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ISSUE #199 - AUGUST 29, 2025



Live Racing starts at 7:30 p.m.



Certified Angus Prime Rib Buffet.
Every live race night!

Only 13 Nights of Live Racing Left

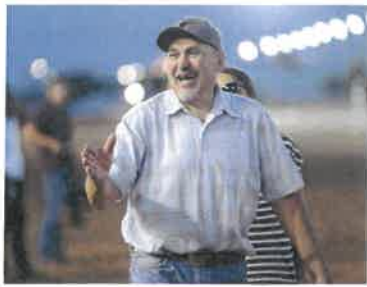
Live racing continues every Tuesday and Wednesday, plus a special Monday night card on September 15! Post time is 7:30 p.m.—and as always, admission and parking are free.

Indulge in our renowned Certified Angus Prime Rib Buffet—carved to perfection and served with a tempting selection of chicken, seafood, rotating entrées, and more!

- Adults: \$59.95
- Seniors (65+): \$54.95
- Kids (6–12): \$34.95
- Kids (5 & under): \$22.95

Reservations are filling fast—call today to secure your table for the Certified Angus Prime Rib Buffet!

CLICK HERE for schedule



Trainer Jerry Gourneau won six races this week, including back-to-back Overnight Stakes. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Jerry Gourneau on a Roll, Hidden Grace Baby Tops Yearling Sale at \$36,000, Take Charge Tom Wins Canadian Derby

Take Charge Tom returned with a vengeance last Saturday in the \$200,000 Canadian Derby, trainer Jerry Gourneau continued to roll up the leader board with back-to-back Overnight Stakes wins, a son of one of the best mares in Assiniboia Downs history topped the Manitoba CTHS Yearling Sale, and Girls Night Out continued to be a hit with the ladies.

CLICK HERE to read more.



Girls Night Out - Wednesdays until October 8th.

Girls Night Out - Every Wednesday!

Due to popular demand, Girls Night Out has been extended through Wednesday, October 8th!

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 Cash 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.



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ASDowns/player-portal

Top NFL Picks by TravyFootball **Season preview**

Before I dive into my season preview, I want to give a quick shoutout to the late Brian Gory—aka Ivan Bigg, aka Mr. Tomato, and a few other aliases he was known by. Brian was the one who encouraged me to start writing this weekly article for the ASD newsletter, knowing full well I had absolutely zero writing experience. To say he was impressed with what I produced every week would probably be an understatement—and maybe even an exaggeration—but here I am, four years later, still doing my thing. Almost every week, Roger Jones, Brian, and I would exchange emails about the happenings in the NFL. It's going to feel a little sad not having those conversations anymore, but I know Mr. Gory is "up there," smiling down on us and continuing his favourite NFL pastime—hating on Jerry Jones and the Dallas Cowboys!



[CLICK HERE](#) to read the season preview



Trainer Jerry Gourneau's assistant Jennifer Tourangeau raises her arm in celebration after winning the Miss Imperial Overnight Stakes with Baby Gundin on Tuesday. Javaniel Patterson in the saddle. (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

Here's an oldie but a goodie of Don's Mistake from September 8, 1958. The photo features brothers Clayton and Don (in plaid shirts with Don holding the horse). Also visible is trainer, Ivan Dowler (behind Don and between Don and the horse) with jockey Ray Stewart from Gladstone Manitoba aboard Don's Mistake. (Assiniboia Downs Archives)



- \$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





Highland Falls has been listed at 5-1 for Sunday's Jockey Club Gold Cup at Saratoga. (Adam Coglianese / NYRA)

[2025 Jockey Club Gold Cup Cheat Sheet](#)

The road to the 2025 Longines Breeders' Cup Classic makes an important stop at Saratoga Race Course Labor Day weekend on Sunday, Aug. 31, as older male dirt horses go 1 1/4-miles in the \$1 million Jockey Club Gold Cup Stakes. The Grade 1 stakes is a Breeders' Cup Challenge Series "Win and You're In" qualifier for this fall's \$7 million Longines Breeders' Cup Classic on Nov. 1 at Del Mar.

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

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Take Charge Tom in the winner's circle after winning the Canadian Derby. (Century Mile)

[Tom Takes Charge in Canadian Derby for Randy Howg](#)

Making up for his unfortunate disqualification from a win in the Manitoba Derby on August 4, Take Charge Tom zoomed up the rail on the turn and went on to a 5 3/4-length win in the Canadian Derby (G3) at Century Mile on Aug. 23.

Congratulations to trainer Robertino Diodoro, owner Randy Howg, and jockey Rasheed Huges! Well done!

-- [Canadian Thoroughbred](#)

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Craving food from Assiniboia Downs?

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[Secretariat's Hall of Fame Jockey, Canadian Ron Turcotte Dies at 84](#)

Retired Canadian jockey Ron Turcotte, remembered best for riding Secretariat to win the 1973 Triple Crown during a Hall of Fame career that ended prematurely in 1978 due to a tragic racing injury, died of natural causes Aug. 22 in his Drummond home outside Grand Falls, New Brunswick, in Canada. He was 84.

-- [Blood Horse](#)

Jockey Ron Turcotte and Secretariat in the winner's circle after winning the 1973



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[Hazel Bochinski](#)
[More than the sum of her parts!](#)

Hazel Bochinski was a teacher turned thoroughbred trainer, whose greatest gift was her kind and caring nature. Throughout her lifetime, she touched more lives than she likely realized. As a female trainer, she was a true trailblazer in the profession. In addition to training, she also worked with the HBPA and the Manitoba Horse Racing Commission. [Click here](#) to read more about the life and times of Hazel Bochinski.

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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Jerry Gourneau on a Roll, Hidden Grace Baby Tops Yearling Sale at \$36,000, Take Charge Tom Wins Canadian Derby

Aug 28, 2025 | Live Horse Racing, The Inside Track



Jockey Renaldo Cumberbatch is congratulated after winning the Already Dia Stakes aboard Malibu S S on Tuesday at ASD for trainer Jerry Gourneau and owner Henry S. Witt, Jr. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Take Charge Tom returned with a vengeance last Saturday in the \$200,000 Canadian Derby, trainer Jerry Gourneau continued to roll up the leader board with back-to-back overnight stakes wins, and a son of one of the best mares in Assiniboia Downs history topped the Manitoba CTHS Yearling sale this week.

After an unfortunate disqualification from first in the Manitoba Derby, Take Charge Tom made it supremely clear who was the best horse in the Canadian Derby (G3), stalking from the inside after stumbling at the break, surging through a hole on the rail in late turn and romping away under jockey Rasheed Hughes to win by 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ -lengths for trainer Robertino Diodoro and owner Randy Howg.

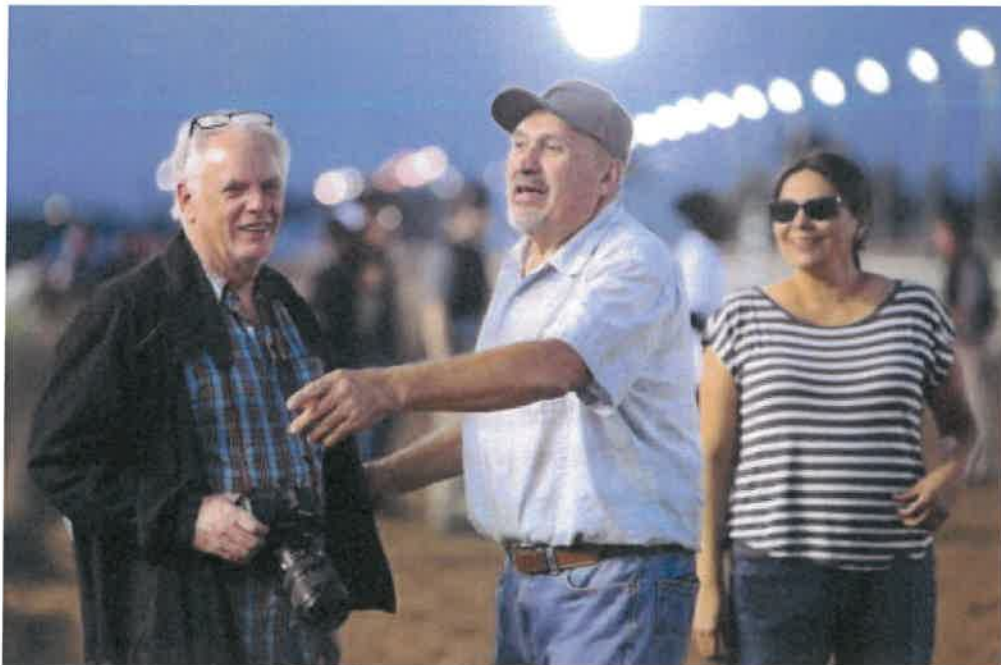
Attack, who was elevated to first in the Manitoba Derby, lost the head bob for second in the race, while fellow Manitoba Derby runner Border Song finished fifth, but it was certainly an excellent showing for all three Manitoba Derby runners.



Manitoba Oaks winner Welcometohollywood (shown here with groom /assistant trainer Susan Crane) shipped to Alberta last weekend and won the \$100,000 Century Casino Oaks for trainer Jared Brown and ownership partner John Ganas. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Also on the undercard at Century Mile was the \$100,000 Century Casino Oaks, which was won by multiple ASD stakes winner Welcometohollywood, trained by Jared Brown for himself and ownership partner John Ganas, and ridden to victory by Antonio Whitehall, who is currently battling with Damario Bynoe for the ASD jockey title.

It was a banner weekend for Brown and Ganas at Century Mile, as they also won the \$50,000 Princess Margaret Stakes with local Debutante Stakes winner Wecanonlyimagine, local jockey Neville Stephenson in the irons. The 2-year-old Omaha Beach filly is now a perfect 3-for-3 and looks like she has a very bright future ahead of her.



Trainer Jerry Gourneau (center) won six races this week including back-to-back Overnight Stakes for owner Henry S. Witt, Jr. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

The future is also looking better every day for five-time ASD training champ Jerry Gourneau, who won six races for owner Henry S. Witt Jr. this week, including back-to-back overnight stakes on Tuesday evening. Gourneau won the Miss Imperial Overnight Stakes for fillies and mares with Baby Gundin (\$13.60) and the Already Dia Overnight Stakes with Malibu S S (\$7.20).



Malibu S S and jockey Renaldo Cumberbatch win the Already Dia Stakes on Tuesday evening at ASD for trainer Jerry Gourneau and owner Henry S. Witt, Jr. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Both stakes winners upset the favourites in their respective races, and Malibu S S ended the mighty Judo's local win streak at four races, despite Judo's very game effort for trainer Steve Keplin, Jr.

Gourneau's six wins vaulted him into third place in the standings with 20 wins, still 12 behind leading trainer Keplin, but gaining fast. Can Gourneau catch

Keplin? "We're not worried about that right now," said Gourneau. "We're just having fun and doing our job. Winning races."

Son of champion Hidden Grace by Speculating Tops Manitoba CTHS Yearling Sale



Hip #32, a bay gelding by Speculating out of champion Hidden Grace, consigned by Ziprick Thoroughbreds, topped the 2025 Manitoba CTHS Yearling Sale, selling to Barry Arnason for \$36,000.

The annual Manitoba CTHS Yearling Sale took place on Sunday, August 24, and it was held for the first time in the new yearling sale pavilion in the Assiniboia Downs backstretch. The sale was very well attended, and 21 of the 42 horses offered for sale sold for an average of \$10,407.

Hip #32, a bay gelding by Speculating out of champion local mare Hidden Grace, consigned by Ziprick Thoroughbreds was expected to be the sales topper, and he didn't disappoint, stopping the hammer at \$36,000 for new owner Barry Arnason.

"We feel that this year's sale was extremely successful in many different areas," said Manitoba CTHS Director Wayne King. "We believe that 21 owners just got themselves 21 really good deals, especially when you consider that many of the leading money earners at ASD over the past five years have come out of the sale, and every major 2-year-old stakes race here has been won by a sales graduate or their sibling. We also had a record number of people register to bid online this year, which in turn generated the most live bids we've ever had at the sale.

"Our sales entries increased by 40% over 2024, and we sold basically twice as many horses as last year. We also announced that we're increasing the 2026 CTHS Sale Stakes purse to \$50,000, and our "New Foal" Joint Incentive program with the MJC is fully subscribed again for this year. So everything is continuing to trend forward in a very positive manner.

"We've already started planning for next year's sale, and it's going to be bigger and better on all fronts!"



Girls Night Out on Wednesday evenings at ASD is attracting more and more people every week! (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia photo)

TravyFootball – Season Preview

Aug 27, 2025 | The Inside Track



TravyFootball by Travers Cummings

Before I dive into my season preview, I want to give a quick shoutout to the late Brian Gory—aka Ivan Bigg, aka Mr. Tomato, and a few other aliases he was known by. Brian was the one who encouraged me to start writing this weekly article for the ASD newsletter, knowing full well I had absolutely zero writing experience. To say he was impressed with what I produced every week would probably be an understatement—and maybe even an exaggeration—but here I am, four years later, still doing my thing. Almost every week, Roger Jones, Brian, and I would exchange emails about the happenings in the NFL. It's going to feel a little sad not having those conversations anymore, but I know Mr. Gory is "up there," smiling down on us and continuing his favourite NFL pastime—hating on Jerry Jones and the Dallas Cowboys!

The start of the NFL season always feels like Christmas in September for me—and for many others. I look forward to it every year, but this season carries even more intrigue. Will Josh Allen or Lamar Jackson finally reach a Super Bowl? Can Patrick Mahomes continue his dominance of the AFC? Will the 49ers bounce back from a dreadful 2024 season? (Yes!) All of these questions will start to be answered when the Eagles and Cowboys kick off the year next Thursday night.

The NFC North might be the most interesting division to watch, with the Bears, Lions, and Vikings all going through major changes in the offseason. The Bears hired a new coach in Ben Johnson (the former Lions OC). The Vikings are starting fresh with QB JJ McCarthy, who missed all of his rookie season with a knee injury. And the Lions? They pretty much lost their entire coaching staff, who left to pursue other opportunities.

Other storylines to watch for:

- Pete Carroll returning to the sideline after taking a year off—if you can stomach watching Raider games.
- Aaron Rodgers with the Steelers, and how far his 41, soon-to-be 42-year-old body can carry them.
- Year two for Jayden Daniels and the Washington Commanders—will he suffer a sophomore slump, or take the next step into the elite QB class?
- The Dallas Cowboys—because, well, it's the Cowboys. There's never a dull moment with that team.

I'll finish off with a Super Bowl prediction. Unlike previous years, when my biased opinion would default to San Francisco, I can't in good faith make that pick again. The 49ers will be much improved from last season, but they're not quite contenders. So, with that being said, I'm picking the Baltimore Ravens over the Philadelphia Eagles. Lamar Jackson finally gets his ring!