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DID YOU HEAR THE LATEST?

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

ISSUE #184 - MAY 16, 2025



Please note that Assiniboia Downs will be open at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 17 for Preakness Day. The first race from Pimlico starts at 9:30 a.m.



Live Racing

Live racing is back every Tuesday and Wednesday plus select Mondays (June 2, June 23, July 14, August 4, August 25 and September 15) at 7:30 p.m. Free admission and free parking! Don't know how to bet? Just stop by and see Shannon and Brad at the Fan Education Centre and they will answer all your questions!

CLICK HERE for schedule



Longshot Just a Pose wins the 5th race Wednesday evening at ASD, triggering a huge Pick 4 payoff! (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Million Dollar Plus Handles & Lucrative Pick 4 Payoff, Highlight Opening Week at ASD

Two days of live racing and two million dollar-plus handles! What a way to start the 2025 live season at Assiniboia Downs!

Warm spring weather greeted fans on both Tuesday and Wednesday, and they responded to both the weather and the lower takeout rates -- which are now below 20% on all wagers -- by wagering \$1,062,185 on opening night and another \$1,320,060 on the second evening of racing.

The icing on the cake was a huge Pick 4 payoff on Wednesday!

CLICK HERE to get the scoop!



ASD Player Portal

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



Live Racing Prime Rib Buffet

Get ready to indulge in the ultimate dining experience at the track. Savour melt-in-your-mouth Certified Angus Prime Rib carved to perfection, plus a delicious variety of chicken and seafood dishes, rotating entrée selections, and so much more! Adults: \$59.95, Seniors (65+): \$54.95, Kids (6–12): \$34.95, Kids (5 & under): \$22.95. Call 204-885-3330 to reserve your table



Groom Brittany Bergen leads Don Gray Memorial winner Load Abroad and jockey Prayven Badrie into the winner's circle at ASD. Click photo to enlarge.

Looking for a Special Photo?

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

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 😊



- #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 photo to enlarge

A Snapshot in Time by Bob Gates

Well, Opening Day 2025 is now in the books. How about another memory—this time from the opening card 60 years ago, on June 4, 1965? Downs all-time leading trainer Gary Danelson's Merci Mac won the second race that day, seen here with young apprentice Ed Were in the saddle. Who knew? In 1965, the Downs introduced its "mutuel messenger service" in the grandstand dining room. For the first time, dining patrons could purchase and cash winning tickets while enjoying their dinner. (Bob Barns 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



Journalism is a deserving favourite in the Preakness Stakes on Saturday. (Maryland Jockey Club)

Journalism Odds On in 150th Preakness Kentucky Derby Runner-Up Faces Nine Rivals

Journalism looms as the deserving favourite in Saturday's 150th Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Race Course, two weeks after finishing a strong second in the Kentucky Derby.

Journalism endured traffic and a wide trip and was beaten only 1 1/2-lengths by Sovereignty in the Derby as the favourite, and he'll be favoured again at 8-5 against nine rivals in the Preakness, which Sovereignty has opted to pass.

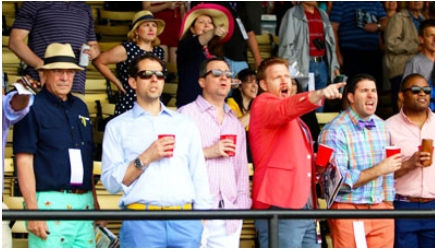
-- [Canadian Thoroughbred](#)

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- Simulcast Schedule
- Off-Track Betting Locations





Rooting a winner home from the Pimlico grandstand. (Penelope P. Miller / America's Best Racing)

Noel's Weekend Winners

Profitable Plays on the Preakness Undercard

Preakness Stakes Day at Pimlico is here and as usual the card will be packed with stakes races in a fun program of racing and wagering for horseplayers.

Noel Michaels says there are a couple of very interesting betting races on the Preakness undercard including the Skipat Stakes and the Chick Lang Stakes. If you can cash some bets earlier in the day on these two races, you can build enough bankroll to bet big in the Preakness.

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

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Goal Oriented could give trainer Bob Baffert his record 9th Preakness win. (Coady Media)

Equibase Analysis: Goal Oriented Poised To Provide Bob Baffert Ninth Preakness Win

The 150th running of the Grade 1, \$2 million Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Race Course will be run without G1 Kentucky Derby winner Sovereignty, who is skipping the race and is expected to run in the G1 Belmont Stakes in three weeks.

Goal Oriented won an allowance/optional claiming race earlier on the Derby Day card at Churchill Downs and although moving way up in class to run in a stakes race for the first time, he could give trainer Bob Baffert a record ninth career Preakness win.

-- [Paulick Report](#)

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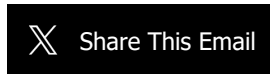
Bob's Blog -- Precious Memories

Another week yields more memories. Bob looks ahead to some precious milestone moments that we will celebrate this season. From 1920 to 2010, Bob's got'em all. Click [here](#) for some special memories from yesteryear.

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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Million Dollar Plus Handles & Lucrative Pick 4 Payoff, Highlight Opening Week at ASD

May 15, 2025 | The Inside Track



Longshot Just a Pose (inside) wins the fifth race at ASD on Wednesday evening for trainer Lise Pruitt, giving new jockey Mathew Bennett his first ever win at ASD and triggering a huge Pick 4 payoff. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

By G.S. Thompson

Two days of live racing and two million dollar-plus handles! What a way to start the 2025 live season at Assiniboia Downs!

Warm spring weather greeted fans on both Tuesday and Wednesday, and they responded to both the weather and the lower takeout rates — which are now below 20% on all wagers— by wagering \$1,062,185 on opening night and another \$1,320,060 on the second evening of racing.

Load Abroad (\$3.50) won the first race of the 2025 meeting, the Don Gray Memorial, for trainer Mike Nault and owner A2 Thoroughbreds, with Prayven Badrie in the saddle, and longshot Brody's Streak (\$24.30) capped off the opening night card with a sensational rally under jockey Rachaad Knights to win the seventh race for trainer Tom Gardipy, Jr. and owners Black Diamond stable and Larry S. Henry.



Load Abroad wins the first race of the 2025 season at ASD, the Don Gray Memorial, for trainer Mike Nault. Prayven Badrie up. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Gardipy and Knights teamed up for two wins on the evening, also winning the third race with Dale Henry's Secret Glenda (\$3.90). Jockey Sven Balroop won a pair of races, with additional singles going to Ronald Ali and Dario Dalrymple. Also notable was new apprentice Ciera Pruitt, the daughter of former top ASD jockey Jerry Pruitt and trainer Lise Pruitt, who made her debut riding in two races.

Other trainers with winners on opening night included Steve Keplin, Jr., Wendy Anderson, Judy Hunter, and Jared Brown.

Knights, last year's leading apprentice, continued his hot streak on Wednesday night with wins in the third race aboard Venti (\$10.00) for trainer Devon Gittens, and the sixth race aboard Waitinbythenile (\$8.70) for trainer Tom Gardipy, Jr., with single winners going to Dario Dalrymple, Renaldo Cumberbatch, Prayven Badrie, Damario Bynoe, and new rider Mathew Bennett. The latter scored his first lifetime win at ASD in a thrilling stretch duel aboard Just a Pose (\$37.00) in the fifth race for trainer Lise Pruitt, who also won the second race with Shocking Malice (\$4.80).



Corredor wins the 7th race on Wednesday, May 14 at ASD for trainer Steve Keplin, Jr. Damario Bynoe up. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Steve Keplin, Jr. also continued to roll on the trainer side, winning the fourth race on Wednesday with Ginis Serenade (\$7.60) and the seventh race with

Corredor (\$12.60). Singles on the night went to trainers Jared Brown, Devon Gittens, and Tom Gardipy, Jr.

After two nights of racing, Knights leads all jockeys with four wins, followed by Balroop, Badrie, and Dalrymple with two wins apiece. Keplin and Gardipy are tied for the lead in the trainer standings with three wins each, followed by Jared Brown and Lise Pruitt with two wins.



Brody's Streak returns with leading rider Rachaad Knights after winning the 7th race at ASD on Tuesday, May 13 for trainer Tom Gardipy, Jr. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

The highlights of Wednesday night were the big stretch rallies from Just a Pose in the fourth race and Corredor in the seventh, the former of which triggered a lucrative \$1 Pick 4 payoff of \$4,629.15 from a whopping \$92,528 Pick 4 Pool.

"What a great start to the season tonight," said Darren Dunn, CEO of Assiniboia Downs, after opening night. "The weather was unseasonably warm today and it was a perfect night for fans."

Those sentiments could be echoed for the second evening of racing, and loyal ASD fans get a huge thank you for helping the 2025 live season get off to a great start.

A huge Pick 4 pool and payoff on Wednesday was the icing on the cake!