

The Spring Race Meet.

Amateur and Professional Bicyclists at the Oak Bay Track.

Victoria Boys Make a Good Showing Against American Rivals.

Victoria's riders swept the amateur card in the bicycle races at Oak Bay track yesterday, which is a record to be proud of, when such men as Cooper Harrold, Norton and Selby Henderson are numbered among the contestants. In the professional class Frank J. Cotter, the New Westminster champion, proved the star, with Hall of Omaha his most dangerous opponent. The weather was bright, and the track in perfect order; a well-filled grand-stand watched the sport; the band was agreeably in evidence, and the races were disposed of with promptness and precision—but the wind blew a gale and it was harder to ride a mile in 2:25 than without the wind it would have been to put up a 2-minute mile.

In the amateur class it was a great day for the Perfect and the town. Joe Hancock rode to victory on it in the novice race; Penwill on it took the two-thirds open; Ford Thompson, still another Perfect rider, won the open mile; and Thompson and Parr on a 104-gear Perfect tandem defeated Henderson and Harrold on the two-seater.

The novice race brought forth a string of four, Morrissey (who was thought to have a mortgage on the prize) making the pace when the bell lap was started. He was given battle in the fight with the wind on the last turn and up the stretch by Hancock and Jenkins, and the final struggle was between these two boys. Hancock won out by inches in a driving finish.

In the start of the two-thirds open occurred the only spill of the day, Thompson and Henderson coming down through accidental wild riding by the latter. Thompson remounted and finished the race, but of course without chance of winning a place. It was Penwill who started the jump, about half way down the back-stretch, and although the spurt was a long one he managed to hold it under full steam to the wire, Cooper Harrold and A. Norton making a gallant fight and finishing second and third, respectively.

In the open mile the pace-making was very evenly distributed, and the finish thrilling. In the play for position in the last lap Penwill got in a hopeless corner and Harrold and Norton were about concluding that they had the battle for honors between them. They had not counted on Thompson, who, coming down the back-stretch like a cyclone, made it three abreast in the rounding of the last turn, and a fierce drive home. The Victorian was too fast for the visitors, however, and again secondary honors were their share.

The tandem race was looked upon as practically sure for Harrold and Henderson, the Perfect on which Thompson and Parr met them being over-gearred for the wind conditions. Again there was a fine fight for honors, the Victoria team starting the sprint when they had the wind behind them, and their rivals hugging them close into and up the stretch. The race was ridden and won in the last hundred yards, Thompson and Parr holding the burst of speed that had brought them round the turn, and Harrold and Henderson making a gallant but ineffectual effort to overhaul them.

F. J. Cotter of Olympia took the professional races in one, two three order—that is, he won the open mile from Hall, Marshall and Chapman; defeated Chapman in the match race by a scant 6 inches; and with Chapman won the tandem race. Hall, who hails from Omaha, and wears the Stearns colors, is a newcomer to the Northwest tracks, and a very pretty rider. He rode his first race of the season at Nanaimo last Wednesday, and came to grief before the day was over. Not yet in condition, and stiff from his injuries, he nevertheless made Cotter work to win yesterday, and showed what may be expected of him under more fortunate conditions. Marshall, the first colored rider to enter the professional ranks, proved himself a model pacer and still a fast racer. He is not at present to be classed, however, with such flyers as Cotter and Chapman of Georgia.

The match race was conceded by Chapman on the result of the first heat, he being ill, and two exhibitions were accordingly added, Hall going a flying quarter in 30 seconds and Cotter (paced by Marshall) doing a third in 41. This is still 3 seconds short of the Canadian record (made by George Sharick on the