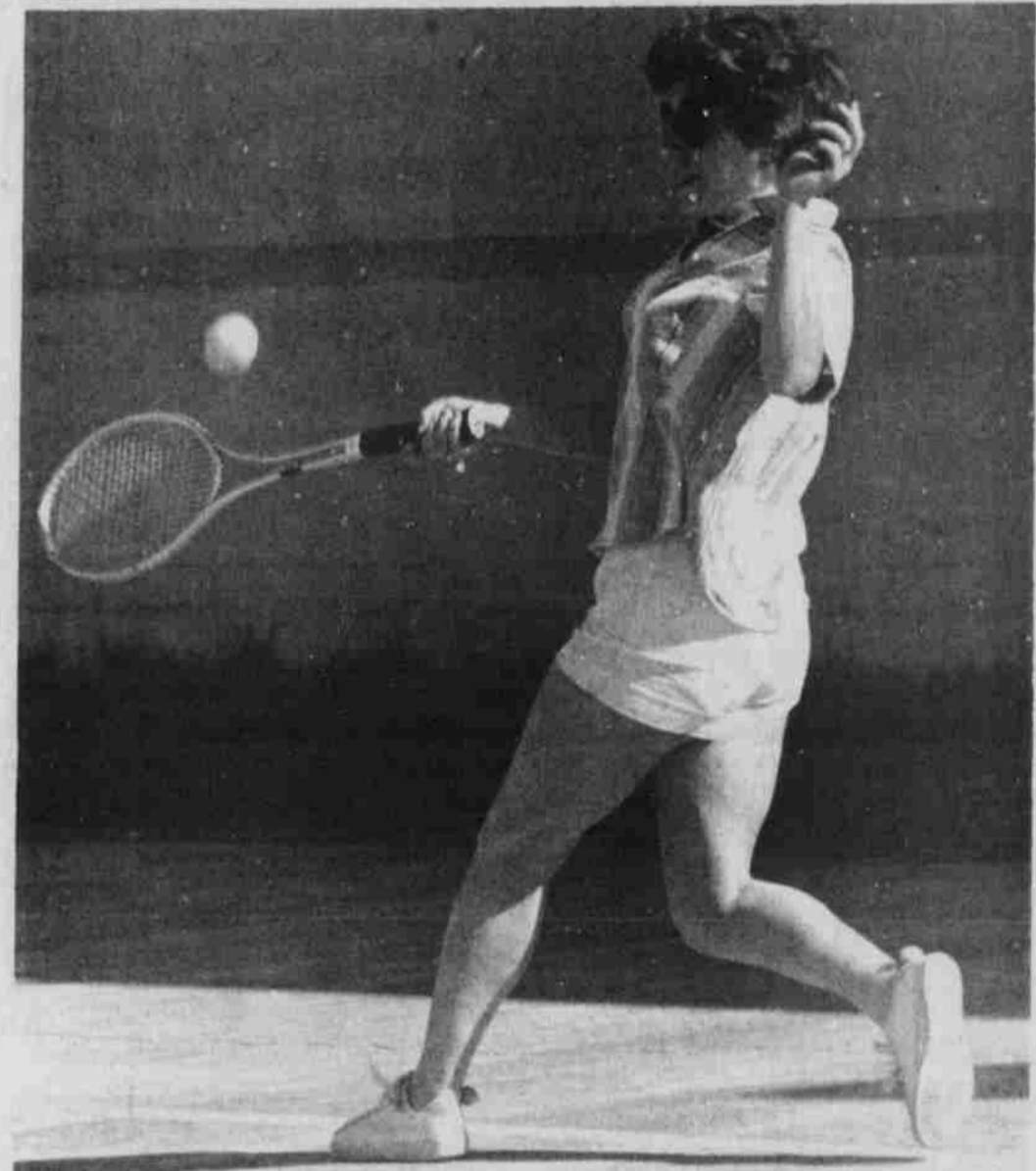
Peck, Thomas all-stars

Dennis Peck and Kindal Thomas were named to the Pilot Rock Baseball Tournament All-Stars Saturday for their play in Heppner's third place finish.

Peck went three for five on the day at the plate and Thomas was three for nine. In the first game, Peck was one for two including a double. In the second, he was two for three.

Thomas started things for Heppner against Gervais, leading off with a double in his two for four effort. In the second game, he went one for five.

Peck hurled in the second game, going all seven innings, allowing one run and four hits. Thomas played center field in both contests.



Carol McElligott slaps forehead at Condon foe Tuesday. Ione girls dropped meet, 8-0. (G-T Photo)

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