

Diary of a Thoroughbred

by Larry Gallone

The horseracing business has been called "The Sport of Kings." Unlike the birthrite that makes a person King, horse racing involves hours of hard work, an intense desire to stick with it, and a strong enough personality to withstand the shocks involved. By profession Al Rose is a pharmacist. His interest in horses began at the age of twelve. His dream at 12 years old was to one day own a winning horse. A little over 20 years later his dream came true.

A yearling horse was bought by LaRo Stables through the Inquirer. The horse had an owner, Alfred J. Rose III, and a trainer, Howie Zucker, but lacked a name. This horse was literally taken out of the field by Rose and Zucker and his training as a race horse began. (The horse was born in a University of Pennsylvania experiment and to this day no one is sure who sired him.)

At the same time, the horse was being trained, Al Rose had another horse, With Life, who had already won three races and was then claimed from Al Rose. Soon after With Life was claimed, pressures seemed to be building from every angle for Al Rose, but he told himself no matter how tough things get you have to Keep on Fighting. In a moment of enlightenment, the horse with no name was given the identity of "Keep On Fighting."

According to Howie Zucker, Keep On Fighting was a difficult horse to train. Keep On Fighting was too heavy, he liked to eat. The biggest problem facing Howie and his wife, Cathy, was keeping his weight down and trim and fit. Keep On Fighting did just what his name suggests. After 2 months he got sick and almost died. Keep On Fighting made a good recovery and was then shipped to Garden State Race Track to run his first race. He promptly popped a splint, a type of bruise, and was put out of commission.

Three years from the time Al Rose got him, Keep On Fighting ran his first race as a four year old at Monmouth and finished dead last. After two other ill-fated starts, he finished second by a head at Monmouth, his odds were 25-1. It was then, both Al and Howie knew they had a good horse, and they were both expecting to put together a string of wins.

Keep On Fighting had a three month layoff between races, then tragedy struck.

On Oct. 10, 1976 he hurt his knee. The injury was so bad they were ready to have him destroyed. In the words of trainer Howie Zucker, "I would have guaranteed this horse would never have raced again."

On November 1, less than one month after his injury, Keep On Fighting finished second in a race at Keystone. On Nov. 29, he ran again with the same results. Once again the duo of Rose and Zucker were ready for victory. Keep On Fighting finished fourth, again re-injured his knee, worse than before. It was the last straw. Al Rose was ready to dump Keep On Fighting.

The doctor's plan was to rest him and let nature take its course. It is here that Dolores Rose, Al's wife, helped him. She advised him to keep on fighting and stick with it. Al, never one to shy away from good advice, listened to Dolores. Nature did take its course, and Keep On Fighting did run again.

On April 14, 1977 he raced at Garden

State and finished out of the money. Keep On Fighting didn't exactly burn up the track but he didn't have to. Fire destroyed Garden State that same day.

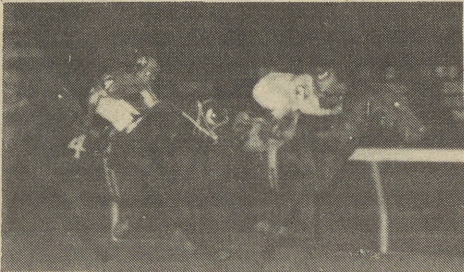
There was no place to run Keep On Fighting in the vicinity, so owner Rose sent him to Penn National, near Harrisburg, Pa., and he finished second by a neck. The bad aspect was that a horse who once ran in a class with \$7,000 horses was not in \$3,000 company. The knee was holding and Keep On Fighting was making yet another comeback.

Keep On Fighting was then shipped to Atlantic City where he placed fourth three consecutive times. Up to this point, he was running in races 6 Furlongs, but his Atlantic City Races were all 11/16 miles a little longer. This reporter saw him race all three times at Atlantic City and each time he was in the middle of the race until the end when he tired out. The jockey informed Al Rose, Howie Zucker, and this reporter, Keep On Fighting would win if he was run in a shorter race. They continued to run him in the longer races hence the fourth place finishes. On June 20 after his third fourth place finish the knee was injured.

Al Rose tried to sell him for \$2,000. There were no takers for Keep On Fighting. The last hope was to race up at Penn National in a short race, in \$2,000 company.

On July 25, at Penn National everyone, including this reporter, celebrated. Keep On Fighting had won his first race ever. His next race at Penn National was a second place finish. His third race was another victory. Keep On Fighting lived up to his name.

In the words of owner Al Rose, it only goes to show you that everything will work out if you Keep On Fighting.



Keep On Fighting

Meet Your Professor

by Judy Brockman

Meet Dr. George Franz, history professor of the Penn State Delaware County Campus history department.

Dr. Franz is originally from the Philadelphia area. He received his B.A. in History from Muhlenberg College and specialized in the Colonial and Revolutionary periods of American history at Rutgers University, where he obtained



Dr. George Franz

his M.A. and Ph.D. At present, he is one of three representatives from the Delaware County Campus to the University Faculty Senate. He is also the chairman of the Commission of Undergraduate Instruction, a committee which initiates all regulations governing undergraduates.

Reclining in his armchair, the personable instructor said, from early on in life he always wanted to be a history teacher, and consequently carried through with his desire to teach.

The major problem he encounters with students is that they are intimidated by their readings and therefore do not question the information; they just accept the words as fact. Of course, he would like more students to become interested in the entire realm of history, but difficulties do arise because there are only three history professors on this campus and a small variety of courses available.

Outside the classroom, Dr. Franz has a wide range of interests. He and his wife have season tickets to the ballet, and in his leisure time enjoys gardening. When the

growing season is over, he refinishes furniture.

This summer, Franz was Project Director and Editor of the Martin Van Buren papers, which are housed at the Ogontz campus of Penn State University. Although he did have a busy summer, he does admit taking time off to enjoy the sun and sand of Ocean City, N.J. with his family.

When asked what he hopes students will get out of his history courses, Franz replied, "An appreciation of history, the ability to think logically and rationally, and lastly, learning how to solve a problem." To Dr. Franz, history is like "putting a puzzle together."

In this interviewer's opinion, a course taught by Dr. Franz, would be beneficial, not only in the knowledge gained, but also because Franz attempts to make history an interesting subject of the present rather than the past.

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STUDENT AFFAIRS —

Faculty advisers should be aware that students enrolling for remedial or repeat courses (such as English 4 or Math 198R, in the Basic Skills Program) may jeopardize their student aid eligibility. The Pennsylvania Higher Assistance Agency (PHEAA) grants are available only to those students carrying a minimum of 8 credit hours per term which are applicable toward a degree. The Agency does not recognize certain courses, including English 4 and Math 198R, as being applicable toward a degree, even though Penn State credit is granted for the courses. It is suggested that faculty advisers remind their advisees that if they are carrying one of the remedial courses and wish to be eligible for financial aid, the students should schedule at least 8 additional credits which are degree applicable. Further, students must complete a minimum of 24 credits per academic year to retain their eligibility.

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9/27 Brandywine 4 Delco 1