

# The SPORT BROADCAST

BY GEORGE WHITE.

It may be of interest to the destroyers to know that the race tracks in Texas pay the State a larger percentage of their take from betting than do the tracks anywhere else in the country where the pari-mutuel system of wagering is in vogue except in Massachusetts, California and Arkansas. Old Man Texas' bit for the twenty-seven-day season of the Texas Jockey Club, which comes to a close Saturday, will total around or over \$100,000. For a twenty-one-day meeting last spring, the State tax at Arlington Downs was \$95,504. For the same period last fall, when business wasn't so rushing, it amounted to \$72,246. In the fall of 1934 it was \$96,701, and the spring session the same year harvested \$87,617 for the State. Thus, in the last two years, horse racing at the Waggoner plant has netted Texas something over \$350,000 and another hundred grand, or thereabouts, will be checked in before the close of this month. This money represents 2½ per cent of the mutuel handle.

Compared with the Illinois tracks, those in Texas are taxed heavily. One of the richest turf plants in the world is Arlington Park, Chicago, located in a densely populated area. The fact that its daily average mutuel handle exceeds the biggest day of the year at Arlington Downs attests to its popularity. Yet, for a thirty-day season it pays the State only \$75,000, or less than Texas' biggest track pays for ten days less racing in some instances. In Illinois, the State's bit is determined by a straight, daily license fee. This is \$2,500 per day for Arlington, Washington, Hawthorne and Sportsman's Park and \$1,500 for Lincoln Fields, Aurora and Fairmount, where the patronage and betting is considerably less.

In Kentucky, the State derives revenue only from a 3 per cent sales tax or 3 per cent of the profits. For 100 days of sport last year at all tracks, this is reported to have amounted to only around \$40,000.

In Ohio, a graduating tax scale is employed, which is reported to amount to 1 per cent of the handle in

the case of a track where the turnover runs \$100,000 daily or about two thirds what it does at the Waggoner plant.

There's nothing new about the breakage gyp somebody has finally discovered after all these months. It is provided for in the law governing the sport and is known to all who can differentiate between the nose and tail end of a horse. Most States do break on the dime as Texas does. In a few they break on the dime as Texas does. In a few, they break on the nickle and in Maryland on the penny.

The upkeep of any racing plant, especially one the size of Arlington Downs, is tremendous aside from the heavy drain by various taxes and insurance. The management will distribute approximately \$190,000 in purses at this spring meeting, which is another important item to take into consideration. It's this liberal outlay that attracts owners of some of the finest horseflesh in the country to Texas. And it's to this track that others in the State owe their ability to show these horses. Doubtless, Arlington Downs shows a profit now. If barriers are put up where it cannot, lovers of thoroughbred racing in this section will be deprived of their sport, at least on its present basis of quality.

Guy L. and E. Paul Waggoner, owners of Arlington Downs, and Resident Manager Trav Daniel have been named defendants in a suit filed Monday by Amon G. Carter, State chairman of the Will Rogers Memorial Fund, for \$17,407.12, which Carter claims is due the fund from proceeds of a one-day benefit racing meet Nov. 21.

According to the defendants this sum represents the State's tax on the day's mutuel handle, which they say they were not authorized to turn over to the fund and instead paid to the State.

Whiskolo, Sangreal, Whereaway and The Fighter have been shipped to