

Sports News Briefs

L'Escargot in Grand National Again

LIVERPOOL, England, March 28 (UPI)—Raymond J. Guest, former United States Ambassador to Ireland, will be hoping the third time will be lucky Saturday when his L'Escargot runs in the \$93,240 Grand National Steeplechase over the testing Aintree course. L'Escargot, trained by David Moore in Ireland and ridden by Tommy Carberry of Ireland, is the only trans-Atlantic challenger for the \$60,240 first prize.

Recent support for L'Escargot has been strong and Ladbrokes, a firm of leading bookmakers, installed him as joint 10-1 favorite with last year's winner, Red Rum, after receiving \$48,000 in bets on him yesterday. The American hope started as favorite when he made his Grand National debut in 1972, but was fell at the third fence. Last year, again heavily backed, he finished third, 25 lengths behind Red Rum and Crisp.

Moore is confident L'Escargot can finish ahead of the 44-horse field to provide North America's first success since Highland Wedding won four years ago. He believes L'Escargot has the stamina to last out the 4-mile-856-yard course and has the jumping ability to handle the 30 hazardous fences.

N.Y.U. Fencers Move Into Finals

Special to The New York Times

CLEVELAND, March 28 — New York University, the defending champion, was one of 11 schools that advanced all three of their fencers today into the finals of the 30th National Collegiate Athletic Association fencing championships at Case Western Reserve University. Seventy-two fencers, 24 in each of the three weapons—épée, foil and saber—qualified for the finals, which are slated for tomorrow and Saturday.

The leading qualifier for the Violets was Peter Westbrook, who is unbeaten 10 times on the saber strip. Jim Bonacorda posted a 9-1 won-lost record in foil and Risto Hurme was 9-2 in épée. Steve Danosi of Wayne State, last year's saber silver medalist; Tom Losonczy of Columbia and Carlos Fuertes of Northbridge rolled up 9-1 records each in saber.

N.Y.U., which has captured the N.C.A.A. crown in three of the last four years, is trying for an unparelled 11th national championship.

McGuire Wants Rebound Change

ATHENS, Ga., March 28 (UPI) — Al McGuire, Marquette basketball coach, said today he thought the rules should be changed so that offensive rebounds would have to be passed out to prevent complete dominance by big men. McGuire, here to address a dinner after taking his team to the National Collegiate final before losing to North Carolina State, said it was "only a matter of time before somebody gets two 7-footers."

When asked about any rules changes he would like to see, the coach said he would like to see a rule requiring that the ball be passed out when the attacking team gets a rebound on the offensive basket. "This means that when a 6-10 or 7-foot man takes a rebound, he must pass it off before the next shot."

Colas Sets Sailing Mark of 168 Days

SAINT-MALO, France, March 28 (UPI) Alain Colas of France sailed his trimaran Manureva into harbor today and established a record time for a single-handed voyage round the world. Colas completed his Saint Malo-Sydney-Saint Malo trip in 168 days, 57 days faster than Sir Francis Chichester of Britain sailed Gipsy Moth from England to Australia and back in 1966-67. He was expected to arrive last Sunday but lack of wind delayed him.

The Manureva, formerly Eric Tabarly's Pen Duick IV, is the first boat of its type to finish a tour of the world. Nigel Tetley's trimaran sailed round the Cape in 1968 but broke up afterwards. Colas established a major record during his trip—the longest distance covered by sail in one day, 326 miles.

Brazilian Leads So. Africa Trials

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, March 28 (AP) — Carlos Pace of Brazil driving a Surtees, surprised the circuit's drivers today by turning in the fastest time in trials for the South African Grand Prix on Saturday. Pace toured the Kyalami circuit in 1 minute 16.63 seconds, one-fifth of a second quicker than Emerson Fittipaldi, a fellow Brazilian, in a Texaco Marlboro.