

DID YOU HEAR THE LATEST?

Stay up-to-date with the latest news from Assiniboia Downs.

ISSUE #172 - FEBRUARY 21, 2025



Manitoba/Saskatchewan **Sire Profiles**

Sixteen Manitoba and Saskatchewan thoroughbred sires have registered for the lucrative breeding programs offered by [CTHS Manitoba](#). We continue our sire profiles this week with [Kurilov](#) and [Seattle Serenade](#). There will be an excellent selection of stallions to choose from this spring for Manitoba mare owners!

Manitoba Sire Profile: **Seattle Serenade**

(Smart Strike-Serenading by A.P. Indy)



Seattle Serenade offers an elite pedigree to Manitoba/Saskatchewan breeders

A stakes-winning son of leading sire Smart Strike, Seattle Serenade combines an elite genetic profile with proven racing ability to offer breeders access to some of North America's most influential bloodlines. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about Seattle Serenade.

Saskatchewan Sire Profile: [Kurilov](#)
(Lookin At Lucky-Kossanova by Fly So Free)



Kurilov was a standout performer in both Chile and North America

A Grade 1-winning son of champion Lookin At Lucky, Kurilov brings international class and proven versatility to Manitoba/Saskatchewan breeding programs. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about Kurilov.

Ken Hendricks, Legendary Manitoba Jockey, Dies at 75



Jockey Ken Hendricks aboard Manitoba-bred Merry's Jay after winning the 1976 Manitoba Derby

Ken Hendricks, the all-time leading rider at Assiniboia Downs whose masterful horsemanship spanned five decades, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on February 15, 2025. He was 75. Our sincere condolences to Ken's family and friends. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more about Ken's incredible career.



2025 Live Racing Season

- **REVISED** 2025 Live Race Dates - click [here](#)
- **NEW ENHANCED** Shipping Incentives - click [here](#)
- Stakes Schedule - click [here](#)
- Stall Application - click [here](#)
- Condition Book #1 - click [here](#)

[CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)



Great Food & Value at ASD

Where quality meets affordability! Try our \$11.95 lunch specials daily or indulge in nightly chef-inspired specials. There is something for everyone.

Unwind with Happy Hour (3–6 pm & 9 pm–close) for discounted appetizers and drinks, or enjoy Spirit Hour (11 pm–close) with select spirits for just \$4.

Whether it's a casual lunch, business dinner, or evening drinks, our inviting atmosphere and attentive service make every visit memorable.

[CLICK FOR DINING OPTIONS](#)



See full menu [here](#).

Easter Brunch

Gather your family and friends for a delicious Easter Brunch! Indulge in a delightful spread featuring all your brunch favourites, from savory classics to sweet treats. Make this Easter extra special with great food and warm company.

Tickets: Adults \$41.95 , Ages 6 to 12 \$24.95, 5 & under \$12.95 (plus taxes & gratuities)

Easter Brunch sells out every year so call 204-885-3330 for tickets today!



(Gerry Hart photo) [Click to enlarge](#).

A Snapshot in Time by Bob Gates

Week #3 of our special "Love Month" remembrances pays tribute to Ragtown Rose, yet another remarkable mare. To the left, a very muddied Ragtown Rose is pictured winning the May 17, 1968, Inaugural Handicap with gentleman Dick Armstrong in the irons.

Time has long since washed away most memories of the Inaugural. The race always attracted the fastest horses on the grounds, during a time when special races weren't written for fillies and mares. As a result, the fairer sex went head-to-head with the boys. Of the four horses who won the Inaugural in consecutive years—Ragtown Rose, Astral Moon, Northern Spike, and Rockcliffe—Ragtown Rose and Astral Moon were mares, and tough ones at that.

PLAYER'S CHOICE
Horseplayer Tournaments

Upcoming Tournaments

- **Player's Choice – This Saturday, February 22**
- Player's Choice – Saturday, March 29
- Player's Choice – Saturday, April 26

[CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

Race Administration Official - Competition 43788:
The LGCA is seeking a highly motivated individual to work within the Gaming Services Department, which is part of the Operations Unit. The Race Administration Official position is to provide reasonable assurance that all horse racing activities licensed or authorized by

The Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Authority of Manitoba (LGCA) regulates the province's liquor, gaming, cannabis, and horse racing industries. We license liquor sales, service and manufacturing, gaming employees, products, and operations; retail cannabis stores; and horse racing. We strive to serve the public interest by regulating these industries in a respectful, impartial, and balanced manner.

the Liquor Gaming and Cannabis Authority (LGCA) are conducted safely, honestly, with integrity and in the public interest, and are operated in accordance with legislated requirements. The incumbent may work in both the thoroughbred and standardbred live racing season. Link to job posting on the LGCA website:

<https://lqcamb.ca/job-postings/>

Apply to:

Advertisement # 43788

Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Authority of Manitoba
Human Resources

1055 Milt Stegall Drive

Winnipeg MB R3G 0Z6

Fax: 204-927-5384

Email: resumes@LGCamb.ca



Sandman (Chelsea Durand/NYRA)

2025 Rebel Stakes Cheat Sheet

Sandman, who had a terrible start in the Southwest Stakes, has been listed at 4-1 for Saturday's \$1.25 million Rebel Stakes (G2) at Oaklawn Park on Sunday, and the full field of 14 offers some intriguing wagering opportunities. ~ *America's Best Racing*

[CLICK FOR FULL STORY](#)



Romantic Warrior (Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia/Erika Rasmussen)

Saudi Cup to Test Romantic Warrior's Versatility on Saturday

Despite all the action and high stakes on offer in two days of world-class racing at the 2025 Saudi Cup meeting, everything ultimately comes down to a single question. Can Romantic Warrior perform as well on the dirt as he has on the turf? He'll have to if he hopes to best morning-line favourite Forever Young and 13 additional rivals in the \$20 million Saudi Cup (G1) on Saturday. ~ *BloodHorse*

[CLICK FOR FULL STORY](#)

2024 Sovereign Award Nominees Announced - Winnipegger Among Finalists

Congratulations to *Winnipeg Free Press* columnist Mike McIntyre, who is among the [nominees in the](#)



Trainer Roger Attfield
(Woodbine/Michael Burns photo)

Writing category for the 2024 Sovereign Awards.

The Jockey Club of Canada will present duo Hall of Fame trainer Roger Attfield with the E.P. Taylor Award of Merit at the 50th Sovereign Awards on April 24, which takes place at the Paramount Eventspace in Woodbridge, Ontario. ~ *Canadian Thoroughbred*

[CLICK FOR FULL STORY](#)



Wager Daily on Top Tracks

- Watch and wager on world-class racing at ASD, off-track locations or HPIbet.com. [Click here for a complete list of places to wager.](#)
- Join the "I Won Bigg" wagering group every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. on the plaza. Everyone is welcome. For more information email [Larry](#).
- **Mandatory payout of the Mohawk Super Hi-5 on Saturday, Feb. 22. Current carryover is \$180,331.**



The Best of Bob by Bob Gates

From July 9, 2019: **Larry's the Name, Hunting, Fishing and Riding are my Games**

"In the 80s I had to book-off my mounts because I sliced my finger while filleting fish. In the 1970s I won a leading jockey title, and I am one of seven riders to have 1,000+ career wins at the Downs. Who am I?"
Any guesses before reading Bob's blog story – click [here](#).

Winnipeg's #1 Spot for Jackpots!

More Wins! More Fun!

**FREE Draws for Cash every Friday,
Saturday & Sundays starting at
6 pm plus a FREE draw for
\$200 Cash at 9 pm**


Open daily from 10 am to 1 am


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.



 Share This Email

 Share This Email

 Share This Email



Manitoba Stallion Profile: Seattle Serenade

Feb 20, 2025 | The Inside Track



Seattle Serenade offers an elite pedigree to Manitoba/Saskatchewan breeders

Manitoba Stallion Profile: Seattle Serenade

(Smart Strike-Serenading by A.P. Indy)

A stakes-winning son of leading sire Smart Strike, Seattle Serenade combines an elite genetic profile with proven racing ability to offer breeders access to some of North America's most influential bloodlines.

A talented performer who earned \$143,415 on the track, Seattle Serenade captured the Bull Dog Handicap among his five career victories on dirt and all-weather tracks from 6 furlongs to 1 1/8-miles while competing successfully from ages 3 to 6.

By two-time Leading Sire Smart Strike, a sire of sires whose progeny have earned over \$155 million including Horse of the Year winners Curlin and English Channel, Seattle Serenade represents one of North America's most successful sire lines.

His dam Serenading, by Horse of the Year A.P. Indy, was Champion Older Mare in Canada, capturing the Falls City Handicap (G2) among her six wins and over \$538,000 in earnings. Serenading is also a sister to multiple stakes winner Handpainted.

From his first five crops, Seattle Serenade has sired 100 foals with 46 starters and 17 winners. His progeny have demonstrated particular aptitude in Canada, led by the stakes-placed Seattle Causeway (\$88,222), along with Renegade Serenade (\$79,190), and Serenading Hall (\$64,276).

Seattle Serenade's second dam, Daijin, by Deputy Minister, won the Selene Stakes and is a sister to Belmont Stakes (G1) winner Touch Gold and Canadian

Triple Crown winner With Approval, reinforcing the depth and quality of this exceptional family.

For breeding inquiries and bookings to Seattle Serenade contact Wayne King at 2 Points Ranch in Rosser, Manitoba at (204) 781-0045.

Saskatchewan Stallion Profile: Kurilov

Feb 20, 2025 | The Inside Track



Kurilov was a standout performer in both Chile and North America

Saskatchewan Stallion Profile: Kurilov (CHI)

(Lookin At Lucky-Kossanova by Fly So Free)

A Grade 1-winning son of champion Lookin At Lucky, Kurilov brings international class and proven versatility to Manitoba/Saskatchewan breeding programs.

A standout performer in both hemispheres, Kurilov demonstrated exceptional talent in Chile, capturing the prestigious Gran Premio Hipodromo Chile (G1) among his six wins at 2 and 3. He also placed in multiple Group 1 events including the Dos Mil Guineas. After relocating to North America, he proved equally adept, earning \$269,122 while competing at the highest levels, including a strong second in the Gulfstream Park Turf Stakes (G1).

By two-time Champion Sire Lookin At Lucky, whose progeny have earned over \$76 million including Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) winner Accelerate, Kurilov hails from an exceptional female family. His dam Kossanova is out of a Mr. Prospector mare and became Broodmare of the Year in Chile 2016. She has produced multiple Group 1 winners including Kitcat, winner of the Club Hipico de Santiago Falabella Breeder's Cup (G1), and Group 1 winners Knockout and Kossimo.

Kurilov's versatility was evident throughout his career as he competed successfully on both dirt and turf, from sprint distances to routes. He earned over \$411,987 while winning at the highest levels in two hemispheres, demonstrating the kind of durability and class sought after by commercial breeders.

His second dam Kossakowna, also by Mr. Prospector, is a half-sister to multiple stakes winners including Affectionately Handicap (G3) winner Lotta Dancing and Moonee Ponds, providing further depth to an already accomplished family.

For breeding inquiries and bookings to Kurilov, please contact Dawn Gallant in Saskatoon at (306) 270-1170

Kurilov finishes second in the 2018 Alydar Stakes at Saratoga.

Ken Hendricks, Legendary Manitoba Jockey, Dies at 75

Feb 20, 2025 | The Inside Track



Jockey Ken Hendricks aboard Manitoba-bred Merry's Jay after winning the 1976 Manitoba Derby

by G. S. Thompson

Ken Hendricks, the all-time leading rider at Assiniboia Downs whose masterful horsemanship spanned five decades, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on February 15, 2025. He was 75.

Known affectionately as "Hank" throughout the racing community, Hendricks amassed an extraordinary 1,685 wins at Assiniboia Downs during a career that exemplified excellence and longevity in one of sports' most demanding professions. His overall career statistics tell the story of a consummate professional: 2,385 wins, 2,078 second-place finishes, and 1,982 third-place finishes from 15,013 starts, with total purse earnings of \$9,467,200.

Born on June 22, 1949, in Prince George, British Columbia, to Jock and Queenie Hendricks, Ken's journey to racing greatness began when his father purchased a farm near the Alberta/B.C. border. There, noted Alberta horseman Don Gilkyson recognized young Hendricks' natural talent for riding. His first victory on a recognized track came in the fall of 1968 at Lethbridge, aboard Second Fleet for trainer Keith Trenholm.

Hendricks quickly established himself as the premier rider at Assiniboia Downs, becoming the first jockey at the track to ride 100 winners in a single season in 1975, highlighted by winning the first five races on a card on July 12.

The leading rider at the Downs in 1974 and 1975, Hendricks won many of the most prestigious races at Assiniboia Downs multiple times, most notably two Manitoba Derby victories (1976 with Merry's Jay and 1995 with Langara Island) and an amazing seven Gold Cups. His partnership with horses like Chilcotin

Blaze, Pete's Surprise, and Deputy Country produced numerous track records and memorable victories.

Trainer Don Gray once noted that Hendricks was his go-to rider when the "real money was on the line," highlighting the jockey's reputation as a clutch performer in the track's biggest races. This reliability and consistency made him one of the most sought-after riders at Assiniboia Downs during his career.

Hendricks' final victory at Assiniboia Downs came aboard Accidental Magic on September 22, 2007, a fitting end to a career marked by excellence and durability. Beyond his statistical achievements, Hendricks was known for his quiet professionalism and dedication to the sport.

Hendricks rode in 34 meets at Assiniboia Downs, setting an all-time win record of 1,685, a testament to his sustained excellence and a mark that will never be broken. After retiring, he returned to his British Columbia roots, where he spent his final years.

Our sincere condolences to Ken's family and his many friends.

Note: Thank you to ASD historian Bob Gates for his research on the career of Ken Hendricks.



Ken Hendricks aboard Gladiatore II after setting a new track record at Assiniboia Downs on July 7, 1972.