

Dancer Inherits Pacer, Never Had it So Good

By Tony Sisti

Westbury—Stanley Dancer, who never has had a Free-for-All pacer to call his own, has inherited one. He takes over False Step, 8-year-old New Zealand champ, following Saturday's \$25,000 Miracle Mile Pace at Roosevelt Raceway.

"He sure makes a nice addition, doesn't he?"

Stanley asked in the paddock last night as he confirmed the news that he would become False Step's new trainer-driver. "I'd been hoping to land him. I've never had a Free-for-Aller. I heard rumors that I was being considered but I never heard a word from Mr. (Jack) Dreyfus (False Step's owner) until yesterday. He called and asked me if I'd take his horse and I tell you it didn't take me long to make up my mind." Dreyfus bought False Step for \$100,000 Friday, the day before he won the \$25,000 New Frontier Pace.

Does he think False Step can continue to hold his own against Adios Butler and the rest of the Free-for-Allers? "I believe he'll do all right," Dancer said. "He's shown a lot of class. I think he has enough high speed to go some real good miles. I



Stanley Dancer

kind of hope they have a fast track this week. I'd certainly like to see what he can do."

Will he change False Step's training habits when he replaces the horse's present trainer, Cecil Devine of New Zealand? "I'm going to keep training him exactly as he's always been trained," Dancer said. "Gosh, he's won his last two races. I'd be pretty foolish to make any switches."

In what way does Devine's approach to conditioning a horse differ from him? "He jogs horse a lot more on days he's not training him," Dancer explained. "He'll jog False Step 10 miles a day. We never jog our horses more than five miles. They train differently, too. On days when they're working him they'll go a mile and a half or two miles at one time instead of going three or four trips at different speeds the way we do." He's going back to New Zealand.

Devine will drive False Step for the last time Saturday.

Roosevelt and Yonkers, who went to court over Masina, a 5-year-old French mare, are sparring again. Yonkers offered Friday to stage a \$50,000 match race involving Adios Butler and four or five other horses. Evidently, no one has informed them that a match race means just two horses. Last night Roosevelt said it would be pleased to sponsor a match race in the closing days of its meeting, providing there is a need for one to "reserve any questions of ability."