

5-02P101
47/70

Y O R K
PRECONE WINS BLUE HANDICAP.

York stages Yorkshire's biggest summer race meeting - the Ascot of the North. At the height of the heat-wave - and before basic petrol disappears - thousands of cars brought racegoers from all over the country for the race of the day, the Blue Handicap. Fashions aimed at coolness - thinprinted frocks, white sandals and open crowned hats. As a social occasion, York ran Ascot neck and neck, and as far as racing went, it was much superior.

The crowd waited for the big race - the Blue. The hard ground kept the field down to a handful of runners.

They're off. 11 three-year olds off on a one-and-three-quarter mile course. First, "Castillon" went up into the lead followed by "Mergie" and "Pride-of-the-Prairie."

Up towards the half way mark - the crowd are tense. Now it's Precone in the lead. Yes, Jockey Sime of Precone is up in front, leading from "Castillon" and "Pride-of-tje-Prairie."

It's the last few furlongs now and here they come into the straight. Precone is still in the lead, followed by "Better Catch" and "Firemaster". A Yorkshire trained horse, owned by Jim Jeal, "Precone" (two lengths ahead) leads to the post. Second is "Better Catch" and "Firemaster" third. For the winning owner, a 2000 sovereign prize. For the backers of Precone, odds of 8 to 1.