

Unsolved Mystery of Devon Loch

UNLUCKIEST NATIONAL LOSER OF ALL TIME

Royal 'Chaser', Out Clear, Stops 55 Yards from Winning Post

By HOSPUR
WITH 55 yards to go of the Grand National at his mercy, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's Devon Loch, clear of all opponents, stumbled, skidded, tried to keep his legs and stopped at Aintree on Saturday. It was, I think, the saddest and most dramatic event I have ever seen on a racecourse.

So E.B.B., ridden by D. V. Dick, strode on past him to win by 10 lengths from the mare Gentle Moysa with the 1954 National winner, Royal Tan, a further 10 lengths away third.

It is unlikely that anyone will ever really know exactly what happened to Devon Loch. It was all over in a matter of seconds and occurred on the run-in from the last fence to the winning post exactly opposite the water jump.

Some held that Devon Loch might have run into a patch of water. I do not think so. My impression was that the horse was in pain.

One of the racecourse vets who attended Devon Loch immediately after the race thought he might have suffered a sudden attack of colic. Another felt his stomach had cramped. An American doctor, who had been called in to see Devon Loch, said that the horse had been broken down.

The latter is known to cause paralysis and would be fatal. The fact that Devon Loch appeared for a few moments to be recovering in his hind legs, indeed, one of his medical attendants thought he had broken down.

THE RACE INCIDENTS
Lucky Davy Jones
Though there is no doubt about it this was in all but a barefaced disguise. It was a case of one Devon feeling extremely fit and another feeling extremely fit.

TO-DAY'S NOTTINGHAM SELECTIONS
HOTSPUR COURSE FORM
2.0-Winkwell 2.0-Heckley 2.30-Master Richard
2.0-Herford 2.0-Whitby 2.0-Whitby

HOSPUR NAP: Spennards (1.30 Alex Park), HOSPUR'S DOUBLE: NEWMARKET NAP: Abergfels (2.0 Nottingham).

When the reins broke and the horse ran out, the other when Heavy took the strong course and was seen on Zahis in 1948.

There is no doubt, however, that Devon Loch was the unluckiest horse in the 120 years' history of the race. It is a shame that the name of the Queen Mother's horse, as E.B.B. was being led triumphantly to the winner's enclosure, should be quietly towards the racecourse stables with a small crowd of people to see her horse was all right.

Royal Congratulations
A few minutes later after the vets had examined Devon Loch, the Queen and the Queen Mother were congratulating Mr. and Mrs. E.B.B., the Queen's trainer and Mr. E.B.B., the Queen's owner.

Though Devon Loch's fanatical support has been a constant feature of the race, it is a pity that the horse's victory was that of a game, though not a brilliant, runner.

Mr. A. Warwickshire farmer, Mr. Eric Bickard, of Knowle, near Bir-

mingham, bought him as a young horse in what and later passed him on to a brother Warwickshire farmer, Mr. Rowley Oliver. After he had been ridden by Mr. Oliver and sold for 2,500 to two Warwickshire owners, Mr. E.B.B. and Mrs. Geoffrey Kohn, who raced him for a time as a partnership horse.

OFFERED FOR SALE
Bought for 7,100
The incident does not do much to E.B.B. and was offered for sale at 7,100. It was bought by Mr. Oliver for 7,100.

As they went away from the stands for the second time Masta-uty and Witty, who continued riding, were three fences from the winning post.

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THOSE VITAL DRAMATIC MOMENTS in Saturday's Grand National (1) With 55 yards to go the crowd cheering his home Devon Loch falls, straddled (2) goes down; (3) staggers uncertainly in an attempt to rise, and (4) finally gets up, with R. Francis clinging precariously to his neck. (Pictures by British Newsreel Association Services Limited.)

Course Notes and Hints
SHIRASTRIN IS BEST OF DAY
BY OUR COURSE CORRESPONDENT
Jack, a winner at Liverpool last week, will be backed to supplement that success in the Nottingham Spring Handicap (3.30) this afternoon.

WAS-U-YU Falls
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Amateur International
ENGLAND WIN OVER SCOTS UNCONVINCING
BY NORMAN ACKLAND
England, against the actual run of the play, beat Scotland for the first time in an amateur international at Wembley.

As Great Britain's side met Bulgaria in the second leg of the Olympic Games qualifying tie at Wembley on May 7 it will be formed solely by English players.

Nothing went right for Charlton at the Valley, but it was their own mistakes rather than Wolves' superiority which brought about their sixth home defeat.

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SPURS AVENGE CUP DEFEAT

MANCHESTER CITY'S LATE RALLY

Both Cup Finalists Falter: Riddle of Chelsea's Decline

By FRANK COLES
WITH half a dozen possible challengers faltering badly, in the run-in, Manchester United and Blackpool are left to fight out the two top places in the First Division. United, more than ever, are pronounced favourites to win the championship for the fourth time.

With six matches left they stand five points clear of Blackpool and no fewer than 12 ahead of Bolton on the list.

The customary three-match-in-four-day Easter programme starting on Good Friday should settle the issue. If, however, a doubt remains as to which of the two will play in the Cup Final, the Manchester club will play on Saturday week (April 7) and Blackpool on the following day (April 14). Blackpool come to grips at Old Trafford.

The holiday fixtures favour Blackpool, whose only journey is to Newcastle on Friday, and meet on Saturday at the stadium at Bolton on Monday.

Manchester are at home to Newcastle on Friday, then play at Bolton on Saturday and Sunday. Newcastle, who did not hold much hope of a place in the First Division, were Mr. Matt Busby's first team built up an unbeaten record in the league.

END OF LONG RUN
Birmingham's Defeat
The final defeat by Birmingham and Aston Villa in the first leg of their first defeat since Jan. 11. It is an end of a long run of 11 consecutive wins which they met at Wembley on May 8, were also unbeaten in the league.

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WARHURST DOUBTFUL
There is serious doubt whether Birmingham left-half Warhurst will be able to play in the Cup Final.

NICHOLLS AND ALLEN ROUT CHELSEA
BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
W. Brown... Chelsea... playing with the ease and assurance which characterized their great displays of 1955.

Nicholls, out of the side for the past five weeks, scored two fine goals and was leading the attack with great fire and determination.

Allen had been in good form for weeks, but they proved too strong for Chelsea, whose defence was often shaky and on occasions in the net.

Nicholls put Allen ahead after 27 minutes from a long pass from Barrow. The latter made it 2-0 with a first volley four minutes later and Nicholls added a third when he moved 3-0 minutes from time.

Arthur Dunn Cup
TOUGH GAME FOR O. MALVERNANS
EXTRA TIME NEEDED
O. Malvernans 3, O. Wykehamists 1

Old Malvernians beat Old Wykehamists 3-1 in the first leg of the Arthur Dunn Cup for the first time since the war.

Old Malvernians' goals were scored by left-winger Maule, both by extra time in the first leg and from a corner after 14 minutes and in the second leg.

Maule's goal in the first leg was a crucial kick that he should have scored in the first leg. The Malvernians' second equaliser, Malcolm, was scored in the second leg.

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FOOTBALL RESULTS & TABLES

Table with 2 columns: DIVISION I and DIVISION II. Lists football clubs and their results.

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BROADCASTING PROGRAMMES

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NOTTINGHAM RUNNERS, FORM, S.P. GUIDE

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OTHER WINNERS

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TELEVISION

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