

DID YOU HEAR THE LATEST?

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

ISSUE #179 - APRIL 11, 2025



Trainer Judy Hunter has won 459 races and numerous stakes during her 47-year career, winning at a 21-percent clip.

Judy Hunter: Saskatchewan Racing

Royalty at ASD

When Judy Hunter walks through the backstretch at Assiniboia Downs, you can feel the weight of racing history moving alongside her.

At 65, the former Saskatchewan training champion brings with her not just 21 horses for Perry Pellerin's Dark Cloud Stable, but decades of hard-won racing wisdom forged on the prairie circuit, winning 459 races at a 21-percent clip, including multiple stakes.

CLICK HERE to learn more about Judy.

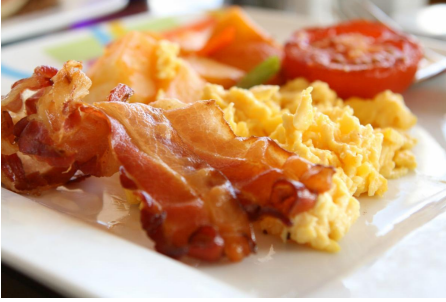


2025 Live Racing Season

- 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](#)

Easter Brunch and Mother's Day Brunch

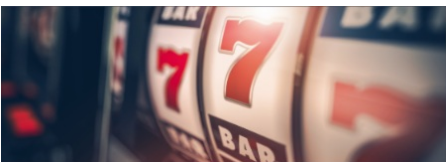
Easter Brunch and Mother's Day Brunch are both SOLD OUT.



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 6 to 12 years old \$34.95, Kids 5 & under \$22.95.

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



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



[Click to enlarge photo](#)

A Snapshot in Time by Bob Gates

Arguably, Irwin Driedger's win aboard Chad's Champ on August 2, 1978 may not go down as a particularly memorable one, but we're sure some will recall Chad. On June 11, 1975, Chad (#6) and Stevie's Wonder (#10) combined for a then-record Exacta when the #6 and #10 combination paid \$1,249.20. (Gerry Hart photo)



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



Western Canadian Derby Series News

\$100,000 Derby Bonus and \$25,000 Owner-Trainer Bonus

With Western Canadian race meets launching in May, the 2025 Western Canadian Derby Series promises to



The Western Canadian Derby Series offers a \$100,000 bonus to any horse that can sweep the Manitoba Derby, Canadian Derby and BC Derby, plus a lucrative owner-trainer bonus.

elevate an already thrilling season of Thoroughbred racing across Western Canada.

A \$100,000 Derby Bonus awaits any three-year-old daring enough to sweep all three races, bolstered by the Manitoba Derby's return to the series alongside the Canadian Derby and BC Derby. A \$25,000 Owner-Trainer Bonus will further stoke the competition. ~ CanadianThoroughbred.com

[CLICK FOR FULL STORY](#)



- Wager on Top Tracks
- Simulcast Schedule
- Off-Track Betting Locations



Mandatory Payout Alerts:

- Mohawk Park will have a mandatory payout of the Jackpot Hi-5 on Saturday, April 12. The current carryover is \$179,930.
- Gulfstream Park will have a mandatory payout of the Jackpot Pick 6 on Sunday, April 13. The current carryover is \$455,070.



Secretariat.com has been running Hall of Fame writer 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 11**

Steve Haskin's top two Kentucky Derby selections Journalism and Sovereignty, haven't changed after the Wood Memorial, Santa Anita Derby last Saturday, but he's moved Tuesday's Blue Grass Stakes winner Burnham Square into the fourth spot behind Tappan Street.

If all goes according to plan, the Kentucky Derby is shaping up as a battle between two classic, regally bred horses, who are both strong closers. The best in the East vs the best in the West. ~ Secretariat.com

[CLICK FOR FULL STORY](#)



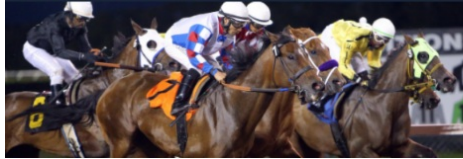
Rodriguez was impressive winning the Wood Memorial at Aqueduct for trainer Bob Baffert. (Coglianese

Three Heating Up After Latest Kentucky **Derby Preps**

Wood Memorial winner Rodriguez, Blue Grass Stakes winner Burnham Square, and Blue Grass runner-up East Avenue have moved into the serious Kentucky Derby conversations.

Will their credentials be good enough to seriously challenge Santa Anita Derby winner Journalism and Florida Derby runner-up Sovereignty? Mike Curry of America's Best Racing takes a closer look for the

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[The Best of Bob by Bob Gates](#)

From May 23, 2024: The Stories We Leave Behind

This week's history blog features a potpourri of memories that came to our history guy through a special inspiration. Who knew that an everyday activity would kick-start a story from our racing past? Well, it certainly did for Bob, and he shares with us an idea to help preserve that history. Click [here](#) to learn more about the inspiration behind Bob's story this week.

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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Judy Hunter: Saskatchewan Racing Royalty at ASD

Apr 10, 2025 | The Inside Track



Trainer Judy Hunter has won 459 races at a 21-percent clip over the course of her 47-year career. (George Williams)

by G. S. Thompson

When Judy Hunter walks through the backstretch at Assiniboia Downs, you can feel the weight of racing history moving alongside her. At 65, the former Saskatchewan training champion brings with her not just 21 horses for Perry Pellerin's Dark Cloud Stable, but decades of hard-won racing wisdom forged on the prairie circuit.

"I wrote my trainer's test in 1977 for Bert Blake when he was a steward in Regina," said Hunter, looking back on a 47-year career. "I was 17."

Born and raised on a farm seven miles south of Moose Jaw, Hunter was "one of those horse crazy kids" whose parents bought her first racehorse when she was about 10 years old. That childhood fascination blossomed into a formidable career that saw her become the first woman ever to win a training title at a recognized track.

"I think I was 24 the first time I was the leading trainer at Marquis Downs," said Hunter. While she couldn't remember how many titles she had won, she easily recalled one of her top horses, Zance, a big gray who compiled a remarkable record of 24 wins from 65 starts including numerous stakes.

“He won them all,” said Hunter. “He made over a hundred thousand scratching it out in Saskatchewan. And you know



Multiple stakes-winning trainer Judy Hunter at ASD.

Hunter stepped away from training in 1988 to become a pharmacy technician but “hated being locked inside,” explaining why the allure of horse racing eventually pulled her back. She was managing the farm in Saskatchewan this winter, and last year, she served as assistant trainer to her niece Jamie Hartmann at ASD. This year, they’ve swapped roles, with Hunter listed as trainer and Hartmann as groom.

Hunter is overseeing a string primarily made up of two and three-year-old maidens, but they have been in training since February on the farm in Saskatchewan. David Horton and Assiniboia Downs jockey Sven Balroop were exercising the horses for Hunter on the farm this winter.

“I could work 15 head tomorrow,” said Hunter, who is looking forward to the main track opening this week.

For all her accomplishments, Hunter remains refreshingly understated. When asked to pose for a photo, she said, “I don’t need the publicity.” What she does need, what draws her back to the racetrack year after year despite Saskatchewan racing’s demise, is the connection to the animals and the lifestyle.

“Where you’re racing, that’s where you build your home, your life,” she says, capturing in a single sentence why Saskatchewan horsepeople feel so adrift without their home circuit.

Hunter’s team currently includes grooms Christopher Gaskin, Alissa Anslow and Essal Kalim. Hartmann is expected to join her aunt before the live racing meet begins on Tuesday, May 13.

Hunter won numerous stakes in Saskatchewan including the Saskatchewan Derby more than once, most recently in 2019 with Rox Star Believeit. Her career record stands at 459-367-339 from 2,174 starts, good for a 21-percent win clip, with 54 percent of her starters finishing in the money.

Not to be underestimated.



Trainer Judy Hunter has won numerous stakes during her career, including the Saskatchewan Derby more than once. (George Williams)