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ISSUE #185 - MAY 23, 2025



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!

NEW! Starting Tuesday, May 27th, the Pick 4 guarantee will be \$50,000.

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Steve Keplin, Jr. and Rachaad Knights Maintain Narrow Leads in Standings

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Sophia's Storm gives leading trainer Steve Keplin Jr. his fifth win of the meeting on Wednesday.
(Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

roll, and Rachaad Knights stayed on top in the jockey standings with a win on Tuesday evening.

Wendy Anderson, Jared Brown, and Lise Pruitt follow Steve Keplin, Jr. and Tom Gardipy, Jr. in the trainer standings with three wins each to round out the top five, and it was nice to see trainer Elton Dickey and jockey Renaldo Cumberbatch team up to win the Shelley Brown Memorial with Meko Makee on Tuesday night.

CLICK HERE to get the scoop!



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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



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.

Manitoba-bred Silver Jaguar is led into the winner's circle after winning the first race on Wednesday for trainer Mike Taphorn. Neville Stephenson up. Click photo to enlarge.

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

How about another opening day win from yesteryear—this time from 40 years ago, on May 3, 1985? Once again, owner/trainer Gary Danelson (who always seemed to have his horses ready to go when he arrived) won the seventh race on opening day with *There's a Reason*, with jockey Dave Burns up.

Who remembers the 'character' guy, Harvey Burnell? You'll find Harvey in this shot, fourth from the left, wearing the cowboy hat (Gerry Hart 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 wins the Preakness. (Jim McCue/Maryland Jockey Club)

An Early Look at the Probable Field for the 2025 Belmont Stakes

The first two legs of the 2025 Triple Crown delivered a surplus of drama and excitement thanks to Sovereignty's powerful rally in the Kentucky Derby followed by Journalism's gutsy win in the Preakness Stakes two weeks later at Pimlico.

Focus now shifts to the Belmont Stakes June 7 at Saratoga Race Course, which for the second straight year will host the final leg of the U.S. Triple Crown. [America's Best Racing](#) takes a look at the probable runners.

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Journalism overcame major trouble to win the Preakness Stakes. (Maryland Jockey Club photo)

'Quit Riding Him Like A Rented Mule' **Steve Asmussen Slams Umberto Rispoli's Preakness Ride**

Hall of Fame trainer Steve Asmussen is still hopping mad over the rough riding that occurred in this year's Preakness Stakes.

His contender Clever Again seemed to get the worst of it, slammed into the rail by eventual winner Journalism, checked hard by jockey Jose Ortiz, and eased home to finish last. Read more about what Asmussen had to say in the [Paulick Report](#).

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Field of Gold wins the Craven Stakes at Newmarket Racecourse (Edward Whitaker / Racing Post)

Field of Gold Seeks Classic Redemption in Irish Guineas

Field of Gold will face eight rivals as he bids for classic redemption in the Irish Two Thousand Guineas (G1) at the Curragh this Saturday.

The John and Thady Gosden-trained 3-year-old finished second in the English Two Thousand Guineas (G1) at Newmarket Racecourse on his last start May 3, which resulted in the Clarehaven yard installing the "best available rider" policy instead of using Kieran Shoemark. The [BloodHorse](#) has the inside track.

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Bob's Blog -- "Off and Running"

The history guy has something just a little bit different for us this time around. Bob was scouring the newspapers and found a feature that was titled "Off and Running." Each was a short story that told a tale of the turf or answered questions about horses or horse racing in general. He even found a couple about Assiniboia Downs! Click [here](#) for a sampling of John Day's Off and Running.

Feedback & Inside Track Archives

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

Did you know that past issues of The Inside Track are available on our website?
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Steve Keplin, Jr. and Rachaad Knights Maintain Narrow Leads in Standings

May 22, 2025 | The Inside Track



Sophia's Storm wins the 6th race on Wednesday for trainer Steve Keplin, Jr. Sven Balroop up. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

By G.S. Thompson

Trainer Steve Keplin, Jr. surged to the lead in the trainer standings Wednesday night with back-to-back wins, trainer Tom Gardipy, Jr. continued to roll, and Rachaad Knights stayed on top in the jockey standings with a win on Tuesday evening.

Keplin won the fifth race on Wednesday with Bee La Soul and the sixth with Sophia's Storm, ridden by Prayven Badrie and Sven Balroop, respectively. Both horses were heavily favoured and ran like it. The two victories gave Keplin five victories on the season, one more than Tom Gardipy, Jr. , who teamed up with Rachaad Knights to win the sixth race on Tuesday night with Nikkitysplits (\$3.90).



Nikkitysplit is led into the winner's circle with leading rider Rachaad Knights aboard for trainer Tom Gardipy, Jr. after the sixth race on Tuesday. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

A 3-year-old Manitoba-bred filly by Speculating-Spiteofsuccess by Midshipman, Nikkitysplit was bred by Jerry Lambert and Lynn Mathews and is owned by the same team. Making her first lifetime start, Nikkitysplit broke outwards and was wide early, but she looked like she was going to win at every stage of the race, collaring the leaders in late turn and drawing out to win by 3 ½-lengths, giving Knights his meet-leading fifth victory.

Knights will have no time for a breather, as both 2024 leading rider Prayven Badrie and Sven Balroop won a pair of races on the week to sit one win behind Knights at four apiece. Damarion Bynoe also won two races to bring his total to three victories. And three-time leading rider Antonio Whitehall is on the move, winning two races that could have been three with a little more luck.

Whitehall had his path taken away in late turn in the seventh race on Wednesday while aboard Big Ticket and rallied wide to finish second. Watch out for that horse next time he runs.



Three-time leading rider Antonio Whitehall won his first race of the meeting on Tuesday aboard Dare to Endure for trainer Lise Pruitt. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

There hasn't been a lot of troubled trips over the first four days. The riding has been clean and competitive, and the track has played fair. Horses are running the way they should run, and chalk players certainly noticed that Wednesday as heavy favourites won five of the seven races compared to two the night before.

The longest-priced winner of the week was Designated Hitter (\$15.80), conditioned by Carl Anderson and ridden by Damario Bynoe to take the fifth race on Tuesday. It was the first win of the meeting for Anderson, who was joined by trainers Mike Taphorn, Sherri Laing, Will Tourangeau, Elton Dickey, and Lee Delaronde in making it to the winner's circle for the first time this season.



Trainer Steve Keplin, Jr. watches Sophia's Storm unsaddle after winning the 6th race on Wednesday. The win moved him into the lead in the trainer standings with five victories. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Wendy Anderson, Jared Brown, and Lise Pruitt follow Steve Keplin, Jr. and Tom Gardipy, Jr. in the trainer standings with three wins each to round out the top five, and it was nice to see trainer Elton Dickey and jockey Renaldo Cumberbatch team up to win the Shelley Brown Memorial with Meko Makee on

Tuesday night. Cumberbatch won a ton of races for Brown, and they were close friends.

Thinking of you Shelley. Fond memories.



Meko Makee in the winner's circle after his victory in the Shelley Brown Memorial on Tuesday for trainer Elton Dickey and ownership partner Larry Falloon. Renaldo Cumberbatch up. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)