Horse racing in limbo, Virginia bides time

Supporters of Virginia's fall referendum on pari-mutuel horse racing betting are spending the summer quietly raising money and generating grassroots support. They also are being driven by a simple theme — "Remember '78."

"Most of the folks in this campaign remember 1978," said Jeff Gregson of Virginians for Horse Racing Inc. "Nobody's taking anything for granted. We had a 19-point lead in the polls and lost.

"Everyone knows (the opposition) may seem scattered now, but at some point they'll be organized, and we have to be prepared for all their innuendoes about racing," Gregson said.

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A late media blitz, largely financed by religious groups, led to the narrow defeat of the 1978 referendum, and racing supporters don't feel like making the same mistakes twice. Opponents held another planning session recently, but are still behind in both organization and money.

"One of the reasons (pari-mutuel) was defeated in '78 was because there was no statewide organization at the grassroots level to promote the campaign, to educate the voters about the economic benefits of racing," Gregson said. "We made a conscious decision to not do that again. There's an informal theme to all this — 'Remember '78.' "

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While not much has been heard from racing backers since they kicked off their campaign May 18, "there's a lot going on," Gregson said.

He has spent a lot of time since then on the telephone and a lot of time on the road. In July he'll be at local organizational meetings in eight to 10 areas. He plans to start private polling in August (the latest available poll had the referendum passing 52-36) and public activities in September.

Local drives will begin "once we get past Labor Day," Gregson said. "That's when the average voter starts paying attention, and we want to be in a strong position to implement our plans."

"We want to get the focus out of Richmond and down to the local level. We want to be able to show the impact of horse racing on the agribusiness in Roanoke. . . . We want to show it's just not the horse breeders who will benefit. We want facts and figures on how it will help in feed, grain, hay, travel, tourism."

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Selling the idea the $350 million yearly industry needs racing to stop its documented decline will be expensive, and much of Gregson's time is spent hustling cash as well as potential votes.

According to a widely held assumption, it takes a minimum of a million dollars for a statewide Virginia campaign. Gregson declines to say if that's his group's goal, but he does say whatever he gets "we can put to use."

Gregson said backers don't have to file another campaign expense report until about a week before the election. Their latest listed $38,000 raised but Gregson — a career political operative who headed the anti-lottery campaign last year — won't give current figures.

"We've had some success since that filing, and there's more fund-raising going on," he said. "I can't give any figures yet, but we're pleased with it, even though there's a lot left to do."

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Much of the money will go to buy media time for commercials, but Gregson says don't expect to see any anytime soon.

"We won't start looking at media buys until September," he said. "The rates aren't even out yet."

Most of the opposition will once again be based on morality or crime arguments. That's why Gregson is following a classic political maxim — don't refute, reframe — to sell the referendum as an economic development issue.

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Studies suggest the referendum's passing will translate into 1,600 new jobs and an $86 million cash infusion into the state economy. And as Gregson wryly notes, if it were a factory, and not a race track, bringing this kind of economic benefit, politicans would be stampeding to have it in their home district.

As it is, the politicians may still have that chance. If the referendum passes, no track can be placed in any locality until voters in an area say yes in another referendum. No investors have publicly announced plans to build a track, but odds are it will be somewhere between Richmond and Virginia Beach, the state's most heavily traveled tourist corridor.

Black cowboy 3rd in '88 rodeo cash

GOLDEN, Colo. — Sylvestor Mayfield, a black calf roper from Granbury, Texas, is third in the 1988 Coors Chute Outstandings with 32.0 points after approximately ¼ of the events, according to Don Sober, Coors rodeo manager.

Coors is in its ninth year of sponsoring the series, which has provided millions in bonus prize money to rodeo contestants, announcers, stock contractors, rodeo committees and barrelmen. The firm sponsors approximately 50 rodeos, all sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA). Contestants attending these rodeos compete for a $500 bonus in each event and accumulate points for $42,000 in year-end bonuses.

"The chute out series has become the leading featured event in PRCA Rodeos," Sober said. "It consistently brings the finest stock, cowboys, announcers and crowds."

Most contestants will compete in about 40 events throughout the season. "We try not to schedule more than three a week and set our schedule so that most of the contestants can compete regularly," Sober said. "This allows contestants to earn more money and gives the spectators a chance to see more of their favorites compete."

The 1987 Coors Chute Out Champions are overall and women's barrel racing champion Charmayne James, bareback bronc rider Bruce Ford, saddle bronc rider Jeff Switzer, calf roper Joe Beaver, steer wrester Sammy Duvall, bull rider Bobby DelVecchio and team roper Matt Tyler.

'The Beast' is back

TAMPA, FLA — Now Kenny Snow knows how hard John Mugabi can punch when it counts.

Very hard.

Mugabi, who relishes the nickname "Beast," continued his quest for the junior middleweight title Thursday night by stopping Snow, a former sparring partner, in the fourth round. Earning his fourth straight triumph after a one-year layoff, Mugabi improved to 30-2 with 30 knockouts. He knocked Snow down three times in the fourth round and the fight was stopped at 2:59, in accordance with Florida State boxing regulations involving the three-knockdown rule.

"He caught me with a hell of a body shot," said Snow.

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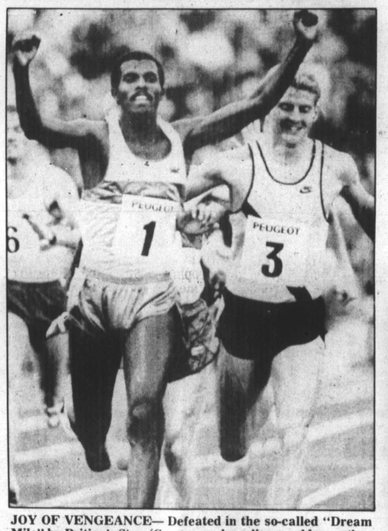

JOY OF VENGEANCE— Defeated in the so-called "Dream Mile" by Britian's Steve Cram a week earlier, world marathon champion Abdi Bile of Somalia rejoices in revenge as he edges the same rival Saturday at London's Crystal Palace.

Joe Illuzzi for United Press

Whitfield works on Seoul presence

By Ethel L. Payne

Mal Whitfield is getting ready for the Seoul Olympic Games, and he's running hard to keep up with a grueling schedule in preparation for the big event.

The former two-time Olympic gold medal winner is now training African athletes and promoting goodwill exchange programs as "America's Sports Ambassador."

He is working with the USIA and private corproations in an exciting project of finding and developing hidden talent in Third World countries.

After nearly 35 years in sports promotion, 30 of them on the African continent, Whitfield is eminently qualified to carry the torch for sports as a unique form of diplomacy. He has set up an office in Washington where he maintains a "hot line" on his enterprises, all of which are non-profit.

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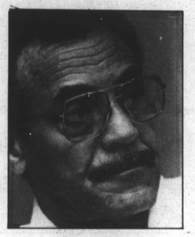
On Tuesday, the House of Representatives in a special ceremony awarded a gold medal to the widow of Jesse Owens on the 52nd anniversary of the famed runner's triumphs at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin.

Whitfield who modeled his career in sports after Jesse Owens, delivered a tribute to him on the floor of the House.



Mal Whitfield
Jesse Owens eulogist

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Whitfield's schedule of activities before going to Seoul includes meetings with members of Congress and corporate representatives to raise funds for a six-week pre-Olympic training program for amateur African boxers.

The camp will be set up in Lilongwe, Malawi with participants from several countries. Whitfield was promised support from Congressman Walter Fauntroy who said he would get the endorsement of Jesse Jackson on the program; but so far, nothing has materialized from that source.

USA anticipates strong track at Seoul

INDIANAPOLIS — No matter what happens at the U.S. Olympic trials July 15-23, the United States is assured of taking a formidable track and field team to Seoul.

The Americans have numerous medal contenders among their sprinters, hurdlers, long jumpers and triple jumpers. So many in fact, that some would be left off the team because each nation is allowed only three track and field athletes per event (four for each of the two relays) at the Olympics.

Other athletes at the trials at the Indiana University track and field stadium will have a tougher time making the Olympic team than winning a medal in Seoul.

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Consider some of the men's events and who will be vying for spots on the team:

In the 100 meters, Olympic champion Carl Lewis leads a group of five Americans who ranked in the top 10 in the world last year.

Lewis and world champion Calvin Smith ranked 1-2 in the 200 meters and four other Americans made the top 10. Butch Reynolds was one of four American 400 meters runners in the top 10.

In the 110-meter hurdles, two-time world champion Greg Foster and Tonie Campbell ranked 1-2 but

Jackie Joyner-Kersee
believed best in world

Foster, silver medalist at Los Angeles, became a question mark on July 4 when he fell during a routine warmup drill at Cal Poly Pomona and broke his left arm. The injury could keep him out of the trials.

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Four other American hurdlers were in the top 10, and neither world-record holder Renaldo Nehemiah nor Olympic champion Roger Kingdom made last because of injury.

"For the hurdlers, we'd better get ourselves moving," Foster said before his injury. "Overall, I think we'll have a great team. The system we're facing is tough. In the 400, you have to run 44 seconds just to get off of the first heat. It's ridiculous. There's more pressure in the trials. Just to make the team, you've got to kill yourself. Anything can happen between July 15 and September."

Edwin Moses and Danny Harris, who snapped Moses' nine-year winning streak last June, lead five Americans in the top 10 in the 400-meter.

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Four Americans, again led by Lewis, were among the top 10 in the long jump, while silver medalist Mike Conley was one of three triple jumpers to crack the rankings.

Lewis likely will compete in three events at the trials, but a scheduling problem in Seoul could make it difficult for him to attempt repeating his 1984 Gold-Medal performance.

The second round of the 200 meters and the long jump final are

Greg Foster
A question-mark, but . .

scheduled to begin one hour apart. Lewis will decide after the trials whether to compete in the Olympic 200.

Like the men, women will have fierce competition in sprints and hurdles. Unlike the men, American women do not dominate the world rankings but they will produce some Olympic medal contenders.

Two of the more interesting situations in the women's sprints will be the efforts of Evelyn Ashford and Valerie Brisco. The two stars at the '84 games, to make the team. Both struggled last season.

Ashford, the world record holder and Olympic champion of 100 meters, was plagued by hamstring and injuries and she failed to make the world championships team.

Brisco, who won three gold medals in Los Angeles, did not qualify for the open 400 meters at the worlds, but she did run on the 4 x 400 team that won a bronze in Rome.

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Two other women to watch will be Mary Decker Slaney and Jackie Joyner-Kersee. Slaney, competing for the first season since 1985, plans to double in the 1,500 and 3,000 meters. She is aiming for a comeback in the 3,000 in which a tumble at the '84 Olympics cost her a chance for gold.

Joyner-Kersee, widely considered the best female athlete in all track, will double in the Heptathlon and the long jump. She holds the world record in the Heptathlon and held the world mark in the long jump until it was broken this spring. She is always a threat to break records in both events.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Quiet crisis looms in Western Ethiopia

The health and nutritional status of Sadanese refugees currently immigrating in Western Ethiopia has reached a crisis stage, according to officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, (UNHCR), and is far worse than the Sahelian famine of 1984-86.

While less publicized, the rate of new arrivals in this region is approximately 8,000 a month and has exceeded 10,000 a month in the last quarter of 1987. UNHCR data reports that by the beginning of April 1988, the Sadanese refugee population had grown to approximately 259,000.

Relief agency experts based in the capital city, Addis Ababa, said the physical condition of these refugees are plagued by malnutrition. Eighty percent of the recent arrivals at the campsite of Fugnido are orphaned children, particularly teenage boys, whose family members were killed or abducted during attacks and political unrest in there homelands.

According to Nicholas Morris, Deputy Director in UNHCR's Africa Bureau, "the volume of the influx and the severely debilitated condition of the new arrivals combined to overwhelm the limited material and human resources which were available to meet their vital needs. The arrangements to deliver assistance-food, medicines and other essential items - beeame increasingly overstretched."

To combat this dilemma, technical missions from the Ethiopian authorities and UNHCR's are mobilizing the donor states and international organizations such as UNICEF and the World Food Programme to provide extra food, medicines and domestic goods.

UNHCR, whose programs in the region are implemented by the Government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society, has strengthened its presence in the area and is playing a central role in a special task force which has been established to coordinate the emergency program. The current level of United States funding, which was authorized at $14.1 million will be increased to fight the devastation.

Long-term plans are being developed to address the growing number of Sadanese who continue to relocate. Under the agreement, the Ethiopian Government has to provide additional land for the new arrivals, and the population of any new camps will be limited to around 20,000. This initiative, they say, should make the delivery and distribution of assistance substantially easier.

"It is not just a case of appealling for extra resources to cope with the emergency. The rehabilitation of the many severely malnourished people, and all the adolescent and adult males is particularly difficult. There are also enormous logistical problems to overcome. The refugee camps are situated in remote areas, road access is very poor, and there is a shortage of appropriate heavy duty vehicles to transport goods from the port of Assab to the refugee camps. With the situation in other parts of the country also threatening to become more serious, existing arrangements could come under even greater pressure," Nicholas Morris stated.

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI — Bags of rice kept by former Haitian resident Leslie Manigat are loaded in a cart to be distributed to the Haitian people, by order of Lt. Gen. Henri Namphy, who led the coup which deposed Manigat.

Zulu leader blasts sanctions movement

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA — Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of South Africa's 6 million Zulus, accused Western Nations Saturday of imposing sanctions on blacks whether they wanted them or not.

The Zulu leader also repeated his call for the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela, the jailed-for-life leader of the outlawed African National Congress.

Speaking at the annual conference of his Inkhata Political Movement, Buthelezi said the sanctions philosophy was based on a false belief that only the white government could change the policy of apartheid.

This assumption downgrades black opposition to apartheid," Buthelezi said. "It sees the totality of the black struggle as futile."

"It has in one sense an ugly kind of European and North American paternalism, which is deciding what is good for us whether we agree to it or not," he said.

Buthelezi described his Inkhata movement, with 1.5 million members, as the country's largest black political body and said it has rejected sanctions year after year.

By opposing sanctions, Buthelezi and his followers differ sharply from the ANC. as well as the banned United Democratic Front, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and other church leaders who believe sanctions are the last non-violent way to end apartheid.

The UDF, with more than a million followers, has supported the sanctions campaign, which has led to violent conflict with Buthelezi supporters in the natal province.

Tutu, in trips abroad and at home, has called for more sanctions while Buthelezi, seen as a moderate black leader, has rejected the calls as counter-productive.

"Sanctions are mounted against South Africa for our so-called benefit without consulting us because the West thinks it is good for us," Buthelezi told thousands of cheering blacks gathered in a huge tent at his Ulundi headquarters in the Natal Province.

"That, my brothers and sisters, by definition is paternalism," he said.

He again called for the immediate and unconditional release of Mandela, given a life term 24 years ago for sabotage against the white-run state.

Buthelezi said Mandela presented a greater threat to the state while in jail than out. "It is not only the black struggle that would benefit," he said. "Whites would benefit equally by the black unity which the release of political prisoners would produce."

He again rejected any role in the planned formation by President Pieter W. Botha of the National Council that would include black leaders.

"I am not going to be in that Council," he told the cheering throng. "Botha knows as well as I know that the New Council or Forum, or whatever it will end up being called, will fail to the extent that it does not attract South Africa's black political heavyweights." - (UPI)

Bomb kills one, wounds 18 in Namibia

WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA — A bomb hidden in a shopping bag exploded at a meat market in a white suburb, killing a black man, wounding at least 18 other people and sending shards of glass and debris into the streets, authorities and witnesses said.

There were no claims of responsibility for the 9:45 a.m. blast, but authorities blamed the incident on the pro-independence South West African People's Organization, or SWAPO.

"It was horrible," Police Inspector Kierie Du Randt told reporters at the scene. "The worst aspect was the screams and groans and cries for help."

"There is no doubt whatsoever in our minds that this is the work of SWAPO," Du Randt said.

Witness said the force of the explosion in Klien Windhoek, a quiet white suburb of the capital of South African-controlled Namibia also known as South West Africa, demolished the meat market, sent shards of glass and debris hurtling into the street, blew out car windows and damaged two adjacent stores.

They said the debris included blackened sides of beef and lamb carcasses.

A police spokesman at Windhoek headquarters said a black man was killed and 18 other people wounded when the explosive device, hidden in a shopping bag and estimated at 7 pounds, devastated the market.

Most of the injured were employees and customers of the butcher shop.

Hospital sources said six people underwent surgery following the blast and two others lost limbs. At least one white woman was among, those seriously injured, they said.

Merchants said the explosion, heard several miles away, followed three bomb threats to a nearby computer software shop.

In 1966, SWAPO began a guerrilla campaign from bases in Angola in an attempt to force, South Africa to grant independence to the territory it has administered since 1915.

The United Nations is seeking elections leading to independence for the territory's 1 million population and has demanded that South Africa withdraw, but South Africa has said it will remain in Namibia until Cuba, withdraws its forces from Angola.

National Minister of Health Moses Katjiuongua visited the victims of the blast in the hospital. "We cannot allow those responsible to continue living in our midst," he said following the visit.

The minister said the attack was not directed at security forces or the government, but at innocent shoppers.

A bomb explosion on Feb. 19 killed 27 people in Oshakati, the administrative and military center of Owambo region in northern Namibia.

Police accused SWAPO of setting off that bomb which destroyed a bank. South African forces based in the former Germany colony a day later launched airborne attacks on suspected SWAPO bases in neighboring Angola.

Bahamian leader indictment weighed

JUST VISITING — Three of the five presidents of the historically colleges talk with the U.S. Ambassador to South Africa during their recent tour of the Southern tier of Africa, including South Africa. From left: Dr. Charles Lyons, former Chancellor of Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville, N.C.; Dr. Prezell R. Robinson, President of St. Augustine's College and leader of the delegation; The Honorable Edward Perkins, Ambassador, U.S. Ambassador to South Africa; and Dr. Hugh Gloster, President Emeritus, Morehouse College, Atlanta, Ga. Robinson was asked to lead the trip sponsored by the Agency for International Development (AID), and Agency of the U.S. State Dept.

WASHINGTON — The Reagan Administration is considering whether to indict Bahamian Prime Minister Lynden Pindling on federal charges of receiving cash payoffs from drug smugglers.

Citing unidentified federal officials, sources claim the administration is still divided on whether to pursue evidence linking Pindling to narcotics traffickers.

Officials of the State Department and the Customs Service have argued that indicting Pindling could backfire by stirring up anti-American sentiment that would entrench the 58-year-old Prime Minister. Some U.S. law enforcement officials reportedly favor an indictment.

The dilemma is especially thorny because of unsuccessful administration attempts to oust Panamanian leader Antonio Manuel Noriega following his indictment in the United States on drug chargers.

Pindling was linked to alleged drug payoffs in the recently concluded trial of Colombian cocaine kingpin Carlos Lehder.

Robert Merkle, the U.S. Attorney for Central Florida, has declined comment on the reported probe into Pindling's activities that is said to cover a period between the late 1970s and early 1980s.

"They haven't got anything," Pindling explained in denying the allegations. "They haven't got any evidence."

Brazil hails debt agreement

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL — The Brazilian government recently hailed its new $81.2 billion foreign debt agreement has the key to economic recovery, while critics complained the package will only keep the country in debt for decades.

Brazil's $123 billion foreign debt is the largest in the developing world. It announced the terms of an agreement to receive $5.2 billion in new loans to meet debt commitments, reschedule about $61 billion in medium- and long-term debt, and secure $15 billion in more available credit from commercial banks.

"This (accord) is good for workers, it means more investment, more factories and more jobs," Finance Minister Mailson Da Nobrega said on television. "It's the largest and best agreement yet achieved by any third world country."

Da Nobrega said it was too early for Brazil to start repaying its debts. The country was still at the stage where it needs capital from industrialized nations to help finance its development.

The agreement drew support from the business community and criticism from economists in the center-left and leftists opposition.

"It was an excellent accord for the (international) bankers because they are putting up hardly any new money, but the country is committed to earning crippling yearly trade surpluses to meet its bills," said Economist Luis Gonzaga Belluzo, a former senior government adviser.