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## DID YOU HEAR THE LATEST?

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

ISSUE #197 - AUGUST 15, 2025



Live Racing starts at 7:30 p.m.



Certified Angus Prime Rib Buffet.

### 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

Every live race night!



Designated Hitter (inside) and Javaniel Patterson hold off Totalizer and Rachad Knights in the third race on Wednesday. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

### What a Week for Favourites! Ride of the Week Goes to Javaniel Patterson.

The public was especially sharp this week at ASD, as the first or second choices on the tote board won 11 of 14 races. It was a field day for chalk players, not so much for longshot hunters, although there were a few gems, like Brinson (\$18.70) in the fifth race on Wednesday.

And the Ride of the Week goes to Javaniel Patterson for his poetry in motion aboard Designated Hitter in the third race on Wednesday.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.



August ASD Handicapping Challenge winner James Werry.

### Post Parade Decision Delivers First Contest Win for James Werry

A decision made on post parade proved to be the winning move for veteran handicapper James Werry on Tuesday night, who won the ASD Handicapping Challenge by \$8.70 with a bankroll of \$60.10.

Werry was originally going to play first-time starter Milamaria in the fifth race on Tuesday, but changed his play to favoured Cyber Storm after watching the post parade, and the \$9.70 that horse returned across the board was the edge he needed to take home his first tournament win, \$3,500 cash, and the trophy.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.



Girls Night Out - Wednesdays in

### 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



August.

Card. Sponsored by Corby Spirit &amp; Wine.



## ASD Player Portal

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



Battling for position early in the 5th race on Tuesday. (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



## A Snapshot in Time by Bob Gates

Jerry Gourneau is seen here in a post-Gold Cup interview with Kirt Contois. On September 10, 2011, Jerry's Big Blue Caboose, with Jocelyne Kenny in the irons, won the Cup. Jerry would go on to win five Downs leading trainer titles (2018, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023), missing out in 2019 to Tom Gardipy, Jr. (Bob Gates photo).

Click photo to enlarge



- \$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 166th running of the King's Plate, the first jewel of the Canadian Triple Crown, will be held on Saturday at Woodbine. (Woodbine / Michael Burns Photo)

## **2025 King's Plate Cheat Sheet**

The racing spotlight in North America will point north to Woodbine at 5:34 p.m. ET on Saturday, August 16 for the \$1 million King's Plate, the first jewel of the Canadian Triple Crown as well as our country's oldest Thoroughbred horse race.

Founded in 1860, the King's Plate is actually the oldest continuously run race in North America, and this year's field is as competitive as it gets, with big name jockeys and trainers from across the USA and Canada chasing their piece of Canadian history.

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

**CLICK FOR FULL STORY**

### **King's Plate Day - Saturday, August 16** **First race post time from Woodbine is 11:00 a.m.**

Below is the full list of featured wagers for King's Plate Day:

- \$200,000 Guaranteed Early Pick 5
- \$400,000 Guaranteed Middle Pick 5
- Power Pick 6 – Mandatory Payout
- Kings & Queens Pick 3
- \$400,000 Guaranteed Late Pick 5
- Jackpot Hi-5 – Mandatory Payout

For more information click [here](#).



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



Fraser Aebly guides Notorious Gangster to victory in the 120th Running of the \$250,000 Coronation Futurity. Notorious Gangster is owned by Mark Dodson and trained by Josie Carroll. (Woodbine / Michael Burns Photo)

### **King's Plate: Can the Gangster Buck 50-Year Coronation Trend?**

It has been 50 years since Norcliffe, trained by Roger Attfield, won the Coronation Futurity and then the Plate the following year.

Last year's Coronation Futurity winner Notorious Gangster has a very good chance to break the losing streak and win the 166th King's Plate on Saturday at Woodbine. "He's a confident horse," says Hall of Fame trainer Josie Carroll, a three-time Plate winner.

-- [\*Canadian Thoroughbred\*](#)

**CLICK FOR FULL STORY**





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Get our delicious food delivered straight to your door.  
Order now on Skip the Dishes!



The 166th King's Plate headlines a stellar card at Woodbine on Saturday.  
(Michael Burns Photo)

### **'Elbows Up': Canada Girds For Its Biggest Day Of Racing**

Canada offers its biggest and best day of racing on Saturday, when Woodbine Racetrack, in Toronto, hosts six stakes, including its marquee event of the year: the 166th running of the \$1 million King's Plate, contested at 1 ¼-miles on Woodbine's Tapeta all-weather track.

The King's Plate and E.P. Taylor Stakes make for a blockbuster Saturday card.

-- [Paulick Report](#)

**CLICK FOR FULL STORY**



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



### **Bob's Blog** **1975 – It Was a Good Year** **Part I – May 16 to July 9**

According to Bob, 1975 was a very good year. Jim Wright had taken over as owner of the Downs, and the horse racing community and ASD patrons eagerly awaited the new 70-day season. All were curious to see the improvements Wright had made to the 17-year-old facilities at the Downs. Click [here](#) for the first half of historian Bob's trip back to 1975.

### **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.



# What a Week for Favourites! Ride of the Week Goes to Javaniel Patterson.

Aug 14, 2025 | Live Horse Racing, Live Racing, The Inside Track



*Designated Hitter (inside) and Javaniel Patterson hold off Totalizer and Rachaad Knights in the third race on Wednesday. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)*

**By G.S. Thompson**

The public was especially sharp this week at ASD, as the first or second choices on the tote board won 11 of 14 races. It was a field day for chalk players, not so much for longshot hunters, although there were a few gems, like Brinson (\$18.70) in the fifth race on Wednesday.



The hot trainer of the week was Mike Nault, who scored a hat trick with Best of Greeley on Tuesday followed by Tap the Parlay and Under Budget on Wednesday. Leading trainer Steve Keplin, Jr. won a pair of races, as did Carl Anderson and Wendy Anderson, but Keplin remained well in front of his nearest chaser in the standings by a count of 30-20 over Mike Nault. Jared Brown, Wendy Anderson, Jerry Gourneau, and Tom Gardipy, Jr. were all tied for third with 14 wins apiece.



*Burn Jakey Burn in the winner's circle after winning the second race on Wednesday, In Honour of David Blake, for trainer Wendy Anderson. Ronald Ali up. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)*

Shavon Townsend led all jockeys with three wins on the week followed by Damario Bynoe and Javaniel Patterson with two wins apiece. Bynoe's two victories kept him in front in the standings by a score of 32-29 over Antonio Whitehall and Prayven Badrie, followed by Sven Balroop with 28 wins and Rachaad Knights with 18. Badrie was knocked out for the season last week after injuring his hip in a morning training accident, which appears to leave Whitehall and Bynoe to battle at the top, but Balroop is also riding well, and could upset the applecart.

Someone else who is booting home winners but going relatively unnoticed is Javaniel Patterson, who returned from a broken shoulder to win on his first mount on the same day that Badrie was injured. Patterson's first mount back was Captive Kitten (\$32.60) for trainer Victoria Morse on August 5, and that winner triggered a \$1 Pick 4 payout of \$22,913.95.



*Zibibbo and Javaniel Patterson win the first race on Tuesday.  
(Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)*

Patterson has since won on Thusly Inspired (\$4.20) for trainer Lise Pruitt, Zibibbo (\$3.20) for trainer Carl Anderson, and Designated Hitter (\$11.40), also for Anderson. He gets the Ride of the Week Award for winning aboard Designated Hitter, who won the third race on Wednesday. It was poetry in motion.

He stalked a forced pace inside, and when confronted by a wall of horses in late turn, Patterson deftly guided Designated Hitter through an opening between horses at just the right time, taking over passing the sixteenth pole, and gamely holding off a hard-charging Totalizer to the wire.





*Designated Hitter and Javaniel Patterson are led into the winner's circle after winning the third race on Wednesday. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)*

And he did it on a packed Girls Night Out at ASD, which meant even louder cheers. Girls Night Out has been a huge success so far, and it's only going to get better, as is Patterson.



*Girls Night Out has been a tremendous success and will continue to run Wednesday evenings. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)*

Rumours were that this young man had talent, and he's only just starting to get a chance to show it. The 32-year-old Jamaican won 13 races here last year before an injury caused a premature end to his season, and has won with four of his 13 mounts since jumping back in the saddle this year. A winner of over 200 races in his native Jamaica, including a classic, Patterson is starting to show owners, trainers and bettors what he can do, and he appears to have tremendous upside.

Catch him on some longshots while you can.



# Post Parade Decision Delivers First Contest Win for James Werry

Aug 14, 2025 | Handicapping, Live Horse Racing, Live Racing, The Inside Track



*August ASD Handicapping Challenge winner James Werry.*

By G.S. Thompson

A decision made on post parade proved to be the winning move for veteran handicapper James Werry on Tuesday night, who won

the ASD Handicapping Challenge by \$8.70 with a bankroll of \$60.10.

Werry was originally going to play first-time starter Milamaria in the fifth race on Tuesday, but changed his play to favoured Cyber Storm after watching the post parade, and the \$9.70 that horse returned across the board was the edge he needed to take home his first tournament win, \$3,500 cash, and the trophy.

David Smook (\$51.40) finished in the runner-up spot, followed by Stan Stewin (\$47.00), Greg Earl (\$42.90) and Chuck Whalen (\$41.90) on a card that was "chalk" full of favourites.

For the 65-year-old semi-retired courier, the victory was sweet vindication after years of near misses in ASD contests. "I've been close, seventh, third, but I just couldn't quite finish," said Werry. "I did finish well in an earlier contest, but I screwed up. That was my own fault."

The irony wasn't lost on Werry that the same post parade analysis that cost him a previous tournament win proved to be the winning formula this time around. Earlier this season, he had changed his selection based on what he saw in the post parade, and it had cost him a potential victory.

"I would have won the contest, but I changed my bet and it cost me," he said. "Instead of finishing first, I ended up fifth."

But Tuesday night's card was different. When Werry looked at the races, he sensed it would be a procession of favourites. "When I looked at the form, I just thought, you know, it just looks chalky. So I handicapped it for that. I said, 'You know what? If guys are going to shoot for longshots, I'll just play it safe.'"

That strategy paid dividends when four favourites and three second choices crossed the wire in succession. While other handicappers were swinging for the fences with longshots, James stuck to his guns. The key moment came in race five when he was torn between his original selection and what he was seeing in the paddock.

"I did have a long shot picked in race five, a first-time starter," said Werry. "She had a good work. But I watched the post parade, and the two (Cyber Storm) just looked really good. And I got to thinking the first timer might need a race. So I cancelled my bet and played the two because he just looked so good. He won by about three lengths."

Werry's handicapping foundation was built the old-fashioned way. Originally from Ontario, he's been around race tracks since he



was 12 years old, picking up tickets like many of us did in our formative days at the track. "My dad, my uncles were all trackers, and I groomed and trained standardbreds in the early 1980s before moving to Manitoba in 2000."

Werry's approach to handicapping is straightforward and methodical. "I cross out all the horses I figure can't win first," he said. "I go through the whole card that way, and then I go back and watch replays."



*Cajun Eddie (inside) on his way to winning the 7th race on Tuesday for trainer Wendy Anderson. Ciera Pruitt up.*

Key angles for Werry include route horses dropping back to sprints and claiming drops, particularly with apprentice riders. The final race on Tuesday exemplified this when trainer Wendy Anderson's horse Cajun Eddie dropped off a claim with bug girl Ciera Pruitt aboard and won by 8½ lengths.

Werry doesn't focus on speed figures either. "Just trip notes for me," he said. "I'm a replay watcher. I just like to see how a horse finished. And if it's one of those speed horses that stops, they'll usually do the same again."

Werry was full of praise for the ASD staff who make the contests possible. "Sheri's (Simulcast & Program Director Sheri Glendinning) the best. There's no one who does a better job than her. She's on top of everything, and she's just good. When you have a problem or need something, just call Sheri. Same with Shannon (OTB Manager Shannon Davis). She's been great for me."

After decades of handicapping and his first contest victory finally in hand, Werry proved that sometimes the best strategy is trusting your instincts, and that post parade decisions can make the difference between winning and wishing.

When asked about his plans for the \$3,500 prize money, he said with a laugh...

"Well, I'm sure I'll reinvest it."