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ISSUE #193 - JULY 18, 2025



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

Live racing continues every Tuesday and Wednesday evening, along with select Mondays: August 4, August 25, and September 15. Post time is 7:30 p.m.—and as always, admission and parking are free!

Free Family Fun activities every Tuesday in July and August plus Manitoba Derby Night, Monday, August 4. Free kids activities include face painting, bouncy castles and live entertainment. The fun starts at 6:30 p.m.

CLICK HERE for schedule



Take Charge Tom and jockey Rasheed Hughes win the \$50,000 Derby Trial Stakes on Monday evening at ASD. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

\$100 Winner Triggers Monster Pick 4 Payoff, Fans Feast on Stakes

What a week! Four stakes, a \$104.10 winner, a \$27,239.05 Pick 4, and big crowds that cheered like they were at the Manitoba Derby already! Ropers N Wranglers went off at 51-1 in the fifth race on Wednesday, but someone forgot to tell her that.

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CLICK HERE to read more.



ASD Player Portal

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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.

Reservations are filling up for the season so call 204-885-3330 today to reserve your table!



Luka Grazie nose-to-nose with his groom after winning the 4th race on July 15 for trainer Jason Homer and jockey Ciera Pruitt. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo) 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 jhhphoto@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

Clayton Gray won seven Downs leading training titles (1970, 72, 73, 74, 76, 79, 80) during his career here. Between Clayton and his brother Don the pair won every Downs leading training title in the 1970s, with exception of 1971, when John Gray managed to wrestle the title away. Clayton is pictured after winning the Gold Cup with Cherokee's Goal in 2010. Cherokee also won the Saskatchewan Derby and the Harry Jeffrey stakes and finished second in the Manitoba Derby in the same year. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia 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





Pegasus Stakes winner Bracket Buster has been listed at 10-1 for the \$1 million NYRA Bets Haskell Stakes at Monmouth Park on Saturday. (Julia Sebastianelli/EQUI-PHOTO)

2025 Haskell Stakes Cheat Sheet **Preakness Stakes winner Journalism 4/5**

The first marquee race for 3-year-olds since the end of the Triple Crown will be held at Monmouth Park on Saturday, when a strong field of eight rivals square off in the \$1 million NYRA Bets Haskell Stakes (G1).

The Haskell usually attracts several prominent runners from the Triple Crown, and this year is no exception as Journalism, the Preakness Stakes winner who finished second in the Kentucky Derby, headlines a field that also includes Preakness runner-up Gosger and fourth-place finisher Goal Oriented.

— [*America's Best Racing*](#)

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Scylla wins the 2024 Fleur de Lis Stakes at Churchill Downs (Javier Molina)

Scylla, Jody's Pride Seek Top Form in Honorable Miss

Dual graded stakes winner and millionaire Scylla will try for her first win in more than a year when she battles Jody's Pride, R Disaster, and other female sprinters in the \$200,000 Honorable Miss Stakes (G2) this Sunday, July 20 at Saratoga Race Course.

— [*BloodHorse*](#)

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Shifty, by Medaglia D'oro, has the 'most raw talent' of the five fillies Mark Casse will enter in the 70th Woodbine Oaks. (Michael Burns photo)

John Velazquez Rides Scorching in Plate Trial, No Time in Oaks

American Hall of Fame jockey John Velazquez is expected to ride Scorching in the Plate Trial at Woodbine this Sunday, July 20. The Trial, at 1 1/8 miles, is the final local prep for the King's Plate on August 16.

The Trial supports this Sunday's big race, the \$500,000 Woodbine Oaks for three-year-old Canadian-bred fillies. Velazquez will ride No Time in the Oaks, one of five fillies that trainer Mark Casse will start in the 1 1/8 mile classic.

— [*Canadian Thoroughbred*](#)

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Bob's Blog [A Half Century of the R.C. Anderson](#)

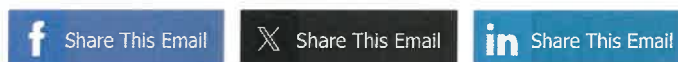
This July 22nd the R. C. Anderson Stakes will go to post for its 50th running. The race showcases the best locally bred fillies on the grounds. How about a look back at the race and the cattleman for whom it is named.

Click [here](#) for the history behind the R.C. Anderson Stakes.

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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\$100 Winner Triggers Monster Pick 4 Payoff, Fans Feast on Stakes

Jul 17, 2025 | The Inside Track



Take Charge Tom and jockey Rasheed Hughes win the \$50,000 Derby Trial on Monday evening at ASD.

\$100 Winner Triggers Monster Pick 4 Payoff, Stakes Feast Entertains Loud Crowds

By G.S. Thompson

What a week! Four stakes, a \$104.10 winner, a \$27,239.05 Pick 4, and big crowds that cheered like they were at the Manitoba Derby already!

Ropers N Wranglers went off at 51-1 in the fifth race on Wednesday, but someone forgot to tell her that. Claimed in her previous start by trainer Bill Mooney, the 6-year-old mare looked more like an even-money favourite forcing the pace from the inside under jockey Dario Dalrymple, surging to the lead on the final turn, and opening a dig-in lead into the stretch that she would never relinquish.

She paid \$104.10, \$33.50, \$8.80 across the board as the longest priced winner of the meeting to date and triggered a slew of huge payoffs including a \$1 Exactor of \$598.35, a 20-cent Triactor that paid \$392.20, a 20-cent Superfecta of \$1,505.37, a 20-cent Pick 3 that paid \$679.52, and a monstrous \$1 Pick 4 that paid \$27,239.05!



51-1 longshot Ropers N Wranglers (#1) and jockey Dario Dalrymple on their way to winning the fifth race on Wednesday for trainer Bill Mooney and triggering a \$1 Pick 4 payoff of over \$27,000. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

And that was with the heavy favourite Lab Rat (\$4.10) winning the seventh and last race in a Pick 4 sequence that also included longshot Ethan's Animal (\$27.10) in the fourth race and Welcometohollywood (\$8.20) in the sixth race, the Jack Hardy Stakes. Three lucky bettors held winning \$1 Pick 4 tickets, and each took home over \$27,000!

The stakes action began on Monday night with the \$50,000 Derby Trial, and once again, trainer Robertino Diodoro stamped himself as the one to beat for owner Randy Howg in the \$125,000 Manitoba Derby on Monday, August 4, when his Take Charge Tom won a hard-fought battle with Just Trust Me, trained by Dewey Williams.

Ridden by Rasheed Hughes, Take Charge Tom forced the pace outside Just Trust Me in the one-mile race, and he appeared to be put away into the stretch when Don't Trust Me opened up, but he came with a long determined rally to wear down his rival late and win by three-quarters of a length.

A four-time stakes winner south of the border, Take Charge Tom was coming into the race off a third place finish in the \$300,000 Texas Derby at Lone Star Park, and had previously won the \$125,000 Mine That Bird Derby at Sunland Park, the \$100,000 Riley Allison Derby at Sunland, and the Lost in the \$40,000 Fog Juvenile Stakes at Turf Paradise. He looks like the real deal for a trainer that has won the Manitoba Derby a record four times.



Judo (#10) and jockey Prayven Badrie came with a long determined rally to nip longshot Pinky Ring Bling in the \$50,000 R. J. Speers Memorial Stakes on Monday for trainer Steve Keplin, Jr. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

The \$50,000 R. J. Speers Memorial Stakes for 3-year-olds and up also took place on Monday night and resulted in a thrilling stretch drive, with second choice Judo (\$7.20) coming with an all-out wide rally to win by a nose over 31-1 longshot Pinky Ring Bling under co-leading rider Prayven Badrie for leading trainer Steve Keplin, Jr. and owner James Parisien. Badrie is tied at the top of the standings with Damario Bynoe with 24 wins, while Keplin sits alone at the top of the trainer standings with 20 wins, seven more than Mike Nault.



Burrow Down (inside) and jockey Ronald Ali were all business winning the \$50,000 Canada Stakes on Tuesday evening at ASD for trainer Mike Taphorn. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

There was more stakes action on Tuesday night and Gerald Babchishin's Burrow Down (\$3.90) showed that she's still the boss of the local filly and mare set when she wants to be, avenging a loss in her previous local start to win the \$50,000 Canada Stakes under jockey Ronald Ali by 2 1/4-lengths over Marvelous Lady. Trained by Mike Taphorn, the 6-year-old mare has now won 10 stakes at Assiniboia Downs. Well done!

On Wednesday evening, the 3-year-old fillies were in action in the \$50,000 Jack Hardy Stakes Stakes, and last year's Winnipeg Futurity winner Welcometohollywood (\$8.20) got back on the winning track with a romping 6 3/4-length victory for trainer Jared Brown and ownership partner John Ganas with Antonio Whitehall in the saddle.



Welcometohollywood and jockey Antonio Whitehall are led into the winner's circle by groom / assistant trainer Susan Crane after winning the \$50,000 Jack Hardy Stakes Wednesday evening at ASD as trainer Jared Brown looks on. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

The crowds not only continued to grow this past week, they also got noticeably louder cheering for their horses in the stretch drive.

Prepping for Manitoba Derby Night.