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## DID YOU HEAR THE LATEST?

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ISSUE #191 - JULY 4, 2025



Trainer Mike Nault and owners A2 Thoroughbreds and True North Thoroughbreds in the winner's circle after their victory in the Frank Arnason Sire Stakes. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

### Antonio Whitehall Gets Hot, Wins Five Races Including Frank Arnason Sire Stakes

Antonio Whitehall was the hot jockey in a lightning-shortened week of racing that saw Tuesday's Canada Day card canceled after the first race. Whitehall dead-heated for the win in the only race on Tuesday and came back to win four races on Wednesday, including the \$40,000 Frank Arnason Sire Stakes.

And if he hadn't won the last race on Wednesday, the \$1 Pick 4 would have paid over \$100,000!

**CLICK HERE** to read more.





## **Live Racing this Tuesday & Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.**

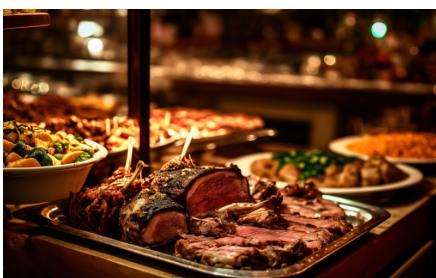
Live racing continues every Tuesday and Wednesday evening along with select Mondays (July 14, August 4, August 25, and September 15). Post time is 7:30 p.m.—and as always, admission and parking are free! New to racing or need a refresher on how to bet? Visit Shannon and Brad at the Fan Education Centre on the main level—they're happy to help and answer all your questions.

**CLICK HERE** for schedule



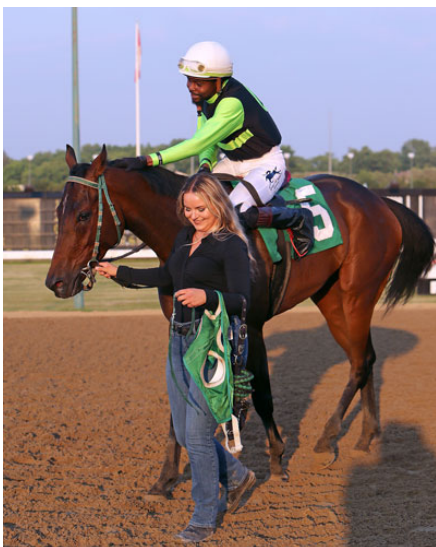
### **ASD Player Portal**

- 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.**



## **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](mailto:jjhphoto@gmail.com).

Prices are excellent! Almost as good as his photos 😊

Frank Arnason Sire Stakes winner Betterlucknexttime gets a pat from jockey Antonio Whitehall as Mike Nault's assistant trainer Brittany Bergen leads him into the winner's circle. (Jason





- #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

This photo features A. E. "Bert" Blake on the far left and John Sifton at the head of S. Owen, but they weren't the reason for choosing this week's Snapshot in Time. The lad to the right of Mr. Blake will go on to win 12 leading trainer titles at the Downs -- that's right - - the youngster is none other than Ardell Sayler. The rider by the way is Ardell's older brother, Vernon who rode here in 1967 and '68, before moving on to test his skills south of the border. Tragically, Vernon was killed in a plane crash in July 1971. (Bob Barnes 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



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 \$25,000 owner-trainer bonus based on points.

### Western Canadian Derby Series Contenders Begin to Emerge

As the summer heats up, so does the competition on the Western Canadian racing circuit. With a \$100,000 Derby Bonus and a \$25,000 Owner-Trainer Bonus up for grabs, the 3-year-old talent is beginning to separate from the pack in each province.

With strong contenders emerging from each province and crucial preps on the horizon, the Western Canadian Derby Series is shaping up to be a very competitive edition. The series begins August 5 with the Manitoba Derby, followed by the Canadian Derby on August 23, and concludes with the BC Derby on September 13.

-- Canadian Thoroughbred

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







Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas outside his barn at Churchill Downs. (Anne M. Eberhardt)

## Industry-shaping trainer D. Wayne Lukas Dies at 89


Racing Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas, whose life included many different chapters—nearly all of which shaped today's racing—died June 28 in Louisville, Ky. He was 89.

"Wayne devoted his life not only to horses but to the industry—developing generations of horsemen and horsewomen and growing the game by inviting unsuspecting fans into the winner's circle," Lukas' family said in a statement.

"Whether he was boasting about a maiden 2-year-old as the next Kentucky Derby winner or offering quiet words of advice before a big race, Wayne brought heart, grace, and grit to every corner of the sport."

-- [BloodHorse](#)

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Fan favourite Coal Battle is 7/2 on the morning-line for the Saturday's \$300,000 Indiana Derby. (Coady Media)

## Noel's Weekend Winners: Indiana Oaks Longshot, Fan Fave in the Indiana Derby

Handicapper Noel Michaels takes a look at this Saturday's Indiana Oaks and Indiana Derby. The Indiana Oaks has drawn a field of six 3-year-old fillies, but even with a short field, the race has longshot potential. And fan favourite Coal Battle is the horse to beat in the Indiana Derby, but he still might be a decent price.

-- [AmericasBestRacing](#)

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## **Bob's Blog** **The Downs First PR Guy**

Another week, another unusual find that turned out to be an inspiration for our blog story. Bob tells us that he was going through some old photos from the '60s and quite by accident found a 65-year-old business card attached to the reverse of one of the frames. A little digging here and there and voilà the week's history story was born! Click [here](#) to learn more about the Downs first PR guy, Bruce Boreham.

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## **Feedback & Inside Track Archives**

We would love to hear from you! Email your comments and/or suggestions to [theinsidetrack@ASDowns.com](mailto:theinsidetrack@ASDowns.com).

Did you know that past issues of The Inside Track are available on our website?  
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# Antonio Whitehall Gets Hot, Wins Five Races Including Frank Arnason Sire Stakes

Jul 3, 2025 | Live Horse Racing, The Inside Track



*Mike Nault's assistant trainer Brittany Bergen leads Frank Arnason Sire Stakes winner Betterlucknexttime out of the winner's circle on Wednesday. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)*

by G.S. Thompson

Antonio Whitehall was the hot jockey in a lightning-shortened week of racing that saw Tuesday's Canada Day card canceled after the first race, but the grandstand remained packed for a fabulous fireworks display that continues to set the gold standard for Canada Day fireworks in Winnipeg.

Trainers Jerry Gourneau and Mike Nault shared the win in the only race run on Tuesday as Betty Joe and jockey Neville Stephenson battled Commandoslastdance with Antonio Whitehall to a dead heat, and both had to survive a claim of foul from third-place finisher Sparkling Silver to hold on to their cash. Sparkling Silver was squeezed by both rivals right at the wire, and the claims of foul were disallowed, but it was close.



*Commandoslastdance (outside) and Antonio Whitehall dead heat for the win in the first race on Tuesday with Betty Joe and Neville Stephenson. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)*

The battle for supremacy in the jockey standings wasn't close on Wednesday, as three-time leading ASD rider Antonio Whitehall won four races including the \$40,000 Frank Arnason Sire Stakes aboard Betterlucknexttime (\$2.40) for Nault and owners A2 Thoroughbreds and True North Thoroughbreds, who have won 11 races and over \$100,000 in purses this year.



*Betterlucknexttime and Antonio Whitehall win the Frank Arnason Sire Stakes at ASD on Wednesday. (Jason Halsted / Assiniboia Photo)*

Whitehall won the fourth race on Wednesday for the same owner-trainer team aboard Frankly (\$5.20), and later won the sixth race aboard Exotics Bear (\$19.30) for trainer Maria Stanford and owner S and S Racing and the seventh aboard favourite Big Ticket (\$3.50) for trainer Will Tourangeau and owner Monique Goulet.

It took Whitehall and Big Ticket the length of the stretch to get the best of Really Slow (\$69.40) after a long hard drive to win by three-quarters of a length, and if he hadn't, the tote board would have had some fireworks of its own. The \$1 Pick 4 to Really Slow was paying over \$100,000. Imagine holding that ticket during the stretch drive!





*Antonio Whitehall and Big Ticket (#3) get the best of Really Slow (#1) in the final race on Wednesday. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)*

With \$163,626 in the Pick 4 pool, the \$1 Pick 4 to Big Ticket still paid a good \$956.90 to a lot of very happy bettors, who had the combination of Frankly (\$5.20), Burn Jakey Burn (\$28.70), Exotic's Bear (\$19.30), and Big Ticket (\$3.50) in races four through seven.

Whitehall's four wins gave him 17 on the season and vaulted him into a three-way tie for second in the standings with Sven Balroop and Damario Bynoe, three victories behind Prayven Badrie. Nault's dead-heat win on Tuesday and two victories on Wednesday gave him 11 on the season and helped him gain some ground on leading trainer Steve Keplin Jr., who has 17 wins. Wendy Anderson, Lise Pruitt, and Tom Gardipy, Jr. round out the top five in the trainer standings with eight wins apiece.



*A2 Thoroughbreds and True North Thoroughbreds with the Frank Arnason Memorial Sire Stakes trophy. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)*

With only one race to bet on Tuesday, fans bet with both hands on Wednesday, pumping \$1,925,464 into the wagering pools, one of the best wagering totals of the season to date.

And more to come!