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SPORT

(Continued from Page 3)

CRESCUS IS BEST IN HARNESS FIELD

Trotting Stallion Chosen as Greatest of All Time by H. T. White

(By Henry Ten Eyck White in Chicago Tribune.)

The trotting stallion Cresceus, 2:02 1-4, foaled 1894, sired by Robert McGregor, dam by Mambrino Howard, probably would be selected by a jury of horsemen as the greatest harness horse of all time. Under all standards by which a supremely great horse must be measured and to which he must in a high degree conform, Cresceus is the foremost figure in trotting horse history for these seasons:

1. He is a natural trotter.
2. He was a phenomenal colt trotter, doing a mile over a half mile track as a 2-year-old in 2:20 1-2 with little training, while in his 3-year-old form he won the most remarkable race ever credited to a trotter of that age, taking first honors in an eight heat contest from a field of aged trotters of the 2:17 class, the battle extending over two days. Cresceus won the last three heats, and his positions for the entire race were 7, 2, 2, 2, 10, 1, 1, 1, the time of the mile being 2:15 1-4, 2:12 1-4, 2:12 1-4, 2:12 1-4, 2:12 1-4, 2:12 1-4, 2:12 1-4, 2:12 1-4, an average of 2:12 1-4. That performance alone would give any 2-year-old undying fame, but it was only an incident in the career of Cresceus.

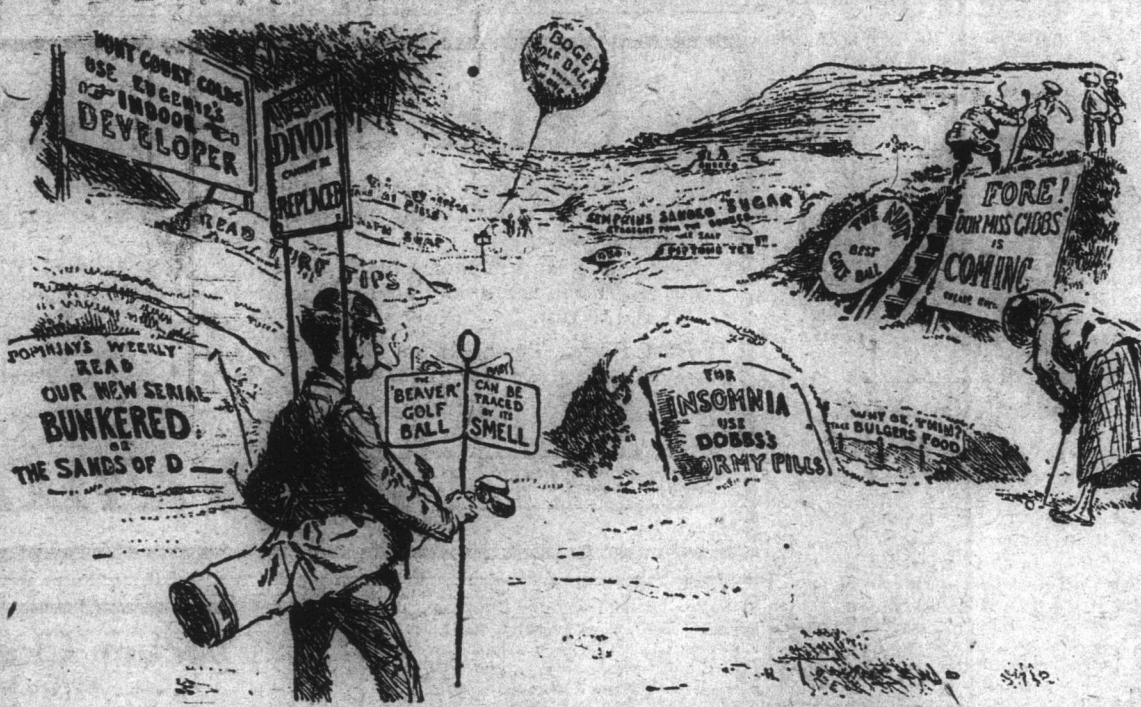
3. He was an unbeatable race trotter, when matured, defeating horse after horse until finally he was matched against the world's champion trotter, The Abbot, 2:03 1-4. Cresceus won in 2:03 1-4, the fastest heat ever trotted in a race to that time, and the performance stood unchallenged until last summer, when Hamburg Belle put 2:01 1-4 in its place.

4. He lowered the stallion record from 2:05 1-4 to 2:02 1-4, where it stands today.

5. Having beaten all other trotters, Cresceus started against time and obtained the fastest record of his day, 2:02 1-4, beating the best previous mark a full second.

6. He lowered the two mile record for trotters from 4:28 1-4 to 4:17, the only time he started at that distance and his record still is the best. This was done when Cresceus was past his prime, and with no special preparation for such a task. Still Cresceus, always a horse above ordinariness, stepped the first mile in 2:10 1-4 and the second in 2:07 1-4. That he was then far short of his top speed was shown by the fact that three days before the two miles test Cresceus was started to beat 2:04, and the best he could do was 2:05 1-2. To come back the same week and go two miles at an average of 2:08 1-2 shows what a whale among horses Cresceus was in the matter of stamina.

7. He was the most consistent race horse trotter ever seen. In six years of racing, making sixty-one starts, he never was behind the money. Including exhibitions in which a victory often called for more speed than would have been required to beat a field of horses—Cresceus was forty-two times first, fourteen times second, four times third and once fourth. No other trot-



THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOCKEY AS PUNCH SEES IT

ter has a racing career comparing with this.

8. He got every world's trotting record he tried for, and had over two score of them to his credit when he retired.

9. He held the world's half mile track record, both to sulky and to wagon.

10. He could trot any sort of track, mile or half mile, hard or soft, wet or dry, better than any horse of his time, and the weather made no difference to him. He trotted the half mile track at Denison, Tex., in 2:15 1-4 on Jan. 4, 1902, and he later went to the Canadian winter tracks and made all other trotters look common. Also he performed at Tucson, Ariz., where it is warm. As for travelling, he put in over 12,000 miles of railway riding in one season, 1901.

11. He was of fine size, good color in his later years, well bred, and had bone of wonderful quality that enabled him to be trained year after year from infancy for extreme efforts and still stay sound. He had willingness with his courage, not refusing to try even after the effort pained him.

12. Although not a marked success as a sire, neither is he a failure, as at the age of 16 he has to his credit sixteen trotters with records better than 2:30, one of them in the 2:10 list.

Montreal Jockey Club Mill.

Work has been commenced erecting the plant of the Montreal Jockey club for the spring meeting, which will be held from June 4 to June 11. The rebuilding of the jumps in the steeplechase field was started a day or so ago, while the stands and club house will be put in order quickly. The stables, which number some six hundred, have been overhauled and dried out so that they are ready for immediate use.

a year ago, when a meeting of thirteen days was held. Several owners have sent word that they will ship to the Blue Bonnets within a few days in order that their horses may have a long rest before the meeting opens.

Their horses have raced continuously at Baltimore. Montreal is looked upon as a first class place to rest up, due to the fine pasture around the track. The recent fine weather has put the going in perfect condition, as is shown by the locally-owned horses trained there.

There are many candidates for the steeplechase events at Blue Bonnets now at the track. They are being schooled regularly through the field which is fast and ready. Lester Hayman, who was cut down at Baltimore a year ago, has gotten over his ailment and has shown some good performances over the jumps this spring.

Dr. Aikens, who was owned by Dr. Ray last season, and who is now owned in Montreal, is another leaper that will be hard to beat this year. Nathan Hale, who is owned by Scott Ives of Montreal, is a jumper of some class. He is being fitted to race at Blue Bonnets and will afterwards be sent to Saratoga. This is one of the cleverest jumpers that has ever been owned in Canada.

Anyhow, it's better to be a fool having some fun than a wise man with the dyspepsia.

Notes of the Ring.

Battling Nelson has arranged for Joe Gans to stop upon a ranch owned by one of Nelson's friends in Arizona until the negro recovers.

Bob Fitzsimmons has announced that he will attend the Jeffries-Johnson fight. He didn't say he would challenge the winner, however.

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Colin Was the Greatest Horse

Mr. Clint C. Riley, editor of Racing Form, and one of the best students of the thoroughbred, believes that Colin is the greatest American race horse of all time. Mr. Riley says:

In every respect Colin was a superlatively great race horse. It was his good fortune to come into action at a time when his chief opponents were also grand race horses. That is the test which serves to demonstrate his super-excellence. In all Colin ran in fifteen races and won them all. To him fell the richest prizes of American racing and men who have grown grey watching the successive generations of our horses come and go, declare none his equal had ever before come from American breeding.

It is well known that he was taken to England for racing last year, but could not be started. It is not so generally known that while in training, his speed was tested against two of the fastest sprinters in England, and that he simply ran away from them. Unluckily he fell hopelessly lame directly afterward and English turf patrons were deprived of the pleasure of viewing the monarch of American racing in action.

In such antagonists as Fair Play, Uncle, King James, Firestone, Dorante, Stamina, Chapultepec, Royal, Tourist and Cohort Colin met and vanquished horses better than the best of many other years. For instance in 1906 after Burgomaster broke down, Accountant made a clean sweep of the 3-year old events of the Eastern turf and was the chief money winner of the year. This was because his opposition was of a medium class and it is more than probable that each of those named as Colin's opponents was Accountant's superior.

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