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The Inside Track | Issue #152 | October 4, 2024



DINING



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140 VLTs

ASD Hours

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

Assiniboia Downs is Open-Year Round

- 140 VLTs open daily from 10 a.m. to 1 a.m. Free games for cash prizes!
- Wagering on top tracks from North America & Europe
- Daily Happy Hour, \$11.95 lunch specials, evening specials and full dining menu
- Facility rentals
- Special events

Go to ASDowns.com for a complete list of upcoming events and specials.

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Do the Downs!

Upcoming Handicapping Tournaments

Player's Choice Tournaments

- Player's Choice – Saturday, October 19
- Player's Choice – Saturday, November 23
- Player's Choice – Saturday, December 28



Entry fee \$25. Entrants pick 10 races from any thoroughbred, harness or quarter horse track that is racing on the contest day. A \$2 WPS wager is placed on one horse from each race. The entrant with the highest bankroll is the winner.

Prizes:

- 1st Place: \$1,000 plus trophy
- 2nd Place: \$400
- 3rd Place: \$200
- 4th Place: \$100
- 5th Place: \$50

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
- Las Vegas Challenge - Monday, September 2 - Winner: Paul Gray
- Las Vegas Challenge - Monday, September 23 – Winner: Alan Hampton

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.

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!

New! Coming in November

- Draws for \$200 Cash every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Join us in the VLT Lounge every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. for a chance to win \$200 cash. Dinner specials, drink specials and a chance to win some cash . . . it doesn't get any better than that!

Breeders' Cup from Del Mar

Friday, Nov. 1 & Saturday, Nov. 2

- 3% cash back bonus on Friday, November 1 and Saturday, November 2. Wager \$1,000 or more on your HPI account on Friday, November 1 and Saturday, November 2 and receive 3% cash back to a maximum of \$100. (\$2.10 wagers are not eligible). All wagers must be placed on your HPI account to qualify.
- Special Breeders' Cup Handicapping Show with ASD Live's Kirt & Stretch
- Free Breeders' Cup programs and DRF at all locations. The free programs and DRF will be available at all locations by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, October 30.
- Breeders' Cup merchandise draws at all locations.
- The Terrace Dining Room will be open for seating. If you would like to reserve a table please call 204-885-3330. The Club West menu will be available along with the daily food specials. Please note that there will not be a buffet.



\$500 EXCLUSIVE BREEDERS' CUP CONTEST

- This exclusive contest is free to enter and is open to anyone who has participated in at least one of the eleven Assiniboia Downs Handicapping Contests that have taken place in 2024.
- The contest will take place on the five Breeders' Cup races (races 6 through 10) on Friday, November 1 and the nine Breeders' Cup races (races 4 through 12) from Del Mar on Saturday, November 2. Select the winner of each of the fourteen Breeders' Cup races.
- The total number of winners from Friday, November 1 and Saturday, November 2 will be added together and the \$500 HPI deposit will be awarded to the person who has selected the most winners.
- In the event of a tie, the \$500 HPI deposit will be divided equally between all the winners.

There's Always a Deal at ASD!

\$11.95 Daily Lunch Specials

Enjoy breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks from our Club West Dining Room menu [menu](#) or try our ever changing \$11.95 lunch special from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Happy Hour

Daily from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. to close.

Drink Specials:

- 6 oz. House Wine \$5.50
- House Spirits \$5.50
- Domestic Beer \$5.50
- House Lager Pint \$6.00
- Downs Caesar \$7.00

Appetizer Specials:

- Sweet Potato Fries \$8.95
- Chicken Fingers \$8.95
- Cheese Nachos \$8.95

- Pot Stickers \$8.95

All of the above specials are dine-in only and are subject to applicable taxes.

Weekend Chef's Specials Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Experience culinary excellence every night with our Chef's specials! Elevate your evening and treat yourself tonight. Not only are our Chef's specials tasty but they are also a great value.

As a special bonus, everyone who orders one of the Chef's specials will receive a game card to play "Pick to Win" in our Club West Gaming Lounge. Pick the green poker chip and you can spin our cash wheel to win up to \$100 cash!

Our Chef's specials are available daily from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Reservations are not required.

- **Friday Steak & Suds \$29.95** - 8 oz. NY Striploin charbroiled and seasoned with our smoky dry rub. Served with fresh vegetables and a choice of mashed potatoes or french fries. **Plus a complimentary pint of ASD Lucky Lager.**
- **Saturday Prime & Wine \$29.95** - Certified Angus Prime Rib (8 oz. cut.) Served with fresh vegetables and a choice of mashed potatoes or french fries, horseradish, and Yorkshire pudding au jus. **Plus a complimentary 6 oz. glass of house wine.**
- **Sunday Fish & Chips \$14.95** - Two pieces of beer battered cod with tartar sauce and lemon. Served with french fries and coleslaw.



Thanksgiving Buffet - Sold Out Sunday, October 13 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Indulge in a mouthwatering array of traditional Thanksgiving favourites including roast turkey with gravy, baked ham in cream sauce, locally made perogies and meatballs plus all the trimmings, autumn vegetables, mashed potatoes and fresh salads. The dessert table features warm pie and ice cream, ASD's bourbon bacon brownie and more!



- Adults - \$39.95
- Seniors (65+) - \$35.95
- Children 6 to 12 - \$29.95
- Children 5 & under - \$16.95
- Above prices are subject to taxes

The Thanksgiving Buffet is SOLD OUT.

At The Post with G.S. Thompson

Veteran Handicapper Alan Hampton Wins Las Vegas Challenge, Praises Assiniboia Downs



Alan Hampton, Las Vegas Challenge Handicapping Tournament winner. (The Insider Archive Photo)

Former Handicapper of the Year Alan Hampton demonstrated his expertise once again by winning the final Las Vegas Challenge Handicapping Tournament of the year at Assiniboia Downs. His victory netted him \$3,500 and lifted him into second place in the Handicapper of the Year Standings.

Hampton secured the win with a final bankroll of \$104.00, edging out Bruce Barkwell (\$101.70) by a mere \$2.30, followed by Ken Stewin (\$97.00), Randy Premachuk (\$96.00) and Bill Siwak (\$95.50). His triumph was particularly noteworthy as he achieved it without selecting Adam's Creed, the longest-priced winner of the day on Monday at \$63.30, which seven of his rivals, including Barkwell, Stewin, and Premachuk, had chosen.

Hampton's journey into horse racing began in his teenage years. "Ever since I was a kid, I was interested in animals, and horses were one of my favourites," he recalled. "I got my parents to take me to the track. I think I was 14 or 15. I had to have somebody take me. I couldn't bet."

Hampton was immediately captivated. His early fascination evolved into a lifelong passion, and as soon as he could drive, he became a regular at the track. He invested in third-floor box seats and later had his own seat with his name on it in the clubhouse, right behind Phil Kives' box.

When it comes to picking winners, Hampton's approach is multifaceted. As a former accountant, he naturally gravitates towards numbers. "I was always a numbers guy," he explained. However, his method goes beyond mere statistics. Hampton emphasizes the importance of understanding a horse's lineage and past performances. "I took an interest in the lineage of the horses and just, well, trying to figure it out," he said.

One of Hampton's key strategies is to be a forgiving bettor. He advises not to jump ship too quickly if a horse disappoints. "If you get really high on a horse and it lets you down... remember. There was a reason you had a strong feeling. So trust in yourself," he said. Hampton also pays close attention to track conditions and biases. "I think the biggest mystery left to me now when I think about it is the track bias and how it can shift," he mused. He noted how the same track can favour speed one day and closers the next, emphasizing the importance of adaptability in handicapping.

In the recent tournament, Hampton's winning strategy involved a mix of favourites and longshots spread across the card. His successful picks included House Limit (\$5.20) in the first race, Georgiano (\$49.30) in the second race, Lucky Appeal (\$8.00) in the third race, Distinct Tale (\$9.80) in the fourth race, Blue Tango (\$11.90) in the sixth race, and Gallant Oak (\$15.50) in the eighth and final race. Hampton also had two third-place finishers: Load Abroad (\$2.10) in the fifth race and Diamond Grande (\$2.20) in the seventh.

The victory wasn't sealed until the final race, where Hampton made a crucial last-minute decision to bet on Gallant Oak after carefully analyzing his most recent performance. "I watched his last race, and he finished fourth at seven furlongs against some horses that I thought were pretty darn good," Hampton explained. "It was the last second, and I decided I'm going to bet that horse." His final pick proved to be the difference-maker, pushing Hampton's bankroll just above his closest competitors.

Despite his successes, he's won this tournament three or four times before, Hampton remains humble about his achievements. He underscored the unpredictable nature of the sport and attributed his wins not just to skill, but also to luck and maintaining focus throughout the entire card.

When asked about his plans for the winnings, Hampton's response was practical and down-to-earth. "I'm getting new glasses," he said, "And I'm taking the car in for some repairs." This pragmatic approach reflects his overall philosophy towards handicapping -- it's more about the intellectual challenge and the love of the sport than big paydays.

Hampton was effusive in his praise for Assiniboia Downs, highlighting several aspects that set the track apart in his eyes. "I can't say enough good things about ASD," Hampton said. "I mean, for a small track, the fact that they've gone through all the curveballs that have been thrown at them over the years, they really should be commended. They've done a great job."

He particularly praised the track's technological advancements and user-friendly approach to presenting racing information. "When you watch it on television, the graphics and everything, it's absolutely first class." Hampton commended Assiniboia Downs for its innovative use of colour-coded silks instead of traditional owner silks, making it easier for bettors to follow the races. And he expressed appreciation for the track's commitment to keeping fans informed, even during the off-season, through their newsletter, which you're reading right now.

The handicapper's admiration extended to the track's persistence in maintaining handicapping contests, especially in light of similar events ending elsewhere. "I'm just glad that the Downs has continued this," he said "It's fun to do. Keeps the brain moving."

Hampton also noted the quality of the on-air talent at Assiniboia Downs, praising the insights provided during race coverage. "I enjoy watching those two do their show. Kirt and

Stretch... There's a lot of good-natured banter, but those boys know the horses. They say what they know. It makes sense. It's just something else to consider."

As Hampton looks ahead, he's already setting his sights on potentially reclaiming the Handicapper of the Year title. Currently in second place, he acknowledges the challenge ahead but remains optimistic. "I think I have to pull off another top three finish to maybe have any shot of doing it, but there's three more contests left."

"We're gonna try our best!"

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



Damario Bynoe aboard Gallant Oak in the 7th race on Tuesday, August 27. (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 Week 5

Commanders over Browns (Sunday noon): The most exciting player in the league right now might be rookie QB Jayden Daniels. He's exceeded expectations so far and has Washington sitting atop the NFC East with a 3-1 record. He put together another masterful performance against the Cardinals going 26 of 30 for 233 yards and one touchdown while also adding another 47 yards on the ground running. It's only been four weeks, but he's got my vote for early rookie of the year. I think the Browns trade that saw them acquire DeShaun Watson is officially a bust. Unfortunately for Cleveland, because so much guaranteed money is owed, they are pretty much stuck with him for the next few years. I don't think there has been a team more cursed at the quarterback position than the Browns and now they can add Watson to the long list of failures.



Vikings over Jets (Sunday morning): This will be the second international matchup of the season as the Vikings head overseas to face a guy that has given them headaches for the last 15 years. Before you could blink, Minnesota was out in front of the Packers 28-0 last week and then proceeded to do everything in their power to let the Packers back in it. Turnovers and poor clock management led to Green Bay storming back to make it 28-22. Despite the late push, the Vikings held on for the 31-22 victory. Aaron Rodgers has a career record of 17-11-1 against Minnesota, but after watching that mess of a game vs the Broncos last week, I highly doubt he will see his 18th victory against them. The game was so bad, the Broncos QB had completed seven of his 15 pass attempts for a whopping and unbelievable negative seven passing yards by halftime, and somehow, they still won the game. This Jets team, even with Rodgers, does not look like a team with Super Bowl aspirations.

Chiefs over Saints (Monday night): First the Chiefs lost Hollywood Brown to a pre-season injury, then Isiah Pacheco, and now Rashee Rice is the latest casualty. Add to that Travis Kelce isn't quite looking like his usual self out there, and you'd think I'd be talking about a team that was 0-4, but despite all the injuries, the Chiefs are 4-0 and one of only two remaining undefeated teams. It really doesn't matter how many guys they lose, as long as Mahomes is still the quarterback, they always have a chance to win. Last week, the Saints gave up a special teams touchdown and Derek Carr also threw a pick 6, but still had the lead with one minute left in the game. But thanks to a PI penalty, it put the Falcons in range to kick the winning field goal as time expired. That's back-to-back losses for the Saints now, and they don't look anything like they did in the first few weeks of the season.

Last week: 1-2

Season overall: 6-6

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.

Carryover Watch

- Santa Anita (October 4) - Pick 6 carryover \$83,940

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](https://www.hpi.com)
-



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- Wager on your account on betting terminals
- Earn cash bonuses on wagering (see below)
- Convert your points to CASH
- Buy programs & DRF on HPIbet.com

CASH BONUSES FOR WAGERING

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 every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. on the plaza in the Clubhouse. This week's tracks will be Woodbine, Santa Anita and Los Alamitos. Everyone is welcome. If you would like more information please email [Larry](#).

A Snapshot in Time by Track Historian Bob Gates



One of the many highlights of the 2024 racing season was the 95th running of the Winnipeg Futurity. Over the next four weeks, we will reflect on the history of Manitoba's most prestigious race for 2-year-olds.

First up is Beau Orage who won the 21st running of the Futurity at Polo Park Racetrack on September 15, 1950. Pictured above is owner, breeder, and trainer F. M. "Tiny" Holden (second from the left) with Jim Sivewright aboard the chestnut colt Beau Orage. (Historical Archives Photo)

Paul Turney: Horse Racing and a Full Life

Former DRF Writer, Chart Caller, Horse Owner from Winnipeg Dies at 77



Paul Turney (Facebook photo)

Canadian horse racing lost a friend this week. Paul Turney, who had many different jobs in horse racing in Manitoba and Ontario, passed away suddenly at the age of 77. Paul, who loved writing and racing, and most importantly his family and friends, was at the Prince of Wales Stakes at Fort Erie last month with partner Michelle Gillies. It had been a while since Jennifer Morrison had seen him as he moved from Toronto, then Ajax for Fort Erie, but he was a longtime friend going back to the 1990s right through to 2020 when he got further away. Originally from Winnipeg, Paul fell in love with horse racing at his home track of Assiniboia Downs. More from Jennifer Morrison at the *Canadian Thoroughbred* [here](#).

[Deep, Competitive Field for 2024 Champagne Stakes](#)
Hopeful winner Chancer McPatrick favoured in field of 10, Vekoma Rides a longshot



Vekoma Rides can improve off his debut win, above, at Aqueduct on Sept. 14. (Coglianese Photos/Chelsea Durand)

The \$500,000 Champagne Stakes (G1) highlights a strong card at Aqueduct this Saturday and features a field of 10 2-year-olds vying for an automatic spot in the FanDuel Breeders' Cup Juvenile presented by TAA in four weeks. All 10 are trying the mile distance for the first time. Hopeful Stakes winner and likely favourite Chancer McPatrick is one of three stakes winners in the field, which also includes talented recent maiden breaker Vekoma Rides. Analysis from *America's Best Racing* [here](#).

A Full Flight: 19 Japanese Horses Aimed at Breeders' Cup
Forever Young, Derma Sotogake and Ushba Tesoro expected for BC Classic (G1)



Derma Sotogake trains prior to his runner-up finish in the 2023 Breeders' Cup Classic at Santa Anita. (Anne M. Eberhardt)

Last year, eight Japanese horses entered Breeders' Cup races at Santa Anita Park. That established a record, but one that is likely to be far surpassed when Del Mar hosts the Breeders' Cup Nov. 1-2. According to a social media post Oct. 2 from Kate Hunter, a multilingual field representative for the Breeders' Cup, she has 19 Japanese horses booked for the two-day series of races at Del Mar in Southern California. More from the *Blood Horse* [here](#).

The Best of Bob

by ASD Historian Bob Gates

From September 8, 2021: A Salute to Assiniboia Downs

This was the history guy's final blog for the 2021 season as "live" racing wound down with only a handful of race cards to go. The subject was about giving thanks to all the people who made the last two seasons possible – the men and women of Assiniboia Downs. Click [here](#) to learn a little more about the challenges they faced as the racing gods threw everything at the Downs but the kitchen sink. Duck! I think I just saw a sink overhead.





Upcoming events at ASD

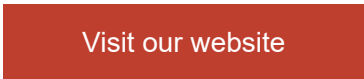
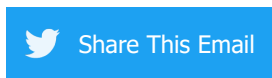
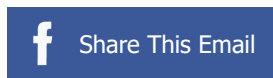
- Lucky Stars - Daily draws for cash at various times throughout the day - [more info](#)
- Lucky Spins - Friday, Saturday & Sunday from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. - [more info](#)
- Thanksgiving Buffet - Sunday, Oct. 13 - [more info](#) - **SOLD OUT**
- Player's Choice Handicapping Tournament - Saturday, October 19 - [more info](#)
- Breeders' Cup - Friday, Nov. 1 & Saturday, Nov. 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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