

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

## DID YOU HEAR THE LATEST?

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

ISSUE #196 - AUGUST 8, 2025



Live Racing starts at 7:30 p.m.



Certified Angus Prime Rib Buffet.  
Every live race night!

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

Live racing continues every Tuesday and Wednesday evening, along with select Mondays: 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 August. Free kids activities include face painting, bouncy castles and live entertainment. The fun starts at 6:30 p.m.

Get ready to indulge in the ultimate dining experience at the track with our Certified Angus Prime Rib Buffet. 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!**

**CLICK HERE** for schedule



Manitoba Derby winner Attack (checkered blinkers) and jockey N'Rico Prescod early in the race. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

**Attack Wins 77th Manitoba Derby,  
Monster Pick 4 Payoff Tuesday,  
Welcometohollywood Romps in Oaks,  
Girls Night Out Rocks Wednesday!**

The 77<sup>th</sup> running of the \$125,000 Manitoba Derby resulted in record-breaking wagering, trainer Victoria Morse and Captive Kitten once again capped off a monster Pick 4, Welcometohollywood romped in the Manitoba Oaks, and Girls Night Out at the Downs was a fabulous success, capping off the best week of racing so far this summer!

**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, 6 oz House Wine, Razderby Lemonade, 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



ASDowns/player-portal



Judo (#3) and jockey Sven Balroop between horses on their way to victory in the Harvey Warner Manitoba Mile Stakes on Manitoba Derby Day for trainer Steve Keplin, Jr. and owner James Parisien. (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](mailto: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

On May 22, 1978 a young trainer by the name of Tom Dodds won the Gateway with "Sunny" in track record time of 1:09.3 not 1:09.2 as the photo shows. Tommy Dodds would go on to win five Downs leading trainer titles (1988, 89, 90, 92 and 93) almost in consecutive years, only missing 1991 when "Shorty" Gray won the title. (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
- 



### Noel's Weekend Winners: Grass is Greener Strategy Saturday at Colonial Downs, Saratoga


Top turf horses take center stage this Saturday as many of the country's best older grass runners take to the track within 10 minutes of each other in either the Grade 1 Resorts World Casino Sword Dancer Stakes at Saratoga or the Grade 1 Arlington Million at Colonial Downs. Handicapper Noel Michaels takes a closer look.

Integration has been listed at 8/5 for Saturday's Arlington Million at Colonial Downs, where he'll face Kentucky Derby winner Mystik Dan. (Susie Raisher / NYRA)

— [America's Best Racing](#)

[CLICK FOR FULL STORY](#)



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



J. Keeler Johnson has reasons to believe Mystik Dan can upset in Saturday's Arlington Million.

### Can Manitoba-Connected Mystik Dan Upset in the Arlington Million?

Despite its prestige and lengthy history, the Arlington Million has never been won by a Kentucky Derby champion. Even though both races take place over 1 1/4-miles, the fact the Derby is a dirt race and the Arlington Million a turf test discourages Derby winners from giving the Million a try. Could Mystik Dan (9-2) complete the elusive double this Saturday?

**Fun Fact:** Mystik Dan is by Goldencents, who is out of the Manitoba-bred mare Golden Works.

-- [BloodHorse](#)

[CLICK FOR FULL STORY](#)



**Your Favourite Assiniboia Downs Eats - Now on Skip the Dishes!**

Craving food from Assiniboia Downs?  
Get our delicious food delivered straight to your door.  
Order now on Skip the Dishes!



Sedburys Ghost and jockey Ryan Munger won the Plate Trial. Seven Trial winners have come back to win the Plate since 1989. (horse-races.net photo)

### **Crunch Time for King's Plate: Contenders Sharp and Ready**

August 16th is approaching quickly and the final workouts for the King's Plate contenders are, well, in the works!

One of two entrants in the 166th Plate for Al and Bill Ulwelling, Mansetti continues to impress with his power moves for trainer Kevin Attard. Attard has won Plates with Moira and Caitlinhergrtness recently, and he's trying a different approach with Mansetti. Jennifer Morrison takes a look at the top 12 contenders.

— [Canadian Thoroughbred](#)

**CLICK FOR FULL STORY**



- Earn Points for Wagering
- Wagering Bonuses
- HPIbet.com Wagering Promotions



### **Bob's Blog**

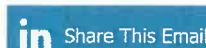
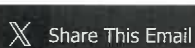
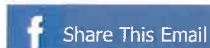
#### **A Decade of Halstead Racing Memories**

Our own, Sovereign-winning photographer, Jason Halstead is in his tenth year with Assiniboia Downs. Historian Bob searched through Jason's body of work from 2016 to 2025 and came up with some of his favourites. Click [here](#) for Bob's choices of those "Not-So-Typical" horse racing photos from Jason's ten years with the Downs!

### **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?  
Click [here](#) to read them now.



# Attack Wins 77th Manitoba Derby, Monster Pick 4 Payoff Tuesday, Girls Night Out Rocks Wednesday!

Aug 7, 2025 | Manitoba Derby, The Inside Track



*2025 Manitoba Derby winner Attack (checkered blinkers) and jockey N'Rico Prescod early in the running of the 77th Derby. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)*

**By G.S. Thompson**

The 77th running of the \$125,000 Manitoba Derby resulted in record-breaking wagering, trainer Victoria Morse and Captive Kitten once again capped off a monster Pick-4, Weclometohollywood romped in the Manitoba Oaks, and Girls Night Out at the Downs was a fabulous success, capping off the best week of racing so far this summer.



*Manitoba Derby-winning jockey N'Rico Prescod and trainer Craig Robert Smith with the Manitoba Derby trophy. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)*

The Manitoba Derby delivered a thrilling night of live racing, with a massive crowd on hand Monday and record-breaking wagering across the board on the seven-race card. Wagering on the Manitoba Derby reached \$323,267, while total wagering for the evening topped \$3,974,168, setting a new Derby record at Assiniboia Downs and the second highest handle in the track's history. The previous record was set just one year ago on an eight-race program.

The winner of the 77th Manitoba Derby was #4 Attack, who paid \$14.50 to win after heavy favourite #7 Take Charge Tom, who crossed the finish line first, was disqualified for interference shortly after leaving the gate, as a result of four different claims of foul, two by jockeys and two by trainers.



*Connections of Manitoba Derby winner Attack in the winner's circle after the Derby. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)*

A 3-year-old Kentucky-bred gelding by Munnings, Attack is trained by top Alberta trainer Craig Robert Smith, and owned by a partnership that includes Highfield

Attack Wins 77th Manitoba Derby, Monster Pick 4 Payoff Tuesday, Girls Night Out Rocks Wednesday! - Assiniboia Downs Investment Group, Inc., Dialed In Racing Stable, Bruce Appleyard, Jamie Graham, Lucky Diamonds Racing, Smokin Guns Stable, James and Robert Bauder, and John and Leslie O'Neill. Attack was ridden to victory by N'Rico Prescod.

A major part of the excitement on Monday came from the ASD Jackpot Pick 5, which entered the evening with a carryover of \$465,218. Fans responded in a big way, pushing new money wagering past \$2 million. A winning 20-cent Jackpot Pick 5 ticket paid \$2,469.46.

The stellar race card was highlighted by two additional stakes. The \$50,000 Escape Clause Stakes was won by Bling Dancer (\$6.20), trained by Robert Van Overschot for JDP Holdings Ltd. and ridden by Brian Boodramsingh. The \$50,000 Harvey Warner Manitoba Mile was won by favoured Judo (\$7.80), trained by Steve Keplin, Jr. for owner James Parisen and ridden by Sven Balroop.

"The atmosphere tonight was electric," said Darren Dunn, CEO of Assiniboia Downs. "To see record wagering, a packed house, and a beautiful summer evening for racing — it was the kind of night that showcases everything great about this sport and this racetrack. We are so grateful to our fans, horsepeople, and staff who helped make this a truly historic Manitoba Derby."

#### **Welcometohollywood Romps in Manitoba Oaks. Victoria Morse and Captive Kitten Once Again Cap Off Monster Pick 4.**



*Welcometohollywood (#2) on her way to victory in the Manitoba Oaks on Tuesday.  
(Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)*

The highlight of Tuesday's card was the \$50,000 Manitoba Oaks, and 3-year-old filly Welcometohollywood offered up an incredible performance, but 10-year-old Captive Kitten's win in the final race of the card stole more than a little thunder from his much younger rival at the betting windows.

Welcometohollywood (\$2.30) recorded the largest winning margin in North America on Tuesday evening with a 15 3/4-length victory in the Manitoba Oaks for trainer Jared Brown and ownership partner John Ganas. Ridden by Antonio Whitehall and groomed by Susan Crane, the daughter of Omaha Beach-Arch of Troy by Archarcharch has now won two stakes in a row at the Downs. Last year's Winnipeg Futurity winner has earned \$US120,825 from a record of 5-4-2 in 14 starts, and has everyone wondering...

"Just how good is this filly?"



*Welcometohollywood gets a pat from co-owner John Ganas after their victory in the Manitoba Oaks. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)*

Captive Kitten (\$32.60) won the seventh race on Tuesday's card, and for the second time in two years capped off a monster Pick 4. On July 3, 2024 he went from last to first to win the final race on the card and paid a whopping \$110.70 to win for trainer Victoria Morse and jockey Douglas Badaloo, resulting in a \$1 Pick 4 that paid \$6,237.70.



*Captive Kitten, jockey Javaniel Patterson, and groom Charlotte Johnston enter the winner's circle after winning the 7th race on Tuesday, triggering a monster Pick 4*

*payoff. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)*

On Tuesday, he went from last to first again, sprinting through a hole along the rail and going on to win by 1 ¾-lengths under jockey Javaniel Patterson, who was returning from an injury on his first mount back. Captive Kitten combined with the winners of races 4-6: Fresno Chile (\$53.80), Flying Tex (\$29.70), and Always the Lil One (\$7.40) to produce a massive \$1 Pick 4 payoff of \$22,913.95! Wow!



*Fancy hats and outfits were everywhere at ASD on Wednesday's Girls Night Out!  
(Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)*

Wednesday night ended the week in fine fashion, literally, as the female set came out in droves for the first Girls Night Out, which runs Wednesday evenings at ASD through August. Fancy hats and beautiful outfits were everywhere in yet another huge crowd on a beautiful summer evening of racing, which once again begged the question, "Where are all these people coming from?" One thing is for sure, the Downs has become the "hot" place to be on race nights in Winnipeg.

The secret is out.



*It's no longer a secret. ASD is the place to be on warm summer evenings in Winnipeg, especially on Wednesday's Girls Night Out. (George Williams Photo)*