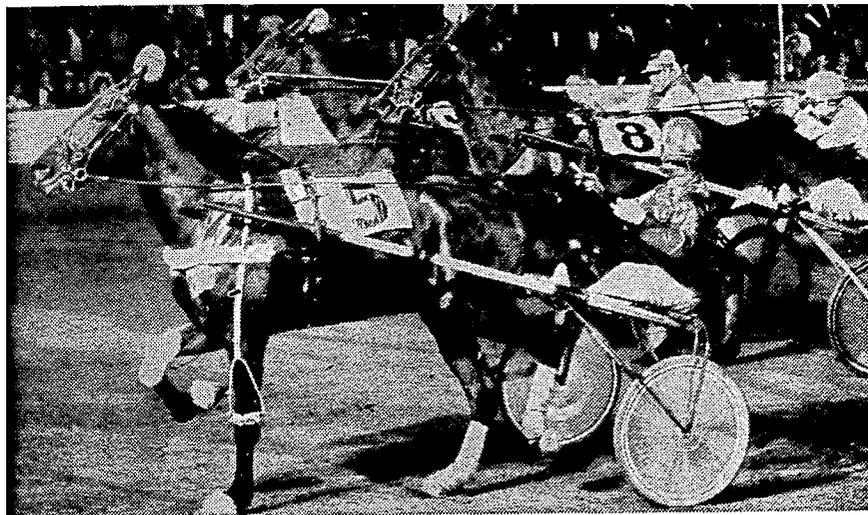


Abbatiello Gets Chance to Be the Second Best

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WARMUP FOR THE MESSENGER? Lloyds Embassy, No. 5, is steered across the finish line first in last night's third race at Roosevelt by Carmine Abbatiello, leading driver of the meeting. He'll drive Bad Moe in tomorrow night's Messenger Stakes.

Abbatiello Gets Chance to Be the Second Best



Carmine Abbatiello
"I'll Throw a Party"

By Tony Sisti

Westbury—Carmine Abbatiello learned last night that he'll catchdrive Bad Moe for trainer Frank Darish in tomorrow night's \$182,976 Messenger Stakes Pace at Roosevelt Raceway. One of his first questions after hearing the good news was, "how much does the winner get?"

When he was told the winner's share was worth \$91,488, his response was, "No kidding. That means I'll make about \$4,500 if I win. I promise you I'll throw a party if I do." but Abbatiello, who will split the 10 per cent of whatever purse money he wins with Darish, isn't making any plans for a victory party.

Abbatiello, the track's leading driver, knows that Laverne Hanover has been barred from the wagering in the Messenger, the first leg in the triple crown for 3-year-old pacers, for a reason. That reason is Laverne Hanover has a lifetime record of 24 wins in 25 starts and is supposed to be a "sure thing."

"I watched Laverne Hanover win his qualifying trial for the Messenger in 2:01½ Tuesday night and he's going to be real tough," Abbatiello said. "The winner of this race will have to pace a mile in 2:01, maybe faster. I'll have to be lucky with Bad Moe to get some money. But that

doesn't mean I'm conceding anything."

Abbatiello was strictly a spectator during the Messenger trials. He's driving Bad Moe because Lucien Fontaine, who had been driving him, had a previous commitment to handle Shadow Rocket in the Messenger. The opportunity to drive in this classic couldn't have made Abbatiello happier.

"This is my first Messenger and I'm glad to be in it," he said. "You can't make any money sitting in the paddock. I watched Bad Moe (who finished fourth in his trial) the other night and he's a good colt. He drew the rail and could be well-placed if I don't get shuffled back during the early part of the race.

"I'll try to save him as much as I can and hope he's third or fourth at the top of the stretch. With a little racing luck, he could wind up being second or third.

Bad Moe, who has two wins and two seconds in six starts this year and a mark of 2:04 on a half-mile track, showed speed in finishing fourth behind Bye Bye Sam in his Messenger trial. He was battling Santa's Fury for the lead for most of the closing half, which was paced in 59%. Bad Moe Finished 2¼ lengths behind the winner, Bye Bye Sam, who won the race in 2:03½.

Abbatiello knows how he'd like the Messenger to unfold. "Nothing would suit me better than to see Laverne Hanover get right to the front," he said. "I'd like to be right behind him. Actually, I wish he was starting right alongside my colt instead of from the seven post. He'd take the lead right away from the inside. But some of those other horses will probably be leaving with him as far out as he'll be."

Stanley Dancer and Herve Filion, who will drive Bye Bye Sam and Santa's Fury in the Messenger, plan to attempt a "Flying Double" tomorrow night. They'll take a helicopter from Liberty Bell Park in Philadelphia after the fourth race, the \$35,000 James P. Clark Memorial Pace, and then will fly to Roosevelt Raceway for the Messenger—the eighth race. Dancer will drive Adapter at Liberty Bell and Filion will drive Little Jerry Way.

A crowd of 19,551 learned about "sure things" in last night's eighth race when Glynis, the 3-5 choice driven by George Sholty, finished sixth. Pedro Wilson (\$33.00) won the race by a nose over Balladeer N. in 2:05. Glynis was unbeaten in two starts this year and had won her last race by three lengths in 2:05½.