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

ISSUE #183 - MAY 9, 2025



Live Racing starts this Tuesday, May 13

Live racing returns to Assiniboia Downs this Tuesday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m.! Enjoy the thrill of the races with free admission and parking, plus an exciting lineup of free family fun starting at 6:30 p.m. Bring the kids early for face painting, bouncy castles, and lively children's entertainment — it's the perfect way to kick off the live racing season!

Live racing starts this Tuesday, May 13. Free admission & parking!

Want to watch the Jets game? No worries, we've got you covered! TVs will be showing the Jets game throughout the facility.



2024 ASD Leading Rider Prayven Badrie with his double stakes-winner Blazing Bo in trainer Mike Nault's barn. (George Williams)

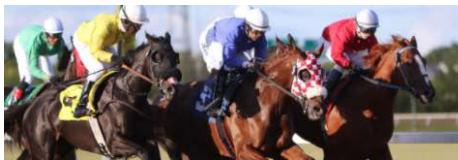
Badrie Back! Ready to Defend Title!

Jockey Prayven Badrie is back to defend his 2024 riding title, and he's ready! But he'll have quite a bit of competition for top spot when the live race meeting kicks off on Tuesday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m. with the Don Gray Memorial.

There are over 15 jockeys here already and more on the way, with 2024 runner-up Damario Bynoe and three-time champion Antonio Whitehall leading the hungry pack.

And the race for the 2025 trainer title is wide open.

CLICK HERE to find out why.



ASD Player Portal

- Free ASD Live Racing Programs
- Race Night Selections
- Links to Player Podcasts & more



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, chicken, 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.



- #1 Spot in Winnipeg for VLT Jackpots!
- Free \$500 Cash Draw after every live race night
- Free \$200 Cash Draw plus draws to Spin the Lucky Cash Wheel every Friday, Saturday & Sunday starting at 6 pm



[Click to enlarge photo](#)

A Snapshot in Time by Bob Gates

With the 2025 Opening Night just around the corner, we're taking a nostalgic look back at some memorable moments from past openers. This week's flashback goes all the way to June 24, 1960—65 years ago—when Great Folly, owned by JY Stable, claimed victory in the third race of the day. The horse was trained by a very young-looking Bill Teske (seen standing behind Mrs. Hardy on the left), with James Vinson aboard in the irons. (Howell family photo)



- \$13.95 Daily Lunch Special
- Happy Hour (3 to 5pm & 9pm to close)
- Crazy Hour after Live Racing! Beer, Shots & Wine \$5 plus 25% off all appetizers



Sovereignty wins the 151st Kentucky Derby. (Churchill Downs Press)

Sovereignty Wins 151st Kentucky Derby **Trainer Bill Mott gives Godolphin its first Derby win**

Blue on blue. Just over 24 hours after his filly Good Cheer won the Kentucky Oaks, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the ruler of Dubai, vice president and prime minister of the United Arab Emirates, won his first Kentucky Derby, when Sovereignty brought the Godolphin blue home first in a powerful finish for Hall of Fame trainer Bill Mott and jockey Junior Alvarado.

-- [Canadian Thoroughbred](#)

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



Hill Road has been listed as the 5/2 second choice in the Peter Pan Stakes on Saturday. (Patrick McCann / Racing Post)

Peter Pan Stakes at a Glance **10 Rivals prep for Belmont Stakes on Saturday**

While the Triple Crown races consume most of the oxygen surrounding 3-year-old racehorses every spring, the Peter Pan Stakes this Saturday has served as a stepping stone to the Belmont Stakes for stars including Tonalist in 2014 and Arcangelo in 2023.

This year's edition drew 10 entrants, including several coming out of prep races on the Triple Crown trail, as well as a handful of promising prospects making their stakes debut at the Belmont at the Big A meet.

-- [America's Best Racing](#)

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Kentucky Derby winner Sovereignty has arrived at Saratoga in great shape!
(Nellie Carlson / Paulick Report)

Kentucky Derby Winner Sovereignty **'Came Off The Van Like A Tiger' in Saratoga**

Kentucky Derby-winner Sovereignty, who will not contest the Preakness Stakes, arrived early Thursday morning at Saratoga Race Course to begin his preparations for the Grade 1, \$2 million Belmont Stakes presented by NYRA Bets on June 7 at the Spa.

"He came off the van like a tiger," said Mott, now a two-time Kentucky Derby-winning conditioner after saddling Country House in 2019. "He's had good energy for a horse that just ran a race like that."

-- [Paulick Report](#)

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Celebration of Life

There will be a Celebration of Life for Michael Olito on Monday, May 19 at 5 p.m. at the Howden Community Centre, 1078 Red River Drive, south of St. Norbert. A longtime horse owner at Assiniboia Downs, Michael was also a well-known artist, and there will be a display of his artwork at the Celebration.



Bob's Blog -- Opening Day 2025

We're back! After a 7½-month break from writing his stories for the Downs history blog, Bob is back at it. This is his first entry of the year, and he has plans for a total of 22 stories this season. This week, the history guy talks about the highlights from 2024, Manitoba Jockey Club news, and what's in store for the season ahead. He even has an update on the whereabouts of the Downs' all-time leading trainer, Gary Danelson. Click [here](#) for Bob's inaugural blog story for the 2025 season of live racing.

Feedback & Inside Track Archives

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

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Badrie Back! Ready to Defend Title on Opening Night!

May 8, 2025 | The Inside Track



ASD 2024 Leading Rider Prayven Badrie with his double stakes-winner Blazing Bo in trainer Mike Nault's barn. (George Williams)

by G. S. Thompson

Jockey Prayven Badrie is back to defend his 2024 riding title, and he's ready! But he'll have quite a bit of competition for top spot when the live race meeting kicks off on Tuesday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m. with the Don Gray Memorial.

There are over 15 jockeys here already and more on the way, with 2024 runner-up Damario Bynoe and three-time champion Antonio Whitehall leading the hungry pack along with Ronald Ali, Rachaad Knights, Renaldo Cumberbatch, Dane Dawkins, Neville Stephenson, Damario Bynoe, Sven Balroop, Arthur Budhu, Shavon Belle and Dario Dalrymple and Douglas Badaloo all ready for opening night.

On the trainer side, in the absence of trainer Jerry Gourneau, who will remain in the U.S. training for his primary client Henry Witt, Jr., numerous stables have a shot at the title in 2025, including 6-time leading trainer Tom Gardipy, Jr., Jared Brown, Wendy Anderson, Carl Anderson, Steve Keplin, Jr. Mike Taphorn, Mike Nault, Lise Pruitt and Sherri Laing.

Badrie, a 34-year-old Trinidad native who turns 35 in June, has been preparing for the 2025 season since February, braving Manitoba's cold winter to gallop horses at Miracle Ranch before arriving at the track.

"The track is really nice and the horses are training better than last year," said Badrie.

Badrie's 2024 season was exceptional, as he captured his second title and his first outright after previously sharing a title with Antonio Whitehall in 2018. Last

year, he dominated with 53 victories, including stakes wins in the R. J. Speers and Harvey Warner Manitoba Mile aboard Blazing Bo, and the Manitoba Oaks on Midnight Lady.

The journey to the top hasn't been easy for Badrie, who first arrived at Assiniboia Downs in 2011 but only stayed for two months. After returning in 2017, he spent years exercising elite horses without being given the mounts in the actual races, but that work laid the groundwork for future success.

Badrie's career has been marked by significant setbacks, including a broken hip and pelvis from a spill at Century Downs in 2018, followed by a broken collarbone in another accident at Century Mile in 2019, but he's come back stronger than ever.

For 2025, Badrie has solidified key relationships with trainers that should provide him with quality mounts throughout the season. His connection with trainer Mike Nault and owners A2 Thoroughbreds and True North Thoroughbreds has been particularly fruitful.

As Nolan Allard of A2 Thoroughbreds said last year of Badrie in the Winnipeg Free Press, "He started to get his confidence back. The way he's finishing down the lane is unbelievable."



Prayven Badrie (inside) and trainer Mike Nault exercising horses this spring at ASD. (George Williams)

When asked what he likes best about riding, Badrie's answer was simple: "Competition."

The seasoned jockey has developed a keen understanding of horse psychology, noting, "Every horse is different. Some of them don't like the inside. Some of them like the kickback, some of them like the outside."

Badrie's meticulous preparation includes studying past performances and watching race replays to better understand his mounts and rivals. "I watch the replays to see which are the best races the horse has run, and try to ride them like that," he said.

Badrie's success at Assiniboia Downs has enhanced his reputation back in Trinidad and throughout the Caribbean racing circuit. "Every time from the first day you leave," he said about the recognition he receives at home. "It's a big thing when you go away and have success."

During the winter off-season, Badrie stayed active, traveling to Guyana to ride a horse for the President of that country in a major stakes race, and also

competing in Barbados' prestigious Gold Cup.

As the 2025 season begins, Badrie remains humble despite his achievements, expressing gratitude rather than overconfidence: "I'm thankful for all the opportunities I get from the owners and trainers. Assiniboia Downs has been very good to me."

"It's home now."

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