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ISSUE #195 - AUGUST 1, 2025



Manitoba Derby Night - Monday,
August 4. Racing starts at 7:30
p.m.



The Manitoba Derby presented by Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries

Get ready for the biggest night of the season – the \$125,000 Manitoba Derby for 3-year-olds, presented by Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries! As the first leg of the Western Canada Derby Series, this prestigious race is packed with excitement.

- \$100,000 Guaranteed Pick 4
- Mandatory payout of the ASD Jackpot Pick 5. Current carryover \$465,217.
- Enter the Derby Sweepstakes for a chance to win a \$100 win wager on a Derby horse.
- Strike a pose in front of our Derby backdrop to enter to win a \$100 ASD gift card—just don your best Derby attire or hat!
- Free Family Fun starting at 6:30 p.m. with bouncy castles, face painting, and kids entertainment.
- Visit the special Derby history display by Track Historian Bob Gates.
- Racing starts at 7:30 p.m. Free admission and free parking make it a night you won't want to miss!

CLICK HERE for the Preview of the Manitoba Derby.

Racing continues Tuesday, August 5 at 7:30 p.m. with free family fun activities starting at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, August 6 at 7:30 p.m. Free parking and admission every live race night!

[CLICK HERE](#) for schedule.



Manitoba Derby favourite Take Charge Tom on his way to winning the Derby Trial. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Stellar Card for Monday's \$125,000 Manitoba Derby, Two-Year-Olds Put On a Show

The 77th running of the \$125,000 Manitoba Derby is set for this Monday evening after an exciting week that included some sizzling 2-year-old performances.

Post Positions were drawn for the Derby at the annual Derby Press Conference on Thursday for a strong field of eight, headlined by Derby Trial winner and morning-line favourite Take Charge Tom, trained by four-time Manitoba Derby-winning trainer Robertino Diodoro, but this race could be much more wide open than it looks on paper.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.



Girls Night Out - Wednesdays in August.

Girls Night Out! Wednesdays in August

Grab your girlfriends and join us at the Downs for an evening of fun, food, and fabulous prizes—just for the girls!

- Fancy Hat Draw - Wear your best Derby hat and enter to win \$150 cash! Draw after Race 6.
- Girls-Only Special \$100 Draws - Enter to win - draws after Races 4, 5 & 6.
- \$5 Food & Drink Specials (available on the main and 3rd floor) – Fireball Shot, Peach Tart Shot, Razderby Lemonade, 6 oz House Wine, Chicken Fingers Snack, Popcorn, Double Scoop of Ice Cream.
- \$5 Espresso Martini Shooter – Includes a ballot to win a \$300 Thermea Spa Gift Card. Sponsored by Corby Spirit & Wine.



ASD Player Portal

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



Assiniboia Downs
GAMING & EVENT CENTRE

ASDowns/player-portal



Groom Katie Morris with No Show No Call after winning the second race on Wednesday evening at ASD for trainer Mike Taphorn. (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 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

Before the Queen's Cup—or, if you prefer, the “Manitoba Centennial Derby Perpetual Challenge Cup”—there was the “Manitoba Derby Trophy.” In the early years of the Derby (1930 to 1940), held at Polo Park, the Manitoba Derby Trophy was awarded to the winner. In 1941, the name of the race was changed to the Canadian Derby. This trophy then became the championship symbol for the Canadian Derby, which continued at the old Polo Park racetrack until its closure in 1956, when the race was moved to Edmonton. Somewhere along the way, the original trophy disappeared without a trace (Speers 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





Cugino has been listed at 10-1 for the Fourstardave Stakes at Saratoga on

2025 Fourstardave Stakes Cheat Sheet

The \$750,000 FanDuel Fourstardave Stakes has evolved over the last 30 years into one of the premier races for turf milers in North America, and the 2025 edition Saturday rendition at [Saratoga Race Course](#) drew a loaded 10-horse field.

Saturday's stakes-packed card at Saratoga also includes the Saratoga Special, Test Stakes, Saratoga Derby, and Whitney Stakes.

Saturday, but he does have elite connections. (Coglianese photos)

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

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



Mandatory Payout Alerts:

- **Gulfstream Park: Jackpot Pick 6 on Sunday, August 3. Current carryover is \$84,473**
- **Assiniboia Downs: ASD Jackpot Pick 5 on Monday, August 4. Current carryover is \$465,217**



G1 Winner Highland Falls Makes Second Start Of 2025 In Whitney

Godolphin's Kentucky homebred Highland Falls, who won the local 10-furlong Grade 1 Jockey Club Gold Cup in September, will look to double up on Saratoga Race Course stakes success in Saturday's \$1 million Whitney (G1). The nine-furlong Whitney offers a "Win and You're In" berth to the G1 Breeders' Cup Classic in November at Del Mar.

Highland Falls has been listed at 8-1 for the Whitney Stakes at Saratoga on Saturday as he makes his second start of 2025. (NYRA)

-- [Paulick Report](#)

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Will a Saratoga Standout Win the Whitney?

Who will prevail in Saturday's \$1 million Whitney (G1) at Saratoga? The 1 1/8-mile "Win and You're In" qualifier for the Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) has drawn a tremendous field with plenty of viable win contenders.

J. Keeler Johnson analyzes Saturday's Whitney Stakes at Saratoga for the Blood Horse, and it looks like a dynamite race!

Excellent analysis by J. Keeler Johnson at the Blood Horse, with both logical picks and longshots.

-- [Blood Horse](#)

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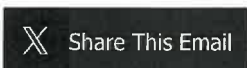
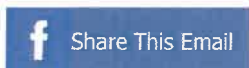
Bob's Blog: The History of the Manitoba Derby in Photos

The 77th running of the \$125,000 Manitoba Derby takes place on Monday evening, August 4. To help get everyone into the Derby spirit, this week's history blog features a Manitoba Derby photo album. These Derby-related photos span nearly 90 years of the annual classic. [Click here](#) to enjoy a visual journey from 1930 to 2018!

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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Stellar Card for Monday's \$125,000 Manitoba Derby, Two- Year-Olds Put On a Show

Jul 31, 2025 | Manitoba Derby, The Inside Track



Manitoba Derby favourite Take Charge Tom on his way to winning the Derby Trial for trainer Robertino Diodoro and owner Randy Howg. Rasheed Hughes in the saddle. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

By G.S. Thompson

The 77th running of the \$125,000 Manitoba Derby is set for this Monday evening after an exciting week that included some sizzling 2-year-old performances.

Post Positions were drawn for the Derby at the annual Derby Press Conference on Thursday for a strong field of eight, headlined by Derby Trial winner and morning-line favourite Take Charge Tom, trained by four-time Manitoba Derby-winning trainer Robertino Diodoro, but this race could be much more wide open than it looks on paper.



Manitoba Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Ron Kostyshyn, with the Manitoba Derby Trophy, and Derby Belle Francine Fournier at the Derby post position draw on Thursday. (George Williams)

Lined up to face the favourite will be former Churchill Downs runner Acknowledge, trained by Wendy Anderson, who has won back-to-back Gold Cups at the Derby distance of 1 1/8-miles with Magic Tiger; Attack, who tested some very classy runners at Gulfstream Park and Keeneland this spring before arriving in the barn leading Alberta trainer Craig Robert Smith; Border Song, who could be on the upswing for trainer Robert Van Overschot, who won the Derby here in 2021 with Uncharacteristic.

The we've got Just Trust Me, a game speedster who finished second in both the Derby Trial and Golden Boy Stakes for sharp trainer Dewey Williams; Maldini, who won twice routing at Woodbine (DQ'd from one), conditioned by overachieving trainer Lise Pruitt; Mr Jaws, who was claimed three starts ago at Lone Star Park by five-time leading ASD trainer Jerry Gourneau and perennial

Stellar Card for Monday's \$125,000 Manitoba Derby, Two-Year-Olds Put On a Show - Assiniboia Downs leading ASD owner Henry S. Witt, Jr. and who immediately won for his new connections (make sure to watch the replay of his last race); and War Is Hell, who finished third in the Derby Trial for trainer Jason Homer, who has been lighting up the tote board all season here since arriving from Fonner Park.



War Is Hell is a longshot in the 77th running of the Manitoba Derby on Monday for hot trainer Jason Homer, and he certainly is handsome! (George Williams)

The running lines and full bios for all the Derby runners are now available for download in the Player Portal, as is the full Manitoba Derby night program, which features seven fabulous races with big fields, including the \$50,000 Escape Clause Stakes and the \$50,000 Harvey Warner Manitoba Mile.

The Derby evening card also features a \$100,000 \$1 Guaranteed Pick 4, and a mandatory payout on the 20-cent Jackpot Pick 5 pool, which currently sits at \$465,217 and is expected to grow to at least three times that size by post time. The Derby evening card will also feature a chance to win a \$100 wager on a Derby horse, a special Derby history display from track historian Bob Gates, a Derby hat/attire photo chance to win a \$100 gift card, along with family fun including bouncy castles, face painting, and entertainment for the kids.

Something for everyone!

Two-Year-Olds Put On a Show



Wecanonlyimagine and groom/assistant trainer Susan Crane leave the winner's circle after their victory in the \$50,000 Debutante Stakes on Wednesday evening for trainer Jared Brown and ownership partner John Ganas. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Wecanonlyimagine won the 36th running of the \$50,000 Debutante Stakes on Wednesday evening for trainer Jared Brown and ownership partner John Ganas, with Neville Stephenson in the irons. The 2-year-old filly by Omaha Beach is now a perfect 2-for-2, and it looks like it will take a good one to beat her.

Wecanonlyimagine opened a three-length lead at one point in the five-furlong race and coasted home to win by a comfortable 1/14-lengths over Neytiri and jockey Ciera Pruitt, who was riding the daughter of Mendelssohn for mom Lise Pruitt and Arnason Farms. Neytiri was well back early and came flying late, and she's also worth watching as the races stretch out.

Earlier on the card in the first race, trainer Devon Gittens turned loose Mighty Mikee, a 2-year-old Mitole gelding that bears watching after a sizzling debut. He opened a five-length lead early in the race, and it looked like he might have been going too fast, but when Silver Spiced from the Jared Brown barn came flying after him in the late turn, he just rebroke and ran away from his rival to win by 5 1/2-lengths.

Bred in Manitoba by Larry Falloon, Might Mikee is owned by his breeder, McLaren Racing, and Anne Champion. A \$32,000 purchase at the 2024 Manitoba CTHS Yearling Sale, he certainly lived up to his name on Wednesday night.

See you Monday! Post time 7:30 PM.