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

ISSUE #200 - SEPTEMBER 5, 2025



Live Racing starts at 7:30 p.m.



Certified Angus Prime Rib Buffet.
Every live race night!

Only 11 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



Olympic Legend and Shavon Townsend are led into the winner's circle after their victory in the 7th race on Tuesday. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Jason Homer, Shavon Townsend Score Hat Tricks, Keplin Increases Lead in Trainer Standings

Trainer Jason Homer and jockey Shavon Townsend were the hotties of the week with three wins apiece, and Steve Keplin, Jr. kept Jerry Gourneau at bay with a natural Daily Double on Wednesday, while Gourneau had a single win on the same card.

There were also a few good trip horses to take note of, and once again, the ladies were out in full force with fancy hats and smiles for Girls Night Out on Wednesday.

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.



ASD Player Portal

- Free ASD Live Racing Programs
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Travers Cummings

Top NFL Picks by TravyFootball Week 1

🏈 NFL Week 1 Picks Are In! Aaron Rodgers begins his "retirement tour" in black and gold against the Jets, Miami's playoff hopes hinge on Tua staying healthy, and San Francisco looks to bounce back from an injury-plagued season.

Find out who I'm picking to come out on top this Sunday [here](#).



Thanksgiving Buffet Tickets on Sale
Now!

Thanksgiving Buffet Sunday, October 12

Celebrate Thanksgiving with a festive buffet on Sunday, October 12 from 4–8 p.m. at Assiniboia Downs. Savour roast turkey with all the trimmings, carved ham, seasonal sides, and decadent desserts like pecan, apple, and pumpkin pie with ice cream. See full menu [here](#).

Tickets: Adults \$44.95 | Ages 6–12 \$29.95 | Ages 5 & under \$16.95

Don't wait - call 204-885-3330 to order your tickets today!



Prairie Drifter (outside) and Rachaad Knights battle it out early in the 7th race on Wednesday with eventual winner Itwasthisbig and Sven Balroop. (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

On August 19, 2025, family and friends of Kenny "Hank" Hendricks gathered in the Winner's Circle for his memorial race. Pictured above are two Downs sweethearts: Joan Phipps on the left and Karen Hendricks on the right. Don't they bring back so many pleasant memories? The long-time friends posed with track historian Bob following the running of Kenny's race. Special thanks to Carl Anderson for organizing the event! (Jason Halstead 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



He's Late Again will be looking for his fourth consecutive stakes win in Saturday's Super Derby. (Margaret Gaston / Hodges Photography)

Red-hot Landry has a shot with He's Late Again in Super Derby.

71-year-old trainer Allen Landry is arguably operating the hottest barn in Louisiana. He will attempt to keep rolling Saturday when he saddles He's Late Again in the \$250,000, 1 1/8-mile Super Derby at Louisiana Downs. And his horse has been listed at 10-1.

Landry captured his first career training title this past spring at Delta Downs. Last weekend, he won three of the six Louisiana Cup Day stakes at Louisiana Downs. And on Monday, he picked up the training title at his base of Evangeline Downs.

-- [Daily Racing Form](#)

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- Off-Track Betting Locations



The \$125,000 BC Derby on Sept. 13 at Hastings Racecourse will be very lucrative for the top owner and trainer in the Western Canadian Derby Series.

Western Canadian Derby Series Finale

The Western Canadian Derby Series has delivered drama, controversy, and unforgettable performances, and now it all comes to a head at Hastings Racecourse on September 13 with the \$125,000 British Columbia Derby (G3). While the \$100,000 Derby Sweep bonus will not be awarded this year, as two different horses captured the first two legs, the \$25,000 bonus to the top trainer and top owner in the Series is still very much up for grabs.

-- [Canadian Thoroughbred](#)

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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!



Irada Ortiz Jr. on his way to the ground between horses in the Jockey Club Gold Cup at Saratoga. (Skip Dickstein)

Antiquarian Wins Roughly Run Jockey Club Gold Cup

Over the course of less than 24 hours, owner Mike Repole and trainer Todd Pletcher endured as turbulent a shift of emotions as anyone could imagine. On Aug. 30 they combined to win the Pacific Classic (G1) at Del Mar with Fierceness. Then they watched jockey Irad Ortiz get thrown off Mindframe in the early running of the Jockey Club Gold Cup (G1) at Saratoga.

-- [Blood Horse](#)

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Bob's Blog

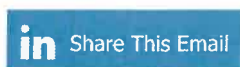
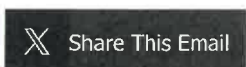
Richard William Mathes – But please call him “Bud”

Who remembers the Alberta horseman that captured the leading trainer title honours in 1958, the Downs first year of operation? This week our history guy tells us about the trainer who started it all 67 years ago and shares his story – which includes our honouree's connection to Ron Turcotte and Wayne Gretzky. Click [here](#) for the juicy details.

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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Jason Homer, Shavon Townsend Score Hat Tricks, Keplin Increases Lead in Trainer Standings

Sep 4, 2025 | Live Racing, The Inside Track



The Assiniboia Racing Club packed the winner's circle after winning the first race on Wednesday with Bandera Azteca, conditioned by Devon Gittens. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

By G.S. Thompson

Trainer Jason Homer and jockey Shavon Townsend were the hotties of the week with three wins apiece and Steve Keplin, Jr. kept Jerry Gourneau at bay with a natural Daily Double on Wednesday, while Gourneau had a single win on the same card. And there were also a few good trip horses to take note of.

Homer won the second and last races on Tuesday with Falsely Accused (\$8.80) and Olympic Legend (\$7.20), and picked up another win with Tavaline (\$12.30) on Wednesday. He also had two trip horses to watch in the sixth race on Tuesday.



Falsely Accused and Shavon Townsend won the second race on Tuesday for trainer Jason Homer. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Homer saddled Preachers Secret (\$6.50) and Judge Oliver (\$15.15) to finish third and fourth respectively in the sixth race, a Maiden Special Weight, and both horses had some trouble early, but Preachers Secret was the horse that really caught our eye. Racing greenly early and dropping 12 lengths off the pace, he came flying late to be beaten only 1 ½-lengths. Judge Oliver had a poor start and advanced four-wide, also finishing well to be two lengths behind his stablemate. Both horses should be on your watch list.

Another trip horse that came through for his loyal supporters was Lucky Appeal (\$16.80), who finally got out of the gate when he was supposed to for trainer Ray Gardipy and received a beautifully patient ride from Antonio Whitehall. Lucky Appeal was the second-longest priced winner of the week, behind only Highlander Honey (\$34.40), who also received an excellent ride from Renaldo Cumberbatch to win the fourth race on Tuesday for trainer Fred Rawson.



Olympic Legend and Shavon Townsend are led into the winner's circle after their victory in the seventh race on Tuesday for trainer Jason Homer (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Shavon Townsend was aboard both of Homer's winners on Tuesday, and scored the hat trick with a victory in the sixth race on Wednesday aboard Bossadusu (\$4.50) for trainer Steve Keplin, Jr. Keplin scored the natural Daily Double when Itwasthisbig (\$3.70) won the seventh race on Wednesday. The two wins kept Keplin on top of the trainer standings with 34 wins, followed by Mike Nault (23) and Jerry Gourneau (21) who took a single with Bringonthebubbly (\$3.10) in the fourth race on Wednesday. Wendy Anderson (18) and Jared Brown (17) rounded out the top five in the trainer standings.



Leading trainer Steve Keplin, Jr. congratulates jockey Sven Balroop after winning the seventh race on Wednesday with Itwasthisbig. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Jockey Damario Bynoe won a pair of races to Whitehall's single to maintain a 40-37 win lead over Whitehall in the standings, followed by Sven Balroop (33), Prayven Badrie (29), and Rachaad Knights (19). Badrie was battling for the title with the top two before being put out for the season by an injury, and it looks like Bynoe and Whitehall will battle to the very end for the title, with Whitehall seeking his fourth championship belt locally and Bynoe trying for his first.



Track Robber and Damario Bynoe win the first race on Tuesday for trainer Mike Pierce. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Also of note this week was new arrival, trainer Mike Pierce, who won for the third time in four starts when he took the first race on Tuesday with Track Robber (9.00), and the super-crowded winner's circle in the first race on Wednesday, when Bandera Azteca (\$6.20) rolled home for trainer Devon Gittens under Shavon Belle, to the cheers of his 50-plus owners.

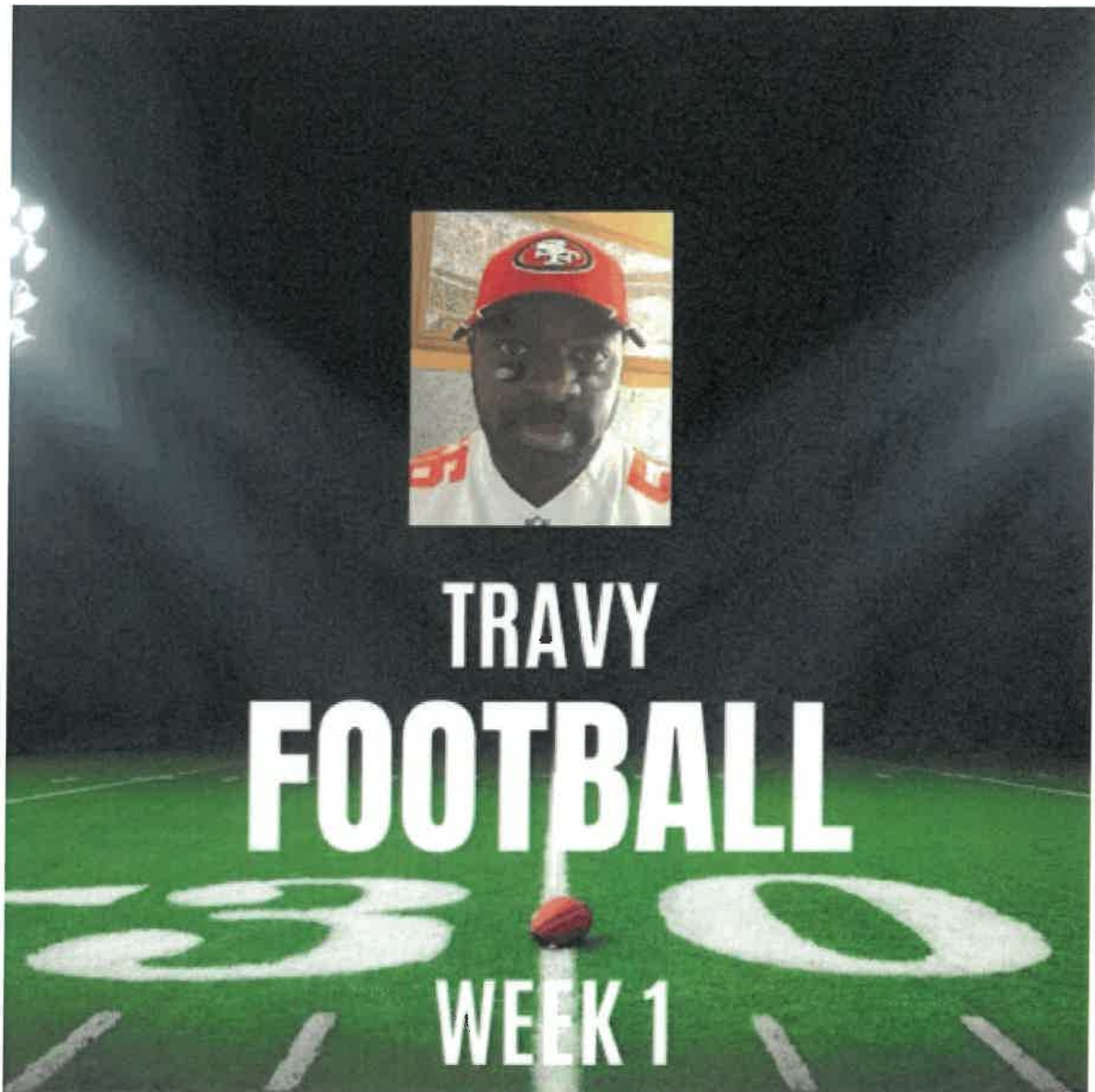
And last but certainly not least, Girls Night Out continued to rock the house on Wednesday, with ladies of all ages in fancy hats and big smiles gracing the grandstand.



Ladies of all ages showed up in fancy hats and smiles for Girls Night Out on Wednesday. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

TravyFootball Week 1

Sep 3, 2025 | The Inside Track



By Travers Cummings

Steelers over Jets (Sunday noon): Old, washed-up Aaron Rodgers is on his retirement tour this season (he's hinted this will be his last), and what better way to start it off than against the team that dumped him this past summer? Whatever ambitions Rodgers and the Jets had last year failed miserably, so they bid him adieu and signed former Bears and Steelers QB Justin Fields. A few months later, Rodgers found himself wearing black and yellow, along with a Week 1 matchup against the Jets. Playing your former team always gives you a little

extra incentive to perform well, as you want to prove they made a mistake by letting you go. I think the Steelers have a slightly better roster than New York, so Aaron should get the Week 1 victory—although it might not be the most enjoyable game to watch.

Dolphins over Colts (Sunday noon): Both of these teams' head coaches are on the hot seat this year, so neither can afford a slow start. The experiment with Anthony Richardson seems to be over in Indianapolis. When you can't beat out Daniel Jones for the starting job, it's time for a change of scenery. Don't expect Jones to work wonders with this offence either, but at the very least, he knows how to complete a five-yard pass. As usual, if Miami has any hope of being competitive this year, Tua Tagovailoa must stay healthy. We saw last year how this team operates without him in the lineup—it's awful, dreadful, disgusting, and painful to watch. Keeping him upright will be the key. They have one of the fastest groups of offensive players in the league with Tyreek Hill, Jaylen Waddle, and De'Von Achane, but Tua is the gas that makes it work.

49ers over Seattle (Sunday afternoon): San Francisco is looking to return to its 2023 form after a pretty abysmal 2024 season that made me very sad. Injuries ravaged the roster last year, most notably Christian McCaffrey, who ended up being out far longer than anyone anticipated. Even when he returned, he wasn't very effective, and then he found himself injured again and missed the rest of the season. But now he is 100% healthy (or as healthy as a 29-year-old running back with a lot of mileage can be). The defence went back to the drawing board, bringing in their former defensive coordinator Robert Saleh, Brock Purdy was paid a boatload of money (\$265 million, to be exact), and they have the easiest schedule in the entire league. Depth at the receiver position might be an issue, but I think the run game will be able to compensate.