

Paul Biog Bl.

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Wells' suspension ends 31-year career

By GERRY TIMBERS
Sports Reporter

Mississauga's Daryl Wells, the voice of Ontario thoroughbred racing for 31 years, has been silenced by the Ontario Jockey Club.

The popular Wells, 63, was suspended indefinitely with full pay and benefits Monday following last week's ruling by the Ontario Racing Commission that the announcer was guilty of touting.

The ORC saddled Wells with \$87,119 in fines after finding him guilty of providing Etobicoke businessman Lorenzo Grella with information that led to a winning Sweep 6 bet on Oct. 1, 1983.

OJC president Jack Kenney told *The Mississauga News* that Wells is suspended until the matter has been dealt with by the civil courts. However, a Supreme Court ruling that granted Wells a \$79,199.74 cut of the infamous Sweep 6 wager by Grella has been appealed and is not expected to come before the courts

for another 18 months.

"There's not much for me to say at this point," Wells said from his Mississauga home Monday night. "The suspension doesn't throw me for a big loop or anything. I've called about 55,000 races in my day, and I'm about ready to try something else."

"By the time this thing is resolved by the courts, I'll probably be retired. Anyway, this will be my first summer holiday. There's no hard feelings - I'm just not that kind of person."

The turn of events that eventually led to Wells' suspension by the OJC began when, according to Wells, he agreed to supply Grella with tips on the Sweep 6 races. Grella was to purchase the ticket, and split any winnings with Wells.

Grella and another bettor purchased 576 tickets, one of which paid off at \$237,598. Wells sued when Grella refused to pay up.

While the courts awarded Wells his share of the pay off, the ORC fined the announcer \$8,000 and ordered him to split the win-

nings between two thoroughbred racing charities. Wells was also ordered to apologize to the racing industry and the fans, and given 30 days to comply or face having his ORC licence revoked.

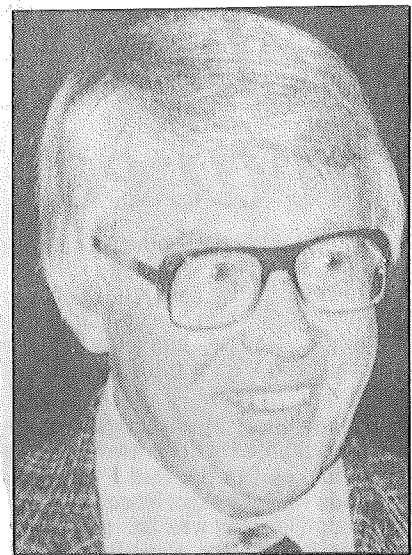
Kenney reached his decision to suspend Wells following a 45-minute meeting Sunday, releasing a statement to the press the following day.

"The Ontario Jockey Club regrets that this decision has developed, particularly in light of Mr. Wells' many years of valuable service to the OJC and to the industry in general," the statement read.

"However, the OJC has an overriding responsibility with respect to the integrity of racing and to the public's perception of racing's integrity."

Danny Loiselle, the OJC's back-up announcer, will take over for Wells beginning today (Wednesday).

Meanwhile, it appears Wells will continue to do racing reports and some race broadcasting for radio and television.



DARYL WELLS

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Wells, Daryl