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The Inside Track | Issue #159 | Friday, November 22, 2024



DINING



BET NOW



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!
- Free Draws for \$200 cash every Friday, Saturday & Sunday at 9 p.m.
- 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](https://www.asdowns.com) for a complete list of upcoming events and specials.

In this edition . . .

- What's happening at the Downs?
- Draws in the VLT Lounge every Friday, Saturday & Sunday

- There's always a Deal at ASD!
- Christmas Buffet
- New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance
- AI Handicapping Test #2. Tough Fair Grounds Sprint.
- Looking For a Special Photo?
- TravyFootball Week 12
- Wagering, Betting Bonuses & More
- A Snapshot in Time: Gary Danelson's 880th Win
- Auguste Rodin, Goliath, Meet in Japan Cup
- Ontario CTHS Launches First Ever Digital Sale
- Big Easy Betting Primer: Fair Grounds Opens
- Best of Bob: A Toast to the Dearly Departed
- Upcoming Events

Do the Downs!



140 VLTs

Join us today in the Club West Gaming Lounge and discover why we're the ultimate destination for VLT entertainment in the area! Our premier amenities include a spacious area for you to relax and enjoy your gaming experience comfortably, great customer service, licensed lounge and delicious food and beverage specials.

More VLTs = More Jackpots! See our recent Jackpot Wins below:

Nov. 21 - Panda - \$1,003
 Nov. 21 - Pando - \$1,250
 Nov. 19 - Big City 5's - \$1,009
 Nov. 18 - Big City 5's - \$2,010
 Nov. 18 - Big City 5's - \$1,145
 Nov. 17 - Sunset Tuck - \$1,250
 Nov. 17 - Cash Eruption - \$1,250
 Nov. 17 - Big City 5's - \$1,116



Cash Draws!

ASD is the place to be every Friday, Saturday & Sunday night! A Free Draw for \$200 Cash plus a chance to Spin the Lucky Wheel to win up to \$100!

Spin the Cash Wheel every Friday, Saturday & Sunday: Enter for a chance to spin the lucky Cash Wheel to win up to \$100 cash. Draws from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Draws for \$200 Cash every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Join us in the VLT Lounge every Friday, Saturday and Sunday for a chance to win \$200 cash. The draw for \$200 cash will take place at 9 p.m.

Dinner specials, drink specials and a chance to win some cash! It doesn't get any better than that!

There's Always a Deal at ASD!

New! \$11.95 Daily Lunch Specials

Daily from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Each day of the week will feature a daily food item as outlined below.

- **Mondays:** Jalapeno Chicken Parm Sandwich
- **Tuesdays:** Downs Burger
- **Wednesdays:** Grilled Cheese with Bacon and Tomato
- **Thursdays:** Taco Salad
- **Fridays:** Crispy Chicken Ranch Wrap
- **Saturdays:** Western Omelette
- **Sundays:** Hot Beef Sandwich



Happy Hour

Daily from 3 p.m. to 6 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

Spirit Hour

Nightly from 11 p.m. to Midnight

- House Vodka - \$4
- Rye - \$4
- Gin - \$4
- Rum - \$4
- Spiced Rum - \$4

Evening Chef's Specials

Daily from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Reservations are not required.

- **Mondays: Chicken Finger Dinner \$14.95** - Crispy breaded chicken tenders served with our famous honey dill dip. Served with fries and coleslaw.
- **Tuesdays: 20% Off** all regular priced food items.
- **Wednesdays: Pizza \$15.95** - 12-inch thin crust pizza. Ham & Pineapple, Pepperoni & Mushroom or Vegetarian (tomatoes, onions, peppers, black olives & mushrooms).
- **Thursdays: Chipotle Mozza Burger \$15.95** - Our signature chuck patty and crispy bacon smothered in melted mozzarella. Topped with fresh sliced tomato, fried onion rings, chipotle mayo and sweet bold barbecue sauce.

- **Fridays: 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.**
- **Saturdays: Prime Rib & Wine \$29.95** - 8 oz. Certified Angus Prime Rib. 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.**
- **Sundays: Fish & Chips \$16.95** - Two pieces of beer battered cod with tartar sauce and lemon. Served with french fries and coleslaw.

As a special bonus, everyone who orders one of the evening 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!



Christmas Buffet
Sunday, December 22
4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Let us do all the work for you!
 Indulge in a mouthwatering array of traditional Christmas favourites



NYE Dinner & Dance
Tuesday, December 31

Join us for an extraordinary evening of dining and dancing as we bid farewell to 2024 and welcome 2025 in style. Our celebration features an amazing Certified Angus Prime Rib

including roast turkey with gravy, baked ham & more. See full menu below.

- Turkey
- Stuffing, Gravy & Cranberry Sauce
- Sliced Ham in Dijon Cream Sauce
- Perogies
- Sweet & Sour Meatballs
- Mashed Potatoes
- Green Beans Almondine
- Greek Vegetable Salad
- Caesar Salad
- Broccoli Mandarin Salad
- Kolbassa & Cheddar Cheese
- Flatbreads, Croissants, Rolls & Butter
- Pumpkin Pie, Cakes, Dainties & Cookies

Adults: \$39.95, Seniors (65+): \$35.95, Youth (6 to 12): \$29.95, Kids (5 & under): \$16.95. Prices are subject to applicable taxes.

**Limited seating is available.
Call 204-885-3330 today!**

Buffet from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. followed by an evening of dancing until 1 a.m.

- Certified Angus Prime Rib Buffet
- Late Lunch
- Incredible Door Prizes
- Free Coat Check
- Huge Dance Floor
- Party Favours
- Chance to Win a Share of \$2,025
- DJ Music & Lights
- Hosted by CJOB's Kathy Kennedy
- See Buffet menu [here](#)

**Tickets are \$84.95 per person
(plus taxes & gratuities)**

Tickets may be purchased from the General Office at Assiniboia Downs during regular office hours (Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) - OR - call 204-885-3330 to order your tickets by phone.

**This event sells out every year so
get your tickets now!**

Handicapping: Fun With Artificial Intelligence (AI)

AI Test #2. A tough competitive sprint on Friday at Fair Grounds.



Horse handicapping. With AI.

We chose [Race 2](#) at the Fair Grounds on Friday, November 22, to do our second test of [Claude.ai](#) handicapping this week. It's a tough, competitive sprint with 12 entrants. Picks and analysis follow below.

Last Friday the AI picked Ethnic Soul (9/2) to win the 4th race at Woodbine and he finished second to longshot Fast and Ready (10-1), which the AI failed to identify. The top three selections by the AI finished second, third, and fourth however, and the analysis was solid. Ethnic Soul also had a wide trip compared to the winner's inside trip, and he was beaten less than a length.

We also tested AI on last Saturday's Autumn Stakes at Woodbine, and it picked Dresden Row (2-1) to win. Dresden Row finished second behind Wicked Django (24-1), which the AI identified as a dangerous longshot.

Below is the AI analysis for the [2nd race](#) at Fair Grounds on Friday. It's opening day at Fair Grounds, and the Player's Choice Handicapping Contest is on Saturday. If the picks and analysis are solid, you might want to give the AI a whirl.

Let's see what you got Claude!

FAIR GROUNDS CLAIMING SPRINT - AI ANALYSIS

[Race 2](#), Fair Grounds, November 22, 2024

6 Furlongs | \$15,000 | Claiming \$5,000

Selections

1. #12 DEEP STATE (6-1) [Fair Odds: 4-1]
2. #6 MISCHIEF'S MACHINE (8-1) [Fair Odds: 5-1]
3. #9 GLENN'S JUMPER (6-1) [Fair Odds: 6-1]
4. #8 MARK THE MOOSE (10-1) [Fair Odds: 8-1]

Value Plays

1. #8 MARK THE MOOSE (10-1) - Back class, closing style fits pace
2. #10 B W P SPIRIT (12-1) - Tactical speed could get perfect trip
3. #6 MISCHIEF'S MACHINE (8-1) - Consistent in-the-money finisher
4. #7 PADDY'S HOUSE (7-2) - Class drop could wake him up

This claiming sprint features a compelling pace scenario with multiple speed elements suggesting a hotly contested pace. The presence of several proven closers and class-droppers creates interesting value opportunities across the pools.

DEEP STATE represents the day's most intriguing play, showing remarkable consistency in his recent efforts. His tactical running style should put him in a perfect position to capitalize on what projects to be a contentious pace scenario. While his recent speed figures may not dominate, his proven ability to deliver his best effort every time makes him attractive at his morning line odds versus our 4-1 fair odds assessment.

MISCHIEF'S MACHINE brings admirable consistency to the table with 17 in-the-money finishes from 33 lifetime starts. His tactical speed should allow him to track the likely speed duel, and his proven ability at this class level makes him a major threat. His competitive recent Beyers put him squarely in the mix.

GLENN'S JUMPER adds intrigue as the likely speed of the speed. The Wilson trainee has proven successful at this level multiple times, though today's pace scenario may work against him. If able to clear early, he could prove dangerous, but the presence of other speed elements makes that task challenging.

MARK THE MOOSE brings back class and a closing style that could prove potent given today's likely pace scenario. His recent form may be better than it appears on paper, and his running style suits the projected race shape perfectly.

Several others warrant consideration in this deep field. **B W P SPIRIT** brings tactical speed that could put him in a perfect stalking trip. **PADDY'S HOUSE** drops in class and lands strong rider McMahon. **RIVER RAFT** offers tactical ability that could prove dangerous at a price.

CONCLUSION

This claiming sprint presents multiple wagering opportunities. **DEEP STATE's** proven consistency and ideal running style for the pace scenario make him a solid key play, while several price horses with positive angles offer value opportunities throughout the vertical exotics.

The presence of multiple speed horses ensuring an honest pace creates possibilities for prices in all pools. Our main strategy focuses on **DEEP STATE** while respecting the potential of several logical closers and class-droppers in exotic wagers.

Good luck!

Looking for a Special Photo of Your Big Horse or...?

Track Photographer Jason Halstead may have just what you're looking for



Top ASD owner Henry S. Witt, Jr. gives jockey Prayven Badrie a pat on the back after winning the Manitoba Oaks aboard his Midnight Lady. (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 12

Bucs over Giants (Sunday noon): So, the Giants have officially taken the "Russell Wilson" approach with their own quarterback, Daniel Jones. They decided to bench him in favour of 2023 fan favourite Tommy DeVito in a move that essentially says Jones' days in New York are done. Yes, he's been bad, and downright terrible at times, but the only reason you make a move like this is because of the injury insurance policy that would kick in if Jones was to get hurt and be unable to pass a physical during the off season when the new calendar season starts. Even more humiliating for him is that they didn't even make him the backup, they demoted him to third string. I guess the positive is that next year he'll be able to start somewhere fresh with a new team. The Bucs are coming off their bye week hoping to make a push to get themselves back in the playoff hunt. Sitting two games back of the Falcons in the division, a bad Giants team is exactly what they need to get back in the win column. They might even have their star receiver Mike Evans back for this one.



Rams over Eagles (Sunday night): The Eagles sit atop the NFC East by themselves after a couple of losses by the second place Commanders. Even though they are 8-2, it hasn't been a very convincing 8-2. Their last six wins were against the Browns, Giants, Bengals, Jaguars, Cowboys, and Commanders, not exactly a murderer's row of opponents who have a combined record of 20-42. Now they have to face a suddenly hot Rams offense led by the ol' veteran Matt Stafford. The Eagles defense might have their hands full dealing with the receiving duo of Puka Nacua and Cooper Kupp, who combined for 229 yards and three touchdowns against the Patriots last week.

Packers over Niners (Sunday afternoon): Well, it's finally come to this, I have to pick against my team, and I don't feel good about it. San Fran suffered yet another last-minute loss to a division rival last week, this time to Seattle. The biggest concern coming out of that game was the injury to Nick Bosa. As soon as Bosa left the game with a hip injury, the Niners pass rush became nonexistent, which directly led to Geno Smith running into the end zone untouched for the game winning TD. For a team that had aspirations of getting back to the Super Bowl, they now find themselves fighting just to make the playoffs. The schedule doesn't get any easier with matchups still to come against the Bills, Dolphins, and Lions, so they really can't afford another loss here. But sadly, something just feels off about the niners this year, mostly the defense that can't make stops to close out games like they did last year.

Last week 2-1

Season overall 22-11

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? Watch and wager at HPIbet.com or one of our off-track betting locations listed below.



Can't make it to the track to wager?

Vist 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

Carryover Watch

- Gulfstream (November 22) - Jackpot Pick 6 carryover \$162,740. Click [here](#) for more carryovers and guaranteed pools.

Player Rewards & Cash Back Program

Earn Points: Earn points for all your wagering when you swipe your HPI card or wager on HPIbet.com. Click [here](#) for more information.

Earn Cash Bonuses: Betting bonus cash is earned at four different wagering levels in addition to regular HPIbet rewards points earned. Bonus calculations are available on payouts of \$2.20 and above. Maximum weekly bonus deposit \$1,000. Click [here](#) for more information.



Handicapping Tournaments

Player's Choice Tournaments

- Player's Choice – **This Saturday, November 23**
- Player's Choice – Saturday, December 28



\$1,750 up for grabs! 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. Click [here](#) to see a list of the 2024 tournament winners.

"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 featured tracks will be Tampa Bay, Woodbine and Del Mar. Everyone is welcome. If you would like more information please email [Larry](#).

A Snapshot in Time by Track Historian Bob Gates



On May 26, 2001 Gary Danelson registered his 880th win at the Downs. The victory with Criso Como bettered the win total of the late Don Gray, giving Gary sole-possession of the Downs All-Time Leading Trainer title. At the end of the 2024 season Gary's health issues forced him to sell off his remaining horse. It was a solemn occasion for Gary; for the first time in more than 80 years, he didn't own a horse. (Gerry Hart photo)

Auguste Rodin, Goliath Face Off In Japan Cup

Japanese have won the Cup for 18 straight years.
Can Auguste Rodin or Goliath upset?



Six-time Grade 1 winner Auguste Rodin. (Benoit photo)

Three international contenders have jetted in for the 2024 edition of the Japan Cup (G1), led by 2023 Breeders' Cup Turf winner Auguste Rodin for trainer Aidan O'Brien. The six-time Grade 1 winner skipped this year's Breeders' Cup, and instead heads to the 1 1/2-mile turf event on Sunday in search of the first-place prize of about US\$3.2 million. France fields Goliath, winner of this year's King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes, and Germany brings this year's Grosser Preis von Baden champion Fantastic Moon to the table. More from the *Paulick Report* [here](#).

[CTHS Ontario Launches First Ever Digital Sale](#)
Digital Mixed Sale offers over 60 mares, yearlings, weanlings



The CTHS Ontario's 2024 Mixed Sale will be its first-ever digital sale in which you bid on its website. (CTHS Ontario photo)

The CTHS Ontario's first digital sale is on-line, marking a new milestone for the breeder's group. The 2024 Mixed Sale has over 69 offerings including: 24 broodmares, 6 horses of racing age, 18 weanlings, 17 yearlings, a stallion season to Big Screen and a 5% share in the stallion Reload. More from the *Canadian Thoroughbred* [here](#).

Big Easy Betting Primer Tips and Trends to Help Win at Fair Grounds



Fans cheer as horses race through the stretch at Fair Grounds during the 2023-24 meet. (Lou Hodges, Jr. / Hodges Photography)

Live racing returns to the Fair Grounds on Nov. 22! The 2024-2025 meet has 76 days through March 23 and will offer racing fans and handicappers some of the best racing and

wagering to be found anywhere during the winter season. The Fair Grounds meet will be highlighted by 63 stakes worth a total of \$8.875 million headlined by some of the most important races on the road to the Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve. More on the top trainers and jockeys to watch, track trends and turf tips from *America's Best Racing* [here](#).

The Best of Bob

by ASD Historian Bob Gates



From May 25, 2022: A Toast To The Dearly Departed And Season #65!

In his first blog of 2022 Bob looks forward to the 65th live racing season at Assiniboia Downs, while also looking back with a kind heart at those we lost during what turned out to be a very tough off season. Click [here](#) to read "A Toast: To the Dearly Departed and Season #65."

Upcoming events at ASD

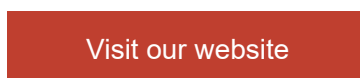
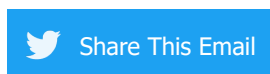
- Every Friday Night in November - Enter for a chance to spin the lucky Cash Wheel starting at 6 p.m. A draw for \$200 cash will also take place - [more info](#)
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Feedback & Inside Track Archives

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



Did you know that past issues of The Inside Track are available on our website? Click [here](#) to read them now.



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