the heavyweight for Acres event

When he swaggers on the track bowing that sleek neck defiantly, you can see that he is all racehorse. There is something | RUDMAN else about Travelling Victor, an aura perhaps, which suggests that if he were a prize fighter, he would be a vintage Sonny Liston.

In the world of equines, Travelling Victor is, in fact, a heavyweight, at least in Northwest precincts. He has knocked the block off just about every horse he's raced, done it quickly and done it with authority. Which is why you can be certain patrons will be betting him with both hands Sunday in the \$200,000-added Longacres Mile.

Consider this about 6-yearold Travelling Victor: Fourteen of his 19 victories (45 starts) have been in stakes company and he has earned nearly \$650,000. That's roughly \$200,000 more than Chinook Pass won even though Chinook Pass was unbeatable in money-rich California throughout 1983.

Consider also that Travelling Victor has won going short, won going a route of ground and won carrying weight - a lot of weight. Eight days after winning last year's Mile, Travelling Victor carted 129 pounds around Exhibition Park and smashed the track record for a mile and an eighth.

Running third mile "This is definitely the best horse I've ever been on," said Travelling Victor's regular rider, Chris Loseth, who has profited handsomely from his association with the horse. "I always get pumped to ride him."

This will be Travelling Victor's third trip in the Mile. In California. 1983, the R.J. Bennett colorbearer ran second, six lengths behind wire-to-wire winner Chinook Pass. Last year, Travelling Victor scored a three-quarters of a length victory over Night Mover. If Travelling Victor wins this year's edition, he, Trooper Seven and Amble In will be the only double winners of the event.

A Canadian, Loseth strongly suspects that this is going to be where he ran a mile and a Travelling Victor's toughest test quarter on the turf, and that in the Mile, which is being really took its toll on him." enhanced with \$50,000 in Breeder's Cup funds.

to win last year," said Loseth, normally would laugh at. who has also captured the last two runnings of the Governor's race in the Premier," said Lo-Handicap aboard Travelling Vic- seth. "Then he had about a run his guts out again to win it nia. But I think he probably

this year." Mile field is better than last time between races because he year's - significantly better, puts out so much. He's not like a Dear Rick, a Kentucky-bred cheap horse that runs every from the barn of Hall of Famer week. Every time Victor runs, he Jack Van Berg, has been a puts out 100 percent.' successful campaigner at Louisiana Downs, Ak-Sar-Ben and why mutuel plungers will be



M. Double M., conditioned Ron McAnally, won the Pretense Handicap at Hollywood this year and ran second in the San Diego Handicap at Del Mar. M. Double M., who also beat Precisionist in the Silver Screen, has raced 13 times and finished

in the money 11 times. And then there's Somethingwonderful. Last Friday, Somethingwonderful set a track record at Del Mar for 7 furlongs in a swift 1:21, which translates into a 1:33 clocking for a mile. The Longacres Mile record is 1:334 set in 1979 by Always Gallant.

The intrigue of the Mile will involve how Travelling Victor fares against the aforementioned California stakes winners. In the past, Travelling Victor has had only moderate success in their

Victor has never been at his best in California," observed Loseth. "And it's a real shame because, in Northern California especially, I thought he was the best horse on the grounds. He just hasn't had a chance to prove. it. One thing is that Victor just doesn't handle the turf all that

But that wasn't the only thing that kept Victor, who visited California last winter, from impressing savants. As Loseth explained, Victor was fairly tuckered out when he arrived in

Tired in California

."He was behind the eight ball when he got there," said Loseth. "He was just wore out. He ran really hard here in the Mile last year. Then, just eight days later, he equalled the track record in Vancouver going a mile and an eighth carrying 129 pounds. Then he was shipped to Toronto

When Victor returned to Vancouver, his home base, he "He had to run his guts out had trouble beating horses he "He came back and ran a bad

tor. "And he's going to have to month off and went to Californeeded more freshening up than For one thing, this year's just a month. He needs more

That, and the way he runs, is newly-built Canterbury Downs getting down on Victor with in Minnesota. both hands Sunday.

Mora:

By Jack Smith P-I Reporter

Steve Mora began his first interview as a University of Washington football player by making the clear distinction between Jim Mora the father and Jim Mora the

football coach. "My dad hasn't taught me one thing about the game; he hasn't told me anything," the youngest Mora said almost defiantly after his first morning freshman football practice at Husky Stadium. "People think that's unusual, but I don't mind. He wanted me to be a normal-type kid."

His moderately famous father - a defensive coach for the Huskies and Seattle Seahawks before winning consecutive USFL championships for the Philadelphia, then Baltimore, Stars — did produce a normal enough kid, but there is also quite a football player

Wanted West Coast

Steve, whose brother, Jim, was a special-teams standout for Washington only two seasons ago, moved East with his father and has come back to the Northwest as South Jersey defensive back of the year — to the profound regret of Maryland, Penn State, Kentucky and Virginia Tech, whose only sin was being on the wrong side of the country.

all-star game," said Mora, neglecting to mention he had 15 solo tackles and an interception, "seven guys went on to Maryland and

Husky frosh making it as DB without help from famous dad

Washington. Most of them didn't know where the state of Washing-

Luckily, Steve Mora hs never forgotten. "Out of all those teams, you couldn't get much better than the Huskies and I wanted to get back to the West Coast," said the 6-foot-2, 185-pound Mora. "And you can't play for a better coach than Coach (Don) James. Growing up here, all my real friends were here and I was anxious to get back."

Steve made an immediate impression, quickly recognizing the developing pass routes coming at him and shouting the situation to the rest of the secondary. UW defensive coordinator Jim Lambright, whose own son, Eric, is a varsity weak safety, wasn't surprised at Steve's quick adaptability or his relationship with his father.

"He soon showed us that he's grown up around football and just naturally takes control making coverage calls," Lambright said. "Most football dads try not to push their sons. They know how important it is to have individual desire and not be doing it for a hit. father or other family member."

take up the game seriously until e of the country.

"When I played in the state the defensive side of the football. Steve also

Without the influence of the

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the place to be."

known.

Steve Mora made a quick impression in early freshman workouts at Washington.

fill out under the Huskies' weight room regimen, concluded early that it was wiser to be hitting a person than to be the person being

"I try to be an all-around player so I don't think I have one senior Mora, Steve said he didn't thing strong about my game and other things weak," he assessed. "I the seventh grade but had no like to come up and hit people. I

Steve also drew James' atten-"I always wanted to play tion with several booming punts defense - my dad's been around that hung in the air about level it all his life - and it seemed like with the elevated stadium press box and plummeted back to the Steve, despite a frame that will artificial turf about 60 yards away want it.

from launching point. "He has a

Mora didn't think he punted it. particularly well, but then he hadn't been aware the Huskies would draft his punting abilites. Since it is the signature of Wash ington football, he should have

"It's only been the past three" years that I've been punting," he said. "I just hopped in there one day and started doing it, but I've never worked really hard at it." Steve said his own father and most college coaches had told him that New Jersey high school football was superior to the Northwest preps, although it was his opinion; a good young player would be good on either coast. But Mora's respect and pride in his father was evident, even if the effect was

indirect. "It was my brother, Jim, who taught me a lot about the game. and I took to it fast," he said. "J" didn't really go to my dad but if did I'm sure he'd give me advice...

The USFL may be floundering but Mora has only enhanced his reputation by taking a financially strapped franchise — the Stars were actually evicted from their stadium in Philadelphia and still" won a title — and making it the" best, almost by an act of coaching

"If anything happens, Coach Mora won't have much trouble finding a job," Lambright said. Mora's youngest son had al ready found one that morning, On his own, the way he and his father



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Gove wins NW Open TACOMA (AP) - Mike Gove pulled even with a birdie on the shot a 5-under-par 67 yesterday to first hole of the afternoon round. win the \$60,000 G.I. Joe's North- But Mitchell bogeyed the next hole and Gove birdied then went west Open golf tournament. The victory on the 6,331-yard on to win the 77th annual tourney

Tacoma Country and Golf Club by three shots. Mitchell, the Indian Canyon assistant pro, finished with a 69 for his 277, pocketing \$3,750. Mitchell, 28, had shared the first-His 274 total for 72 holes was round lead with Gove at 65.

Rick Acton of Redmond, the champion in 1973 and 78, closed with a 70 to finish third at 280. Defending champ Don Bies of Seattle finished at 282 after a pair remaining when Chris Mitchell of 71s.

course was worth \$6,000 for the

28-year-old touring pro from Seat-

the lowest 72-hole total in the

Northwest Open since Bud Ward

carded 272 in 1961 on Spokane's

Gove took a four-stroke lead

going into yesterday's windup.

But that was gone with 17 holes

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