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ASSINIBOIA DOWNS



The Inside Track | Issue #147 | August 30, 2024



DINING



BET NOW



140 VLTs

ASD Hours

- Open daily from 10 a.m. to 1 a.m.
- VLT machines are sanitized between use

Only 11 Race Nights left

- Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday through to Tuesday, September 24. Racing starts at 7:30 p.m.

In this edition . . .

- What's happening at the Downs?
- Las Vegas Challenge Handicapping Tournament
- Free ASD Programs and more
- Final Monday for Free Family Fun Activities
- Win \$500 Cash After Each Live Race Night
- There's always a Deal at ASD!
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Do the Downs!

Upcoming Handicapping Tournaments

Las Vegas Challenge Tournaments:

- **Las Vegas Challenge - This Monday, Sept. 2**
- Las Vegas Challenge - Monday, Sept. 23



PRIZES: The tournament winner receives a trip for two to Las Vegas and a trophy (the winner will be provided \$3,500 to book their trip to Las Vegas). Second place finisher will receive a \$500 deposit to their HPI account, the third place finisher will receive a \$250 deposit to their HPI account.

Entry fee into the Las Vegas Challenge is \$50 but can be reduced by qualifying on Assiniboia Downs' race cards leading up to the tournament. To qualify you must select the horse that you think will win each race on the Assiniboia Downs race card. Email your selections for that race night to Sheri at sherig@ASDowns.com prior to the start of racing. If you select three winners on the race card, your entry fee is reduced to \$25. For every other race card that you select three winners on your entry fee is reduced by another \$5.

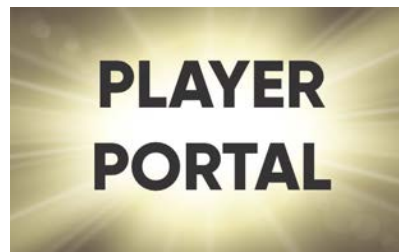
2024 Tournament Winners:

- Player's Choice - Saturday, January 20 - Winner: Ron Phelps
- Player's Choice - Saturday, February 17 - Winner: Trevor Phelps
- Player's Choice - Saturday, March 16 - Winner: Don Allard
- Player's Choice - Saturday, April 13 - Winner: Myron Fedoruk
- Player's Choice - Saturday, May 11 - Winner: Kevin Arnst
- Las Vegas Challenge - Monday, June 17 - Winner: Darcy Penner
- Las Vegas Challenge - Monday, July 8 - Winner: Brittany Jonatanson
- Las Vegas Challenge - Monday, August 12 - Winner: Ken Porter

Assiniboia Downs Player Portal

Assiniboia Downs racing information in one convenient place!

- Free Assiniboia Downs Live Programs
- Assiniboia Downs Racing Selections
- Horse Racing Nation Power Picks
- Jockey and Trainer Statistics
- [ASD Live YouTube](#)
- [Tuesday ASD Livestream](#) with Matthew Desantis from NYRA Bets
- [Trust the Prophets](#) Monday ASD Livestream



Check out our Player Portal [here](#)

HPI Bonuses

- **Saturday, Aug. 31** - Earn 5% cash back on all tracks on Saturday, August 31. Minimum wagered \$100. Maximum cash back \$25. (\$2.10 payouts not included). All wagers must be placed on your [HPIbet](#) account and you must [opt-in](#).
- **Monday, Sept. 2 to Wednesday, Sept. 4** - Earn 3% cash back on Assiniboia Downs. Minimum wagered \$100. Maximum cash back \$25. (\$2.10 payouts not included). All wagers must be placed on your [HPIbet](#) account and you must [opt-in](#).



Free Family Fun on Monday, Sept. 2

Labour Day Monday is your final chance to take in the free family fun activities. The fun starts at 6:30 p.m.

- Bouncy castles
- Face painting
- Live entertainment



Club West Gaming Lounge



Join us today in the Club West Gaming Lounge and discover why we're the ultimate destination for VLT entertainment in the area!

Premier Amenities

- **Spacious Area:** Our gaming lounge provides ample room for you to relax and enjoy your gaming experience comfortably.
- **Sanitization:** VLT machines are sanitized between use.
- **Great Customer Service:** Our friendly staff is dedicated to providing top-notch service, ensuring your visit is enjoyable from start to finish.
- **Licensed Lounge:** Sip on your favourite drinks from our licensed lounge while you play.
- **Food & Drink:** Indulge in delicious food and drinks available right in the gaming lounge.

Draws for \$500 in the VLT Lounge every Race Night!

Every race night a draw for \$500 Cash will be made in the VLT lounge at 11:30 p.m. during Crazy Hour!

Daily Draws for Cash

- **Lucky Stars:** Enter for a chance to pick a Lucky Star for up to \$100 cash. Lucky Stars will be played at various times throughout the day/night.
- **Lucky Spins:** Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Enter for a chance to win \$20 in free VLT spins. Keep what you win!



ASD



This Season we will be featuring a 50/50 draw EVERY race night with proceeds benefiting [Final Furlong](#) and the [Winners Foundation](#). **50/50 tickets for Monday, September 2 are on sale now!**

- The 50/50 draw will be made each race night at 10 p.m.
- 1 ticket for \$10, 10 for \$20, 50 for \$50, 200 for \$100
- Tickets can be purchased from the VLT cashier's cage, Guest Services, from the designated 50/50 seller or online at 5050.ASDowns.com
- Ticket sales close at 9:50 p.m.
- You don't have to be in attendance to claim your prize
- Winning ticket numbers are posted at 5050.ASDowns.com
- Manitoba Jockey Club LGCA-5630-RF-44247

There's Always a Deal at ASD!

\$11.95 Daily Lunch Specials

Enjoy breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks from our Club West Dining Room [menu](#) or try our ever changing \$11.95 lunch special.

Along with our fantastic lunch specials, we also offer happy hour food and drink specials and weekend food deals. Click [here](#) to find out more!



Live Racing Certified Angus Prime Rib Buffet

Enjoy our fabulous Certified Angus Prime Rib Buffet from the best view in the house!

Our Certified Angus Prime Rib Buffet is available every race night. The table is yours for the entire evening and includes complimentary racing programs and tip sheets.

Buffet highlights include signature Certified Angus prime rib of beef carvery, seafood table featuring jumbo shrimp and salmon, fresh salads and side dishes prepared with locally grown vegetables.

Rotating entree selections of tender grilled chicken, crispy fried fish, sticky BBQ ribs, roasted meats and artisan sausages.

Dessert table features warm fresh baked pies and your choice of ice cream plus cheesecakes, tortes and our famous bourbon bacon brownie.

**Please note that there is limited space available for the remaining race nights.
Call 204-885-3330 to reserve your table today!**

Adults - \$54.95, Seniors (65+) - \$49.95, Children 6 to 12 - \$32.95, Children 5 & under - \$19.95

At The Post with G.S. Thompson

Impressive Performances in Overnight Stakes

Mechanic Susie wins 6th straight, Crowds getting bigger, Danelson recovering



Burrow Down makes it 8-for-9 at ASD with her victory in the Coral Prospect Overnight Stakes on Monday at ASD. Rachaad Knights up. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

It didn't take master trainer Murray Duncan long to get his superstar mare Burrow Down back on track once she arrived from Alberta. After an odd shipping-related dull

performance in the Escape Clause Stakes on August 24, the real Burrow Down showed up in the Coral Prospect Stakes on Monday.

Owned by Gerald Babchishin, the 5-year-old daughter of Cigar Mile Handicap (G1) winner Connect had run second and third in stakes at Century Mile before arriving back in Winnipeg, where she truly loves it. Her Escape Clause Stakes was an aberration, and after stalking hard-trying former claimer Jj's American Diva to the final turn in the Coral Prospect, jockey Rachaad Knights found the real Burrow Down loose and it was over quickly. She took over in mid turn and drew off to win by four lengths.

Burrow Down is now 8-for-9 at Assiniboia Downs with multiple stakes wins and career earnings of \$211,632 US. All eight of her wins have come at Assiniboia Downs.



Exacting and jockey Sven Balroop gave some tough rivals the slip in the Nephrite Overnight Stakes on Tuesday. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

On Tuesday evening in the Nephrite Overnight Stakes, it was trainer Steve Keplin Jr.'s time to shine with former \$12,500 claimer Exacting, and shine he did thanks to a cagey ride by jockey Sven Balroop.

Sent off at almost 4-1, Exacting tracked pacesetter Glava from the outside to the final turn and made a quick move to take over midway through the turn. He then gave his rivals the slip as he opened up a 4 ½-length lead in the stretch, and held on to win by half a length over Blazing Bo, who was trying for his third stakes win in a row. And it was only a neck back to Big Nick in third, who also ran his best race. Without the slippery move, Exacting might not have held on over these two, who gave it everything they had in the stretch.

Owned by Drop'en Racing, James Keplin and Parker Walette, Exacting had previously finished second and eighth in the R J Speers Memorial and Manitoba Mile respectively, behind Blazing Bo, but there was no denying the 5-year-old Ghostzapper gelding on Tuesday.



Jockey Antonio Whitehall (left), Mechanic Susie, and groom Kenroy "Cuba" Rowe made it six wins in a row in the first race on Wednesday night at ASD. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

The summer crowds continue to grow, and on Wednesday evening our fabulous fans got a double whammy for their money, as Manitoba-bred Mechanic Susie won her sixth race in a row for trainer Elton Dickey and Gee I'm Foxy made it three stakes wins in a row in the \$50,000 Osiris Stakes.

Mechanic Susie (Nonios-Quantum Mechanics by Einstein) was moving up in class in the first race on Monday, after winning the restricted Distaff Stakes, but she brought her big heart with her and outdueled a game Zorina to win by half a length under jockey Antonio Whitehall.

Purchased for only \$1,000 at the local [CTHS Manitoba Yearling Sale](#), Mechanic Susie has now earned \$111,446 US from a record of 8-3-3 in 15 starts for ownership partners Dickey, Tom Payne, and breeder Larry Falloon, and the 4-year-old filly is far from done.



Gee I'm Foxy won her third consecutive stakes race at ASD on Wednesday evening in the \$50,000 Osiris Stakes. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

The same could be said for 2-year-old filly Gee I'm Foxy, who is just getting started for trainer Jared Brown and owner Railside Stable. The talented daughter of Del Mar Futurity (G1) winner Klimt made it look easy in the \$50,000 Osiris Stakes on Wednesday after pressing the pace four-wide. When asked to go by jockey Ronald Ali in mid turn, she accelerated to the lead and drew off to win by 2 ½-lengths.

The Osiris was the third stakes win in a row for Gee I'm Foxy, who had previously won the Debutante and Graduation Stakes, and she is now 3-for-4 here after finishing second in her debut, with earnings of \$70,263 US.



Groom Hannah Kraychuk with Gee I'm Foxy after winning the Osiris Stakes on Wednesday. Ronald Ali up. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

On a sad-but-looking-better note, all-time leading ASD trainer Gary Danelson is on the road to recovery in a Grand Forks hospital after a run-in with one of his favourite horses, Kate's Princess. Kate wheeled around in the stall and knocked Danelson over last week, breaking his hip.

Danelson's partner Bonnie McCrory drove him to the hospital, where he had a new ball placed in his hip joint. He then got a urinary infection followed by a touch of pneumonia, but by the sounds of it, it's going to take a lot more than that to stop him.



ASD all-time leading trainer Gary Danelson with longtime partner Bonnie McCrory. Happy 87th birthday Gary! (George Williams)

Danelson, who turned 87 on Wednesday, was in good spirits on Thursday speaking from his hospital bed, and he says he hopes to be back at ASD in about 10 days. He was thankful for Monique Goulet, Will Tourangeau, groom Ulrich Bell, agent Tim Gardiner and exercise rider Garfield Dunkley, who have been looking after all his horse-related tasks while he's been laid up.

Best wishes from everyone at ASD for a quick recovery Gary! We'll see you soon!

And Happy Birthday!

Looking for a Special Photo of Your Big Horse or...?
Track Photographer Jason Halstead may have just what you're looking for



Exacting with groom Wanda Hicks after winning the Nephrite Overnight Stakes on Tuesday. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Looking for that extra-special photo of your big horse, one you might not find in your win pictures? Track photographer Jason Halstead takes numerous photos during the races, and not all of them can make it into the win photos. If you're looking for something frameable from your big race, or of your special horse, email Jason at jjhphoto@gmail.com. Prices are excellent! Almost as good as his photos 😊

Top NFL Picks by TravyFootball

2024/2025 Season preview: Finally! Another NFL season is nearly upon us and I couldn't be happier. First of all, I would like to thank the CFL for providing me with something to watch over the last three months. It's like an appetizer plate that can hold me over, but now it's time for the main course. With the Chiefs and Ravens set to kickoff next Thursday, I thought I would do a preview column of a few things to keep an eye on during this upcoming year.

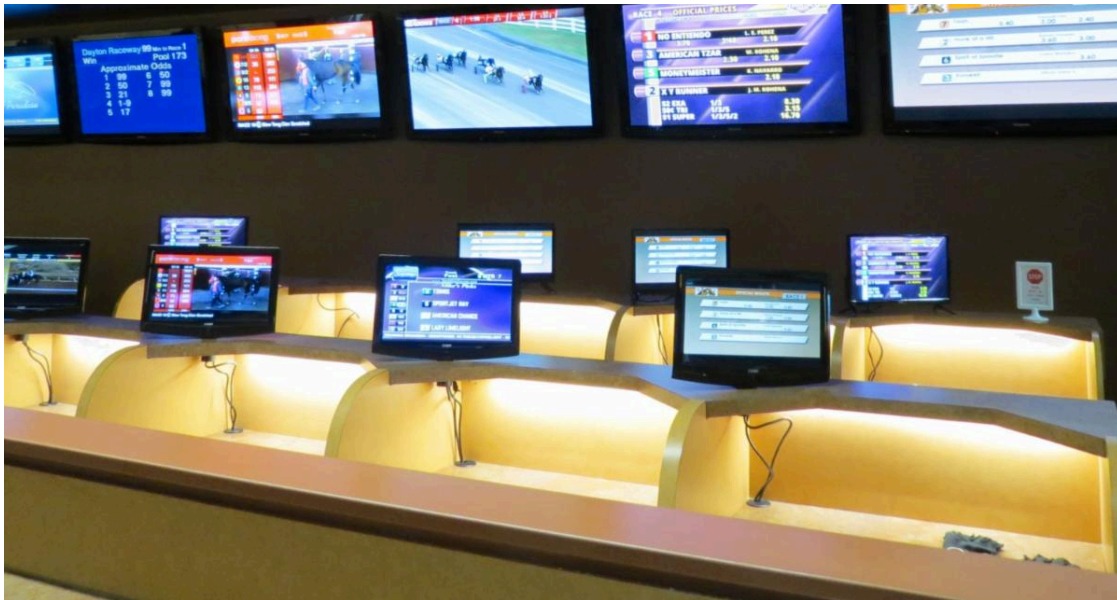


- 1. Aaron Rodgers Jets debut (for real this time):** Rodgers' season was cut short last year due to a torn Achilles Tendon in the season opener. After working his way back from that, the hype for how far he can take this team is starting to gather steam, some even have them making it to the Super Bowl. I have reservations about a 40-year-old man not named Tom Brady, coming off a serious injury, leading anyone to the Super Bowl, but I guess we shall see.
- 2. Can the Chiefs remain the team to beat?** I put myself through torture re-watching the Super Bowl every now and then wondering what went wrong for San Fran. The

simple answer is, it's hard to beat Mahomes. Many of the other AFC teams improved in the off season, but until one of them decides to step up and unseat Mahomes as the king, I'm sticking with Kansas City as the favourite.

3. **Rookie QBs take the stage:** Several rookie quarterbacks have been named week one starters this season. Bo Nix in Denver, Jayden Daniels in Washington, most likely Drake Maye in New England, and of course, the first overall pick in the draft, Caleb Williams in Chicago. I wouldn't expect too much from any of them as they are all saddled with pretty bad teams, but of the bunch, I think I am most intrigued to see what Bo Nix can do under Sean Payton's tutelage. Considering how poorly it worked out with Russell Wilson the last two seasons, it can only go up from there.
4. **The new kickoff format:** If anyone happened to catch some pre-season action this August, you would have noticed that the league has implemented a new kickoff format that was designed to make kickoffs safer and more relevant again. It's somewhat hard to explain how it works so I've provided a video that breaks it down rather easily. Watch the video [here](#).

Wager on Top Tracks



Watch and wager on world class racing from the comfort of your private carrel in our race book located on the 2nd level of the grandstand. The race book is open daily at 10 a.m. Can't make it to the track? Visit one of our partner locations listed below or wager at [HPIbet.com](https://www.hpi.com). Click [here](#) for a list of tracks to wager on during the month of August.

Carryover Watch

- Assiniboia Downs (September 2) - Jackpot Pick 5 carryover \$104,320

See all carryovers [here](#).

Can't make it to the track to wager?

Watch and wager at one of our off-track betting locations:

- **Canad Inns Windsor Park** - [1034 Elizabeth Road](#)

- **Green Brier Inn** - [1611 Main Street](#)
- **Rookies at Central Hotel** - [201 Melrose Avenue East](#)
- **Quest Inn** - [367 Ellice Avenue](#)
- **McPhillips Station Casino** - [484 McPhillips Street](#)
- **Club Regent Casino** - [1425 Regent Ave W](#)
- **Nor-Villa Motor Hotel** - [1763 Henderson Hwy](#)
- **Club 3D** - [3317 Portage Avenue](#)
- Wager 24/7 at HPIbet.com



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- Convert your points to CASH
- Buy programs & DRF on HPIbet.com

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PLATINUM BONUS LEVEL	GOLD BONUS LEVEL	SILVER BONUS LEVEL	BRONZE BONUS LEVEL
Bet \$5,000 or more in the week* and receive a cash back bonus of 4%	Bet \$4,000 or more in the week* and receive a cash back bonus of 3%	Bet \$3,000 or more in the week* and receive a cash back bonus of 2%	Bet \$2,000 or more in the week* and receive a cash back bonus of 1%



Wagers must be placed using your HPIbet Rewards Card. The week (*) is designated as Monday through Sunday. Any bonus money earned during this period will be deposited to your HPI account on Wednesday by 5 p.m. Betting bonus cash is in addition to regular HPIbet rewards points earned. Assiniboia Downs reserves the right to alter or amend this promotion at any time. Bonus calculations are available on payouts of \$2.20 and above. Maximum weekly bonus deposit \$1,000.

"I Won Bigg" Wagering Group

The "I Won Bigg" wagering group will be meeting on the following weekly schedule:

- Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. on the plaza. Woodbine and Del Mar will be the featured tracks this Saturday.
- Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the north end of the Clubhouse. Assiniboia Downs will be the featured track on Wednesdays.

Everyone is welcome. If you would like more information please email [Larry](#).

A Snapshot in Time by Track Historian Bob Gates



2004 Royalty Boy

Today's *Snapshot in Time* is our final tribute to Manitoba Derby winners of the past. Twenty years ago, on August 2, 2004, Royalty Boy drew out from the 1/16th pole to win the 56th edition of the Derby for Owners Antingham, Propp & Gromoff, trainer B. Phelan and jockey Real Simard. Winnipeg Free Press headlines read *Downs Derby Shocker – Royalty Boy steals show from favoured Shanghied*, paying a handsome \$15.50, \$5.20, and \$3.10 across the board. (Gerry Hart Photo)

Arthur's Ride Seeks Whitney-Jockey Club Gold Cup Double
Mott-trained colt tops field of seven in Sept. 1 stakes on final weekend at Saratoga



Arthur's Ride wins the Whitney Stakes at Saratoga Race Course. (Coglianese Photos/Susie Raisher)

The Sept. 1 \$1 million Jockey Club Gold Cup Stakes (G1) at Saratoga Race Course was always on the calendar for Arthur's Ride. His Whitney Stakes (G1) victory was the audible that resulted in a touchdown. Now comes the original target, the Jockey Club Gold Cup at a 1 1/4-mile distance that seems ideal for the long-winded speedster. More from the *Blood Horse* [here](#).

Slam Dunk: Caitlinhergrtness Edges My Boy Prince in Plate

For the second time in three years, a filly trained by Kevin Attard and ridden by Rafael Hernandez has won the King's Plate



Rafael Hernandez guides Caitlinhergrtness to victory in the 165th running of the \$1,000,000 King's Plate. Caitlinhergrtness is owned by Siena Farm LLC and WinStar Farm LLC and trained by Kevin Attard. (Woodbine/Michael Burns Photo)

For the fifth time in the last 11 years, a filly has proven to be best in Canada's most famous horse race, the \$1 million King's Plate, and her accomplishment didn't phase her. Two days after edging champion colt My Boy Prince to win the 165th Plate, Caitlinhergrtness was quietly munching on hay with her blanket of flowers hung near her stall at Kevin Attard's barn. More from Jennifer Morrison at the *Canadian Thoroughbred* [here](#).

August Rain Storms to Victory in Canadian Derby

Alberta 2-year-old champ in Alberta overcomes traffic, rolls to victory for Redekop



August Rain, by Sungold, came from far behind, was briefly stopped in traffic, and then got going again to win the Canadian Derby (G3) at Century Mile last Saturday. (Century Mile photo)

A day that began with grey hoary skies buffeted by a punishing wind ended with a little August Rain. For the second straight year B.C. owner Peter Redekop, trainer Barbara Heads and jockey Amadeo Perez won the \$200,000 mile and a quarter Canadian Derby at Century Mile on Saturday. More from Curtis Stock at the *Canadian Thoroughbred* [here](#).

Fierceness Outlasts Thorpedo Anna in Exciting Travers

Travers victory gives trainer Todd Pletcher the 200th Grade 1 win of his career



Fierceness (inside) holds off filly Thorpedo Anna in the 2024 Travers Stakes. (Anne M. Eberhardt/Blood Horse)

It was generally thought that 2-year-old champ Fierceness couldn't put together two brilliant performances in a row. That thought appears to be fleeting now. In an electrifying stretch battle with the sensational filly Thorpedo Anna last Saturday, Fierceness held on to win the Travers Stakes (G1) by a head. More from the *Blood Horse* [here](#).

Bob's Blog

by ASD Historian Bob Gates

Another week, another anniversary. Fifty years ago, Downs founder, Jack Hardy operated his last race meet as President of Assiniboia Downs. Bob went digging through the archives and found some memories from 1974 that he wants to share. Come September, the Downs was sold to former Winnipegger, Jim Wright. Click [here](#) and relive the transfer of ownership from Hardy to Wright from 50 years ago.





Upcoming events at ASD

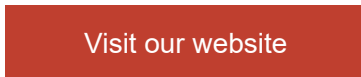
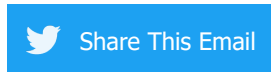
- Lucky Stars - Daily draws for cash at various times throughout the day - [more info](#)
- Lucky Spins - Friday, Saturday & Sunday from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. - [more info](#)
- Live Racing every Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. - [more info](#)
- Draw for \$500 Cash after each live race night in the VLT Lounge - [more info](#)
- Summer of Sound - Friday, August 30 - [more info](#)
- Final Night for Free Family Fun - Monday, September 2 - [more info](#)
- Las Vegas Challenge Handicapping Tournament - Monday, September 2 - [more info](#)

Feedback

We would love to hear from you! Email your comments and/or suggestions to theinsidetrack@ASDowns.com.

The Inside Track Archives

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