fred tharp on sports . .

News-Journal Sports Editor

Defeat Real Strange Word

DEFEAT MUST RATE as a real strange word around Harry Mehock, the veteran Mansfield Senior High School track and field mentor. . . . Since he joined the Tyger coaching staff in 1926, his cinder teams have been among the best in the state. . . . They're always right at the top of the huge relay carnivals which dot our week-end schedules. . . . Tyger teams have won championships at the Mansfield, Ohio Wesleyan, Tri-State, Denison, Toledo DeVilbiss, Newark, Springfield, Dayton, Cleveland East Tech, Muskingum and Uhrichsville Relays. . . . This plus assorted district, state and league crowns. . . . They've won track titles in three different leagues. . . . Only major title to escape a Mehock-coached team was the Miami Relays. . . . The Tygers competed once at Oxford and finished a close second. . . . Harry's dual meet record just keeps getting better. . . . Senior High hasn't lost a dual meet since 1948 when it bowed to state champion Dayton Dunbar. . . . And since 1944, Tyger cinder artists have won 50 dual meets, against two losses and a tie. . . . Mehock has tutored teams to 16 unbeaten seasons and eight one-loss campaigns in 30 years. . . . His over-all record stands at 126 losses and 22 ties in two-team battling. . . . Columbus East inflicted four of the defeats, Newark and Akron Garfield, three; Fremont Ross, Sandusky and Columbus Central, 2. . . . However, Mansfield has now beaten Sandusky in 15 straight meets and Columbus East in eight. . . . Harry's proudest achievement has been winning the Mansfield Relays, the best of 'em all, seven times. . . . And his pet voctory was in the 1933 event when the Tygers edged Jesse Owens and Ceveland East Tech by ½ point. . . . That's the year East Tech won the national scholastic crown in Chicago.

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Careers Keep Crossing

THE SPORTS CAREERS of Bob Frye and Bill Durtschi keep crossing through the years. . . . Frye has been as assistant coach at Mansfield Senior High School while Durtschi joins the Tyger staff next fall as an assistant in football, basketball and baseball. . . . The whole story started when they were undergraduates at arch-rival Crawford County schools. . . . Frye was a back at Crestline and Durtschi lugged the leather for Galion. . . . They ran up against each other all during high school as Frye played four years of varsity football at Crestline. . . . Then they both wound up at Ohio State University and they were right halfbacks on the Buckeye national championship team of 1942, sharing that post with All-America Les Horvath. . . . All three figured to see a lot of action but misfortune befell Durtschi as he suffered a leg injury and was lost for the season. . . . From then on Frye and Horvath shared offensive duties at right half but the injury bugabo cropped up again and Frye suffered a broken leg in the seventh game with Pittsburgh. . . . The 162-pound Frye had been the top average ball carrier on the Ohio State team until that time with a plus six-yard per carry average. . . . Frye lettered as a sophomore in 1941 and that busted leg in his junior year wrote finis to his football playing. . . . They'll both help with Tyger football and basketball but will split duties in the spring as Frye coaches the Bengal junior varsity track and field team. . .. Durtschi comes to Mansfield after terms at Newcomerstown and Cuyahoga Falls.

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Power Boys Flexing Muscles

THE BULGING MUSCLE set in the major leagues is going all out in the bombardment business. . . . And Wally Post of the Cincinnati Redlegs and Mickey Mantel of the New York Yankees are actually setting a fabulous pace with nine home runs apiece. . . . A Yardstick of this fast start can be measured best by Babe Ruth's record pace in 1927. . . . That's the year Babe garnered 60 home runs but he didn't hit his ninth until the 29th game of the season. . . . Post, the St. Henry, Ohio belter, has played in only 15 games and Mantel has gone to the post 16 times. . . . Yankee Yogi Berra is also out in front of the pace with seven circuit clouts. . . . Ruth got his seventh in the 24th New York contest. . . . Of course, there's many a slip betwixt now and September but the power boys are enjoying their biggest spree in years. . . . George Valentine, Ashland High School Athletic Director, has been appointed one of the officials for the state high school track and field meet. . . . Nellis Kirchner, 79, is bowling in two sanctioned leagues in Santa Monica, Cal. . . . She has been bowling only 14 years and has games of 259 and 239 and a top series of 601. . . . Two Japanese softball teams battled to a 4-4 tie in seven innings. . . . Then runs got scarcer than "I Like Ike" buttons at a Democratic convention. . . . The Kawasaki Aircraft and Gifu Forestry teams battled through 29 scoreless innings before the chief umpire collapsed from hunger 8 hours and 40 minutes after the game began. . . . The other umpires and the players had eaten during the game but the boss ump was just too busy.

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The Story Teller's Corner

JOHN BARRINGTON, the former News-Journal scribe who now holds forth as INS sports editor, forwards this one: "Lew Luquire of Biscoe, N. C. frequently became so wrapped up in his golf game he forgot to get home to dinner. One night, recently he arrived home late, as usual, dug into a plate of warmed-over turkey hash. And found three well-cooked golf balls—compliments of the long-suffering wife."

Nashua Pulls Up On All-Time Mark

NEW YORK, (UP) — Famed Nashua, on the anniversary of his major disappointment in last year's Kentucky Derby, came within striking distance of the all-time money earnings record for a thoroughbred yesterday by scoring a head victory in the $55,200 Grey Lag Handicap at Jamaica.

The great four-year-old stumbled to his knees at the start of the mile-and-an-eighth run but came back gamely and outfought Alfred Vanderbilt's Find in a stretch duel. C. V. Whitney's Fisherman was only another head behind in third place.

Nashua earned $37,100 for this triumph and thus ran his total career earnings to $1,077,615—a sum topped in turf annals only by the $1,085,760 won by now-retired triple crown champion Citation.

Nashua, breaking from the fourth position, drew a gasp from the crowd when he went to his knees at the start. Jockey Ted Atkinson brought him quickly back and the Leslie Combs II horse, who commanded a sales price of $1,251,000 last winter, raced slightly wide to gain a good position.

Cavort, first out of the game, cut out the early pace, but then drifted back as Find went to the front at the half-mile with Nashua now in second place. Atkinson sent Nashua ahead at the six furlong mark as Le Beau Price drove up into second place.

Nashua ran Le Beau Prince into defeat and then responded gamely to Atkinson's urging to stave off Find's last moment effort.

It was the second win in three starts this year for Nashua, who disappointed in his last start by finishing fifth in the Gulfstream Park Handicap at Gulfstream.

Stable officials have indicated that Nashua will be retired when he eclipsed Citation's record.

Jeromesville Wins Relays Crown

Lexington Hi Second In 'B' Meet

ASHLAND — Ten records fell by the wayside as Jeromesville High successfully defended its Jeromesville Relays championship at Myers Field here Saturday afternoon.

The Blue Jays scored 55½ points on the strength of four first, three seconds, two thirds, four fourths, an a fifth and a first-place and a second-place tie. Lexington was second in the 14-school field with 33 points, Shiloh had 30, and perrysville, 21½. Thirteen schools scored.

MESSNER TWICE

The winners snapped three records, Jack Messner copping the high hurdles in 16 0 and the lows in 21.5 and the mile relay team of Ron Eagle, Howard Cooper, Gene Austin, and Messner turning in a 3:53.2 clocking.

In addition to Messner, two others cracked a pair of records each Dick Marshall of Perrysville fired the shot 43 feet, one inch and the discus 130 feet, six inches and Magnetic Springs' Don Lowe reeled off a 4:53.2 mile and a 2:13.4 880.

Other new records were by Gary Fagert of Ruggles-Troy, who broad jumped 18 feet, 10 inches; Bill Patterson of Shiloh, who churned over the 100-yard dash course in 10.5; and Jerry Wyrick of Lexington, who captured the 440-yard dash in 56 4.

WYRICK GETS 16

Wyrick was the outstanding individual in the second annual meet. The little Lexington senior snared both the 440 and the pole vault and was right behind Fagert in the broad jump to ring up 16 points. Messner finished with 13¼ points and Patterson had 15.

Dean Moffett accounted for all of Lucas' nine points. He was runner-up to Patterson in both dashes and managed a fifth in the broad jump.

Jeromesville placed in all but the broad jump and shot put and grabbed off two places in high sticks, the 100 and the 880.

SCORING

Jeromesville, 55½; Lexington, 33; Shiloh, 30; Perrysville, 21½; Magnetic Springs 19; Plymouth, 15; Ruggles-Troy, 14; Lucas, 9; Union 8; Walnut Creek, 5; LaGrange 5; Hayesville 2; Wakeman, 1; Spencer, 0.

100-yard dash — 1, Bill Patterson, Shiloh, 2, Dean Moffett, Lucas, 3, Ed Taylor, Plymouth, 4 Gene Austin, Jeromesville, 5, Ronnie Eagle, Jeromesville Time 10 5 New record Breaks old mark of 10 8 set by Bill Patterson, Shiloh, in 1955

Mile run — 1, Don Lowe, Magnetic Springs, 2, Bruce Gierhart, Ruggles-Troy, 3, Jim McKinley, Jeromesville, 4, Larry Humbert, Shiloh, 5, Dave Dauch, Townsend- Wakeman Time — 4 53 2 (New record Breaks old mark of 5 16 set by Rod Seabold, Lexington, in 1956)

440-yard dash — 1, Jerry Wyrick, Lexington, 2, Howard Cooper, Jeromesville; 3 Gary Roush, Magnetic Springs, 4, Fred Springston, Shiloh, 5, John Heyde, Shiloh, Time — 56 4 (New record Breaks old mark of 57 7 set by Howard Cooper, Jeromesville, in 1955)

120-yard high hurdles — 1, Jack Messner, Jeromesville, 2, Roger Steele, Shiloh 3, George Carver, Lexington; 4, Dick Stull, Jeromesville; 5, Jack Ridgeway, Lexington, Time — 16 0 (New record, Breaks old mark of 16.4 set by Jack Messner, Jeromesville, in 1955.)

880-yard relay — 1 (tie) Jeromesville (Ron Eagle, Jerry Motter, George Kissel, Gene Austin) and Plymouth (Daryl Ream, Ed Taylor, Duane Utiss, Mick Hampton); 3; Union, 4 Walnut Creek, 5, Lexington, Time — 1.42 9.

180 - yard low hurdles — 1, Jack Messner, Jeromesville 2, George Carver, Lexington, 3, Bill Patterson, Shiloh; 4, Gary Fagert, Ruggles-Troy, 5, Doug Houston, Union Time 21.5. (New record Breaks old mark of 22 9 set by Jack Messner, Jeromesville, in 1955)

880-yard run — Don Lowe, Magnetic Springs, 2, Carl Knapp, LaGrange, 3, Bill Hopkins Jeromesville; 4, Jim McKinley, Jeromesville, 5, Ronnie Coder, Magnetic Springs Time — 2 13 4 (New record, Breaks old mark of 2 13 7 set by Carl Knapp, Magnetic Springs, in 1955)

220 - yard dash — 1, Bill Patterson, Shiloh, 2, Dean Moffett, Lucas 3, Terry Edmonds, Union, 4, George Kissel, Jeromesville, 5, Tom Volz, Lexington Time —24 5

Mile relay — 1, Jeromesville (Ron Eagle, Howard Cooper, Gene Austin Jack Messner), 2, Plymouth, 3, Walnut Creek, 4, Hayesville, 5, Shiloh Time — 3 53 2 (New record, Breaks old mark of 3.57 3, set by Jeromesville s Gene Austin, Ron Eagle, Larry Landman, and Jim McKinley in 1955

High jump — 1, Russ Cutlip, Jeromesville, 5 feet, 5 inches, 2, Myron Hamilton, Lexington, 5 feet. No other made first height

Discus throw — 1, Dick Marshall, Perrysville, 130 feet, 6 inches, 2, Jim McKinley, Jeromesville, 122 feet, 2 inches, 3, Jim Reed, Perrysville, 112 feet, 2½ inches, 5, Steve Rhodes, Union, 108 feet, 10 inches (New record, Breaks old mark of 124 feet, 1¼ inches set by Dave Humbert, Union, in 1955).

Broad jump — 1, Gary Fagert, Ruggles-Troy, 18 feet, 10¼ inches, 2, Jerry Wyrick, Lexington; 18 feet, 8 inches 3, Gary Roush, Magnetic Springs, 18 feet, 1½ inches 4, Ed Taylor Plymouth, 18 feet, 1 inch 5, Dean Moffett, Lucas, 17 feet, 8½ inches, (New record Breaks old mark of 18 feet, 8¼ inches set by Tom Stull Jeromesville, in 1955).

Shot put — 1, Dick Marshall, Perrysville, 43 feet, 1 inch 2, Sam Leapley, Shiloh, 40 feet, 5½ inches, 3, Jim Reed, Perrysville, 38 feet 10 inches, 4, George Gierhart, Ruggles-Troy, 37 feet, 4½ inches 5, Jim Jameson, LaGrange, 37 feet, 2 inches (New record, Breaks old mark of 41 feet, 1¾ inches set by Dick Marshall, Perrysville, in 1955)

Pole vault — 1, Jerry Wyrick, Lexington, 9 feet, 6 inches, 2, (tie), Paul Ewing Jeromesville, and Jim Reed, Perrysville, 9 feet, 3 inches 4, (tie), George Carver, Lexington, Mart Hampton, Plymouth, and Otis Hughes, Shiloh, 9 feet.

Old Fans To Get Tickets To Game

BROOKLYN (UP) — Fans over 60 will see the game for free on Oldtimers Fan Day, May 19, at Ebbetts Field when Cincinnati plays Brooklyn here

Oldtimers are advised to obtain their free ticket by writing to the Dodgers, P.O. Box 55, Brooklyn, N.Y. The project is part of the Senior Citizens Month being staged by the Mayor's advisory committee for the aged.

Each Oldtimer will be asked to state his age and when he saw his first baseball game.

Ohio Wesleyan Wins

DELAWARE, O. (UP) — Ohio Wesleyan won a triangular track meet here Saturday in competion with Akron and Central State as the Bishops' Bob Morrison set a new shotput mark with a heave of 47 feet, 2 1-4 inches.

HORSE LAUGH — Needles had the last laugh Saturday as he came from far behind to win the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs. The victory netted Needles, ridden by Dave Erb, $123,000. Fabius, who was second collected $25,000, and third-place Come On Red $12,500

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Needles Threads Way Into Victory

(Continued From Page 1)

$3.40. Fabius returned $3.80 and $3.60, and Come On Red $6.60.

With 17 starters the race grossed $167,550 and netted oilmen Dudley and Heath $123,450. Their fine three year-old, purchased for $20,000 in January, 1955, now has won nine of his 14 races and earned a total of $462,055.

It was generally thought that Needles would have to win with a come-from-behind race, although the Derby in recent years has come to be a front-runners' event Just how far behind, few could guess.

BROKE SLOWLY

Breaking slowly from the pole position, Needles had only one horse, High King, beaten after three-quarters of a mile. He began his bid on the back stretch, working up slowly through the awkwardly bunched field.

Coming into the home stretch, he still was seventh. Erb swung him out toward the middle of the track, and suddenly it was a two-horse race—Needles and Fabius, winner of last Tuesday's Derby trial.

Willie Hartack, last year's leading winner among U.S. jockeys, had taken Fabius up front at the start. His mount never was worse than third, and he led a good half of the way. But there just wasn't enough left in him when Needles came charging past under the prodding of Erb's whip.

None of the others really mattered at the end. Come On Red lumbered up from the middle of the pack, and didn't find much opposition from the rest of the tired field. Supposedly slated to start only if it turned up r[illegible] rewarded Mrs. Kellogg's and trainer Clelland's faith $12,500 worth—the third-place Finisher's share.

Behind Count Chic in fourth came Pintor Lea, Calumet stablemate of Fabius, and C.V. Whitney's Career Boy, one of the winter book favorites.

COUNTERMAND LAST

Head Man, the other Whitney horse, on which Eddie Arcaro sought his sixth riding triumph, was ninth. Countermand, highly regarded off his second-place in the Derby trial, finished a dead and disappointing last.

It wasn't perhaps the most exciting Derby ever run, but it surely will do until next year. Meanwhile, Needles scored a few firsts and slew a few jinxes

He was the first Florida-bred Derby winner, and the first winner with a name beginning with the letter "N"—not so far-fetched a distinction as might be supposed, since a lot of other good ones with that initial had tried and failed

(How about Nashua and Native Dancer?)

DADDY EX-VICTOR

Needles' daddy, Ponder, won the 1949 Derby, and his grandsire, Pensive, took it in 1944. There has been only one other such three-generation parlay — Reigh Count-Count Fleet-Count Turf.

Saturday's mutuel handle on the Derby was a whopping $1,666 944. That wasn't quite a record, falling $10,234 below last year's handle.

Both Needles and Fabius will be shipped out at once for Pimlico, where they'll renew their feud in the Preakness May 19—with Needles seeking to be the first triple crown winner since Citation in 1948.

Ohio Staters Boost Big 10 Victory Skein

COLUMBUS, O. (UP) — Ohio State's undefeated defending Big Ten champions beat Indiana 7-2 and 4-1 Saturday to boost their conference record to four straight and remain at the top of the standings.

Frank Howard, Bill Soter and Jim Rutecki led the Bucks to the opening win Howard got Ohio State off strong with a two-run homer in the third inning. Soter, credited with his fourth win of the season, blanked the Hoosier for six innings but weakened in the seventh when he was touched for two runs and four hits. Rutecki blanked the Hoosiers the rest of the way.

Topnotch pitching by Al Lindopp and Rutecki, combined with the clutch hitting of Ron Shay and Dick Burkley, marked the nightcap. Lindopp pitched six-hit ball for six innings and Rutecki hurled his fourth hitless inning of the day in the seventh. Shay broke up a 1-1 duel in the sixth with a two-run double, then scored on a two-base blow by Burkley.

Manchester Victor In English Soccer

WEMBLEY, England (UP)— Underdog Manchester City won the "World Series" of English soccer yesterday by scoring two goals in the last half to defeat Birmingham, 3-1, in the Football Association Cup final at Empire Stadium.

A crowd of 100,000 including Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, watched Manchester City succeed where it had failed last year in the quest for Britain's most-coveted soccer trophy. Manchester City was beaten by Newcastle United, 3-1, in the 1955 final. No team ever has lost the final two straight years.

Yale Defeats Cornell Crew

DERBY, Connecticut (UP) — Yale's unbeaten crew streaked to a length-and-a-quarter victory over Cornell yesteray in the 29th renewal of the Carnegie Cup regatta over a two-mile course on the Housatonic River. Princeton was third, three lengths astern.

Leading all the way, the Elis swept to their first Carnegie Cup triumph since 1951, and their first home cup win the competition since 1937. It was the 14th Yale win in the series; Cornell has won nine times and Princeton six.

Yale was timed in 10:26.9, Cornell in 10:32.4 and Princeton in 10:49.4.

Loop Leaders

MAJOR LEAGUE LEADERS
By United Press

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Player and Club	G	AB	R	H	Pct.
Mantle, New York	16	60	19	26	433
Maxwell, Detroit	11	37	7	15	405
Lemon, Washington	15	50	11	20	.400
Wertz, Cleveland	15	53	10	20	377
Rivera, Chicago	9	27	5	10	370

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Player and Club	G	AB	R	H	Pct.
Boyer, St Louis	14	54	11	25	.463
Bruton, Milwaukee	9	30	10	13	.433
Bailey, Cincinnati	12	35	8	15	429
Walls, Pittsburgh	15	42	7	17	405
Repulski St Louis	10	28	6	11	393

Home Runs—Mantle, Yankees, 9; Post, Redlegs 9 Thomas, Pirates, 7; Berra, Yankees, 7; Long, Pirates, 6; Jablonski, Redlegs, 6

Runs Batted In—Mantle, Yankees, 23 Berra, Yankees, 20 Musial, Cardinals, 16 Lemon Senators 16, Boyer, Cardinals 15 Post Redlegs, 15.

Runs—Mantle, Yankees, 19 Yost Senators, 15 Bauer Yankees, 15, Post, Redlegs 15 Berra Yankees, 14

Hits—Mantle Yankees, 26; Boyer, Cardinals, 25 Long, Pirates, 23, Berra, Yankees, 22, Dark, Giants, 21; Olson, Senators 21

Pitching—Wilson Orioles, Po[illegible] kees, and Wynn, Indians, all 3-0 (8 tied with 2-0)

Car Show Set

SPRINGFIELD — Entries from eight states, the majority of them from Ohioans, have been received for the second Annual Central Ohio Sports Car Show to be sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce May 11, 12 and 13 at the Clark County Fairgrounds here.

SCRAMBLES BENEFIT MOTORCYCLE RACE
Sun., May 6, 2:00 P.M.
Rt. 30N to 314 Follow Arrows
Mansf. Motorcycle Club

Crestline Gains District Finals

CLYDE — Crestline High moved into the finals of the Class B district baseball tournament by edging Attica, 2-1 on the strength of Larry Simmermacher's one-hitter here Saturday.

It was the third tournament victory of the week for the blonde right hander who spun a no-hit victory over Huron Monday and defeated Greenwich in relief of Don Schill Thursday.

The Bulldogs are scheduled to play Rossford here Tuesday in the finals of the Non-County tourney and will meet the winner of the game between Troy-Luckey and Portage Saturday for the district title.

Simmermacher struck out nine and walked only one in running up his seventh victory of the season against one defeat. Attica's only run was unearned.

SCORE IN SECOND

Crestline scored once in the second inning on Jim Mahek's single and two consecutive errors and came up with what proved to be the winning run in the fifth as Bill Horning singled behind Bud Snyder's double. A single by Mike Gunaloff and two errors gave Attica its lone tally in the fifth.

Mahek and Snyder each banged out two safeties for the Bulldogs who have now won 10, lost three, and tied two.

Crestline	AB	R	H	Attica	AB	R	H
Ball 2b	2	0	0	Hemsger ss	3	0	0
Exen'per lf	3	0	1	H Schoen c	3	0	0
Clutter cf	3	0	0	Nagel rf	3	0	0
Mahek 1b	3	1	2	Phillips 1b	3	0	0
Simm'cher p	3	0	0	Gunaloff cf	3	1	1
Gottfried c	3	0	0	Walliser 2b	3	0	0
Harb'gh ss	3	0	0	Gibson p	2	0	0
Snyder 3b	3	1	2	Roth lf	1	0	0
Horning rf	2	0	1	B Schoen 3b	2	0	0
TOTALS	25	2	6	TOTALS	23	1	1

Crestline 010 010 0—2
Attica 000 010 0—1

Errors — Mahek Harbaugh Walliser. Hemminger H Schoen Runs Batted In — Horning Snyder Two Base Hits — Snyder Left on Bases — Crestline 3 Attica 3 Bases on Balls, off — Simmermacher 1 Struck Out by — Simmermacher 9.

BeeGee Soph Pitches Two-Hitter At Miami

BOWLING GREEN, O (UP)— Bowling Green State University's baseball team defeated Miami University 4-0, Saturday, as sophomore Don Turvis pitched a two-hit game with 12 strike-outs.

Kent State defeated Bowling Green State University in tennis, 5-4, while the triangular golf meet was won by Ohio University. The golf scores: Ohio University 13, Bowling Green 12; Kent State 6, Ohio University 15; Bowling Green 5; Kent State 3.

Ashland High Golfers Take Ninth Victory

ASHLAND — The Ashland High School athletic teams will face eight opponents this week.

The diamond crew will open the week's card by hosting Mansfield Madison Monday. The baseballers will also entertain Marion Wednesday and travel to Galion for a twin bill Saturday.

The golf club will travel to Marion Tuesday, trek to Mansfield Madison Thursday and entertain Mt. Vernon Saturday.

The cinder squad's only meet will be against Massillon here Friday.

ASHLAND—16		
Larry Myers	38-37—74	4
Larry Brockway	39-36—74	4
Jon Miller	43-42—85	4
Herb Shilling	43-43—86	4
WOOSTER—0		
Hal Yoder	47-42—89	0
Dave Brock	45-42—87	0
Tom Briggs	52-52—104	0
Don Joss	47-48—95	0

Bob McNea To Speak Before Grid Parents

Bob McNea, Tyger football coach, will talk on plans for the 1956 Mansfield Senior High School grid team at the meeting of the Football Parents Club Wednesday at 7:45 p. m. at John Todd Park.

All parents of Tyger grid hopefuls have been invited to attend the session.

Dave Erb Hottest, Happiest

By JOHN DIETRICH

LOUISVILLE, Ky., (UP) — For a man with a bad head cold, Dave Erb was the hottest and happiest jockey anyone ever saw yesterday after driving Needles through the stretch at Churchill Downs to win the Kentucky Derby by less than a length from Fabius.

He couldn't smell the red roses he was carrying as a victory token, but it wasn't bothering him a bit.

"I've had a cold and felt lousy all week, and I still don't feel so good," the 33-year-old Californian grinned, "but it doesn't matter right now."

While his 12-year-old son, David, hugged his shoulders, Erb admitted that Needles — notoriously unpredictable—had given him a bad scare during the race.

SLOWS A BIT

"At the five-eighths pole, he let go of the bit and I thought 'My God, what's gonna happen now?'" Erb said, "but he took hold again and we were all right again."

Turning into the stretch, the jockey said, "We only had one horse beat, but I saw the field split open and I hit him once or twice. When I asked him for it, he just went 'boom'."

Erb, who has been riding since 1938 when he broke in at Oaklawn, said he couldn't tell yet how good Needles may be.

"He still has a lot of three-year-old engagements. I'll be riding him in the Preakness and Belmont, and maybe then we'll know more about it. But he's the best three-year-old I ever rode."

It was Erb's third Derby ride, having finished 10th on Curragh King in 1953, and 10th again on Gov. Browning in 1954

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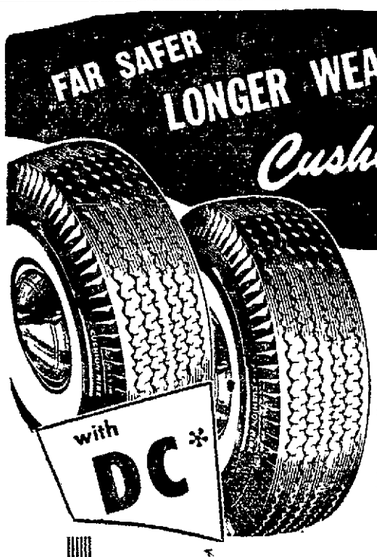

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