

DID YOU HEAR THE LATEST?

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

ISSUE #175 - MARCH 14, 2025



Manitoba/Saskatchewan Sire Profiles

We complete our analysis of Manitoba/Saskatchewan stallions this week with our final three sires: Vindgari, Absolutely Stylish, and Hay Listen up. Local breeders now have access to 16 high-quality sires, all with something to offer. The local thoroughbred breeding industry continues to grow at an encouraging and positive rate, thanks to continued investments by owners and breeders, and [CTHS Manitoba](#) reports that up to 50 new foals are expected this year. Love is in the air!



Vindgari's half brother Geri wins the Woodbine Mile (Michael Burns)

Final Three Stallions

Vindgari, Absolutely Stylish, Hay Listen Up

Our final three Manitoba/Saskatchewan stallions all have something to offer local breeders, whether it be pedigree, produce, race record, or a combination of all three.

Your broodmares will find a match somewhere in this mix, and your odds of breeding a local champion are better than one in fifty, based on the number of male/female foals!

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.



Groom School Open for Applications

Over 90 horses are on the grounds at ASD, and more are expected this weekend. These horses are all going to need grooms, and the annual HBPA Groom School is now taking applications for its paid training courses, which begin on March 15.

Groom School graduate and former Groom of the Year Skyla Blanchard loves her job. (George Williams)

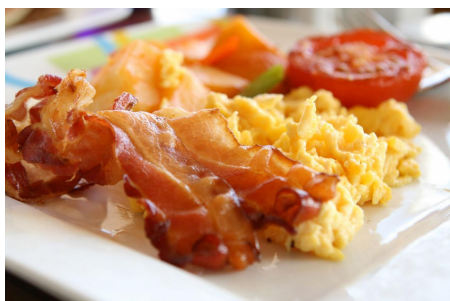
If you love animals, this might be just what you're looking for. And if you know someone who might be interested, please let them know!

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.



2025 Live Racing Season

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

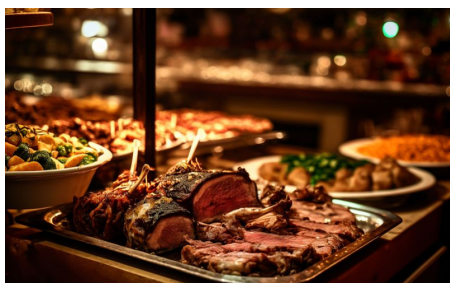


Tickets on Sale for Easter Brunch & Mother's Day Brunch

Tickets are on sale now for Easter Brunch & Mother's Day Brunch. **Both of these will sell out quickly so call 204-885-3330 and get your tickets today!**

- [Easter Brunch](#) - Sunday, April 20
- [Mother's Day Brunch](#) - Sunday, May 11

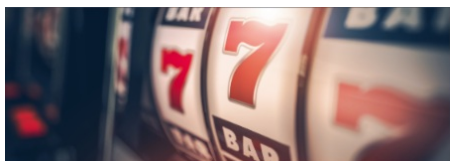
Click the above links for menu details and ticket prices.



Live Racing Prime Rib Buffet

Reservations are now open for our live racing Certified Angus Prime Rib Buffet featuring succulent, melt-in-your-mouth prime rib prepared to perfection, seafood table, rotating entree selections and much more! Buffet prices: Adults \$59.95, Seniors (65+) \$54.95, Kids 12 & under \$34.95, Kids 5 & under \$22.95.

SPECIAL LIMITED OFFER: \$10 off per person for any race night in May. **Discounted reservations are limited and must be made before April 30th.**



- #1 Spot in Winnipeg for Jackpots!
- Free Draw for \$200 Cash every Friday, Saturday & Sunday plus draws to Spin the Lucky Cash Wheel

ASD
Assiniboia Downs
GAMING & EVENT CENTRE

A Snapshot in Time by Bob Gates

This is week #2 of our review of highlights from the late Kenny Hendricks' career at Assiniboia Downs. Click [here](#) to read more.



- \$11.95 Daily Lunch Special
- Happy Hour (3 to 5pm & 9pm to close)
- \$4 Spirit Hour (11 pm to midnight)
- Daily Evening Specials



Rapture has an upset chance in the Virginia Derby on Saturday. (Coady Photography)

Noel's Weekend Winners Virginia Derby and Virginia Oaks

The \$500,000 Virginia Derby will be the headline attraction on a 10-race card at Colonial Downs on Saturday that also features the \$250,000 Virginia Oaks. There are two heavy favourites in the race, Getaway Car and John Hancock, but Rapture is improving fast. Could there be an upset?

The winners of both races will garner enough points to qualify for their respective goals: the Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks. ~ *America's Best Racing*

[CLICK FOR FULL STORY](#)



Secretariat.com has been running Steve Haskin's horse racing columns for years, and for good reason! Haskin spent decades in the backstretch learning his craft, and it shows!

Steve Haskin's Kentucky Derby Rankings Week 7

The dead-heat for top spot on Hall of Fame racing writer Steve Haskin's Kentucky Derby list remains the same after the Tampa Bay Derby, but the big showdowns aren't far away.

This week's update includes quite a bit of information with regards to Thoro-Graph patterns, and is especially worth reading if you're planning on betting the [Kentucky Derby Future Wager Pool #5](#), which opens Friday. ~ *Secretariat.com*

[CLICK FOR FULL STORY](#)

CTHS National Notice on Impending Tariffs

On March 4, 2025, the U.S. enacted a 25% blanket tariff on all Canadian goods entering the country. While



the measure has been tabled until April 2, if implemented, it will apply to purebred breeding and racing animals, including live horses, each time they cross the border. To help members understand the impact of these tariffs on the Canadian thoroughbred industry, the CTHS has received documentation from the Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and our border broker network.~ *Canadian Thoroughbred*

[CLICK FOR FULL STORY](#)

The Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society has received documentation on tariffs from the Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.



- Earn Points for Wagering
- Wagering Bonuses
- HPIbet.com Wagering Promotions



The Best of Bob by Bob Gates

From August 13, 2019: “Wacing’s” Weird and Wacky

From the annals of Winnipeg turf lore, historian Bob delves into weird and wondrous oddities from the Downs and Polo Park. Bob has collected some wacky, yet marvelous tidbits – click [here](#) for more.

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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Stallion Profiles: Vindgari, Absolutely Stylish, Hay Listen Up

Mar 13, 2025 | [The Inside Track](#)



Saskatchewan sire Vindgari is a half brother to Grade 1 stakes winner Geri, shown here winning the 1997 Woodbine Mile. (Michael Burns photo)

by G. S. Thompson

We complete our analysis of Manitoba/Saskatchewan stallions this week with our final three sires: Vindgari, Absolutely Stylish, and Hay Listen up. Local breeders now have access to 16 high quality stallions, all with something to offer. The local thoroughbred breeding industry continues to grow at an encouraging and positive rate, thanks to continued investments by owners and breeders, and CTHS Manitoba reports that up to 50 new foals are expected this year. Love is in the air!

Saskatchewan Stallion Profile: Vindgari (Vindication-Garimpeiro by Mr. Prospector)

A son of Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner and champion Vindication, Vindgari offers breeders access to an impressive pedigree that combines classic performance with commercial appeal.

Vindgari won five times and earned \$114,135. Local fans will remember him for his classy efforts and second place finishes in the Gold Cup, Free Press and Wheat City Stakes at Assiniboia Downs. By champion Vindication, a son of Seattle Slew, Vindgari represents a sire line known for speed, precocity, and classic ability. Vindication's offspring earned over \$24 million and included graded stakes winners Free Judgement, Broadway's Alibi, and Dust and Diamonds.

Vindgari is out of Garimpeiro, a daughter of the legendary sire Mr. Prospector. This female family has produced multiple Grade 1 winners, and Vindgari is a half-brother to Oaklawn Park Handicap (G1) and \$1.7 million earner Geri, Clark Handicap (G2) winner and millionaire A.P. Arrow, and stakes winners Clure and Almonsoon. The latter mare is also a stakes producer and this powerful female line traces back to Far Flying, a multiple graded stakes performer and producer and a half-sister to champion 3-year-old filly Sacahuista.

Vindgari has sired 19 foals of racing age, 13 starters, and five winners including 12-time local winner Not Afraid. Vindgari offers breeders a combination of an outstanding pedigree, proven race record, and the ability to sire consistent regional performers, making him a valuable option for breeders looking to produce competitive runners.

For breeding inquiries and bookings to Vindgari, please contact Rose Backlund at (306) 567-8566.



Absolutely Stylish is a son of champion and influential sire Uncle Mo, shown here winning the 2010 Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1). (Barbara D. Livingston photo)

Saskatchewan Stallion Profile: Absolutely Stylish (Uncle Mo-Circumstance by Vindication)

A son of champion and influential sire Uncle Mo, Absolutely Stylish offers breeders access to one of North America's most successful commercial bloodlines combined with a proven race record.

Absolutely Stylish won five times, and his victories included the S.W. Randall Plate Handicap at Hastings Park. By phenomenal sire and champion Uncle Mo, winner of the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1), Absolutely Stylish represents one of today's most commercially relevant sire lines. Uncle Mo has established himself among North America's elite stallions with 109 stakes winners including Kentucky Derby (G1) winning champion Nyquist, Breeders' Cup winners Golden Pal and Adare Manor, and champions in multiple countries.

On his dam's side, Absolutely Stylish is out of Circumstance, a daughter of Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner and successful sire Vindication. His second dam Scapegoat, by Forty Niner, is a half-sister to Breeders' Futurity (G2) winner Highland Park and stakes winner All About Style. This is the same female family that produced graded stakes winners Dark Nile, Lou Brissie and Thatlookonyerface.

Absolutely Stylish is just getting started on his breeding career with four foals of racing age to date. His dam has produced six winners from seven to race, including stakes-placed Al Heybay and \$264,335 earner Hoffenheim, suggesting his ability to pass on precocity and racing talent.

Absolutely Stylish offers Manitoba breeders access to the highly commercial Uncle Mo sire line and gives breeders an exceptional opportunity to tap into one of the most successful bloodlines in North America.

For breeding inquiries and bookings to Absolutely Stylish, please contact Ryan Preece at (306) 240-7769.



Hay Listen Up is a son of Haynesfield, shown here winning the 2010 Jockey Club Gold Cup (G1). (Adam Coglianese photo)

Manitoba Stallion Profile: Hay Listen Up (Haynesfield-You'renotlistening by Kennedy Road)

A well-bred son of Grade 1 winner Haynesfield, Hay Listen Up offers Manitoba breeders access to a compelling combination of speed, stamina, and exceptional female family influences.

A winner on the track, Hay Listen Up is by Jockey Club Gold Cup (G1) winner Haynesfield, and represents a sire line known for producing versatile, competitive runners. Haynesfield has established himself as a successful sire with 10 stakes winners from 10 crops, including Grade 3 winner Hay Dakota, as well as multiple stakes winners Realm, No Hayne No Gayne, and My Sister Madi. His progeny have earned over \$16.5 million, demonstrating both quality and consistency.

On his dam's side, Hay Listen Up comes from an exceptional female family. His dam, You'renotlistening, won the Interborough Handicap (G3) and earned \$372,000. She has produced multiple stakes horses, including stakes winner Your Bluffing (\$542,031) and the multiple graded stakes-placed Nacho Friend (\$398,406). His female family is filled with black type, including Hopeful Stakes (G1) winner Currency Swap, Buffalo Trace Franklin County Stakes (G3) winner Chanteline, and Los Angeles Handicap (G3) winner Black Jack Road.

This rich pedigree combines influences from champion sires Speightstown and Gone West on his sire's side with the proven production record of You'renotlistening on his dam's side, creating a balanced genetic profile that should appeal to a wide range of mares. Hay Listen Up's strong pedigree and exceptional female family offer breeders access to bloodlines that have consistently produced quality runners at all levels of competition.

For breeding inquiries and bookings to Hay Listen Up, please contact Trevor Goulet at (204) 437-2349.

Groom School Open for Applications

Mar 13, 2025 | [The Inside Track](#)



Hannah Kraychuk has been grooming horses for trainer Jared Brown for four years. She loves her work. And her horses. (George Williams)

Learn How to Become a Racehorse Groom!

Spring training is underway and the annual Manitoba HBPA Groom School is now taking applications for its paid training course. If you love animals and rewarding physical work, this might be just what you're looking for.

The course will teach you how to groom racehorses, and is open to anyone aged 16-29. The 130 hours of paid training over four weeks include one week of classroom training and three weeks of hands-on training with the horses in the Assiniboia Downs backstretch.

Training classes start every week beginning in mid March, and the best part: the HBPA will assist you in finding a position as a groom afterward!



Groom School graduate and former Groom of the Year Skyla Blanchard loves her job. (George Williams)

While experience doing physical work, especially with animals, might make you a perfect fit for this program, don't rule it out even if you have no experience with animals. Some people are absolute naturals with horses, and they might not even know it.

The best grooms will tell you that they form a special bond with their horses, and it is one of the most satisfying feelings you will ever have.

Time spent with horses is good for the soul.



Clairmont Parris has been grooming horses at ASD for 15 years. (George Williams)

Applications can be emailed to the [Manitoba HBPA](mailto:hbpamanitoba@mymts.net) at hbpamanitoba@mymts.net.

Snapshot in Time by Bob Gates

Mar 12, 2025 | [The Inside Track](#)



This is Week #2 of our review of highlights from the late Kenny Hendricks' career at Assiniboia Downs. On October 8, 1978 Merry's Jay scored an upset win over heavily favoured Island Fling in the 21st Running of the Gold Cup. It was Hank's third win in the classic and a race that he would go on to win a record-setting seven times. (Gerry Hart photo)