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

ISSUE #202 - SEPTEMBER 19, 2025



Live Racing starts at 7:30 p.m.



Only 6 Nights of Live Racing Left

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

Mandatory payout of the ASD Jackpot Pick 5 on Wednesday, October 8 (if not won prior to). Current carryover is \$212,310.

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 limited—call today to secure your table for the Certified Angus Prime Rib Buffet!

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Certified Angus Prime Rib Buffet.
Every live race night!



Groom Katie Morris leads Burrow Down and Damario Bynoe into the winner's circle after their victory in the \$50,000 Manitoba Matron on Tuesday. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Bynoe Puts on a Riding Clinic, Gourneau, Taphorn Win Big in Championship Races

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CLICK HERE to read more.



September ASD Handicapping Challenge winner Roger Jones. (George Williams Photo)

Roger Jones Wins ASD Handicapping Challenge for Third Time

Roger Jones won the ASD Handicapping Challenge for the third time last Tuesday, and he's going to Vegas with his girlfriend and fellow contest winner Nicole Baker at the end of October to celebrate with his \$3,500 prize money.

It was the fourth overall tournament win at Assiniboia Downs for the 54-year-old bus operator, but his first win in the live contest in about eight years. It also vaulted Jones to the top of the standings in the Handicapper of the Year contest.

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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ASDowns/player-portal



Travers Cummings

NFL Picks by TravyFootball **Week 3**

TravyFootball looks to stay hot after a perfect 3-0 run last week, bringing his season record to 5-1. This week's predictions: Vikings over Bengals in a battle of backup QBs, Eagles over Rams in a gritty NFC clash, and Commanders over Raiders—if rookie QB Jayden Daniels suits up. See the full analysis [here](#).



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](#).

Thanksgiving Buffet Tickets on Sale Now!

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!



Trainer Jerry Gournau walks into the winner's circle with the 2025 Gold Cup trophy after his victory in the race with Mr Jaws for owner Henry S. Witt, Jr. (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

This year's J.W. Sifton Memorial was the 56th edition of the race. The 1st running of the Memorial dedicated to the memory of John Sifton was won by Merry's Hi Note on July 1, 1970. (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





Baeza could be sitting on a big race heading into Saturday's Pennsylvania Derby. (Santa Anita Park / Ernie Belmonte)

Noel's Weekend Winners: Picks and Plays for the Pennsylvania Pick 4

Pennsylvania racing has its moment in the spotlight this weekend with both Presque Isle Downs and Parx Racing hosting their biggest days on the 2025 calendar. The weekend's most notable races include Friday's Presque Isle Mile Stakes and Presque Isle Downs Masters Stakes (G2), and Saturday's Cotillion Stakes (G1) and Pennsylvania Derby (G1) from Parx.

Handicapper Noel Michaels takes a look at the four stakes connected in a pair of two-day, two-track wagers – the Pennsylvania Pick 4 and Keystone Daily Double.

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

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- Simulcast Schedule
- Off-Track Betting Locations



Rondelito wins his fifth race in a row in the \$125,000 BC Derby last Saturday. (Patti Tubbs Photo)

Rondelito Wins Delayed BC Derby, Connections of Manitoba Derby winner Attack Collect Series Bonus

Rondelito parlayed a stalking trip behind a wild pace battle into a victory in the British Columbia Derby (G3) on Saturday at Hastings Racecourse in Vancouver, and there was more craziness in the BC Oaks.

Three of the four entrants in the Oaks were involved in a bumping incident that led to a lengthy inquiry and, eventually, a double disqualification. The filly that crossed the wire first in the Oaks?

Gee I'm Foxy, a triple stakes winner at ASD last year.

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Craving food from Assiniboia Downs?

Get our delicious food delivered straight to your door.

Order now on Skip the Dishes!



Road Forever steps up into stakes competition in Saturday's \$75,000 Aventura at Gulfstream Park. (Lauren King / Coglianese Photo)

15-Length Debut Winner Road Forever Steps Up To Stakes Company At Gulfstream

A trio of dazzling debut winners led by Sonata Stable's 15-length victor Road Forever are among a half-dozen 2-year-olds set to make the step up to stakes competition in Saturday's \$75,000 Aventura at Gulfstream Park in Hallandale Beach, Fla.

The Aventura, going a one-turn mile on the main track, is the first of four supporting stakes on an 11-race program headlined by the \$200,000 Princess Rooney (G3), a 'Win and You're In' qualifier for the Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint (G1).

-- [Paulick Report](#)

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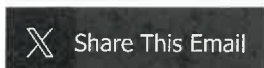
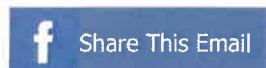
Bob's Blog Memories of Old Polo Park

How about a trip to Polo Park racetrack? Time-travelling Bob is our tour guide for this special excursion to the original Portage Avenue track. Old programs from "The Home of the Canadian Derby" provide the vehicle to revisit Polo Park in 1948, 1950, 1952, 1954 and 1955. Click [here](#) if you dare!"

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.



Bynoe Puts on a Riding Clinic, Gourneau, Taphorn Win Big in Championship Races

Sep 18, 2025 | Live Horse Racing, Live Racing, The Inside Track



Burrow Down and jockey Damario Bynoe win the \$50,000 Manitoba Matron on Tuesday at ASD for trainer Mike Taphorn and owner Gerald Babchishin. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

by G.S. Thompson

Jockey Damario Bynoe put on a riding clinic at the Downs this week with three straight hat tricks, five-time leading trainer Jerry Gourneau won five races, and the best horses on the grounds

delivered in spades in the two biggest championship races of the meeting.

Bynoe entered the week tied with three-time leading rider Antonio Whitehall with 40 wins each and amazingly managed to open an eight-win lead on his rival. The score is now 49-41 in favour of Bynoe, and that will be very tough for Whitehall to overcome.



*Groom Katie Morris leads Burrow Down and Damario Bynoe into the winner's circle after their victory in the Manitoba Matron.
(Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)*

And Bynoe not only won nine races, he also won the \$50,000 Manitoba Matron on Tuesday with Burrow Down (\$5.90) for trainer Mike Taphorn and owner Gerald Babchishin. The Matron marked the first time Burrow Down was ridden by Bynoe, and he gave his mount a dream trip. Burrow Down looked like her old self in the stretch, coming with a long determined rally to catch lone speed favourite Welcometohollywood late and drawing out to win by three-quarters of a length.

Burrow Down has now run 16 times at Assiniboia Downs and compiled an incredible record of 11-1-2 to bolster her overall record of 12-6-6 in 35 starts for earnings of US\$316,155. The 6-year-old daughter of Connect-True Endeavor by After Market continues to enhance her status as one of the best mares to ever race at the Downs.



Mr Jaws (outside) and jockey Damarion Bynoe get up just in time to win the \$50,000 Gold Cup on Tuesday over a game Riverside, for trainer Jerry Gourneau and owner Henry S. Witt Jr. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Trainer Jerry Gourneau was also on a roll this week, winning five races including the \$50,000 Gold Cup on Tuesday with longshot Mr Jaws (\$21.30) for seven-time leading ASD owner Henry S. Witt, Jr. Jockey Dario Dalrymple put Mr Jaws on the lead early in the 1 1/8-mile race, but he was under steadily increasing pressure throughout, turning back multiple bids from outside rivals including favourite Judo, before being passed into the stretch on the inside by Riverside. The latter turned back multiple bids from Mr Jaws before finally succumbing to that one late, finishing second beaten a head, and 2 1/2 -lengths in front of Mr Jaws' stablemate Malibu S S.



Trainer Jerry Gourneau walks into the winner's circle with a smile of pure satisfaction and his Gold Cup trophy. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

The Gold Cup was easily one of the best races of the year at ASD, and helped Mr Jaws improve his record to 5-2-2 from 13 starts this year. The 3-year-old gelding by Bradester-Spanish Angel by Early Flyer was claimed by owner Witt for just \$7,500 on May 18 at Lonestar Park in Texas, and has easily paid for himself with a third-place finish in the Manitoba Derby and his Gold Cup win. Nicely done!

Gourneau's five wins put him third in the standings, still nine behind leader Steve Keplin, Jr, who has 35 wins, but only one win behind Mike Nault, who scored a hat trick on the week, as did trainer Wendy Anderson. Also of note on the week was jockey Sheldon Chickeness, who won three races to up his record to 3-2-2 from 12 starts since coming out of semi-retirement on September 9.

And looked good doing it.



Girls Night Out continues to be a hit with the ladies on Wednesday evenings at Assiniboia Downs. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Roger Jones Wins ASD Handicapping Challenge for Third Time

Sep 18, 2025 | Handicapping, Live Racing, The Inside Track



Roger Jones with his ASD Handicapping Challenge trophy at the Fan Education booth. Fellow handicapper and fan educator Brad Ostrove on the right. Stop by and ask them a question when you're at the track. Smart guys! (George Williams Photo)

By G.S. Thompson

Roger Jones won the ASD Handicapping Challenge for the third time last Tuesday, and he's going to Vegas with his girlfriend and fellow contest winner Nicole Baker at the end of October to celebrate with his \$3,500 prize money.

It was the fourth overall tournament win at Assiniboia Downs for the 54-year-old bus operator, but his first win in the live contest in about eight years. It also vaulted Jones to the top of the standings in the Handicapper of the Year contest.

Jones built his bankroll to \$77.60 with a combination of medium-priced horses and favourites to best runner-up Steve Holborn (\$70.80) by \$6.80, followed by Wayne Misko (\$64.10) and Bonnie Simmonds, who finished in a dead heat for third place.

Race-by-Race Picks

Jones's path to victory began conservatively. "The first two races, I took the favourites," he said. Both horses delivered, giving him a solid foundation. But in the third race, his strategy began separating him from the field.

Instead of playing favourite Mechanic Susie, Jones went with 15-1 Dazzling Gold, who delivered a crucial second-place finish that paid more than the winner across the board. The fourth race proved challenging, with Jones struggling to find value among uninspiring favourites. He settled on Dreamin Out Loud, who finished second, but in races five and six Jones distanced himself from the competition.

In the fifth race, Jones demonstrated his ability to adapt based on track conditions. "I actually went with the horse that I didn't originally have because I thought the track was playing a bit for speed," said Jones. His selection, It's a Fluke, trained by Monique Goulet, after being claimed and fitted with blinkers, won at 4-1.



It's a Fluke wins the fifth race last Tuesday for trainer Monique Goulet. Antonio Whitehall up. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

The sixth race featured what Jones considered a standout opportunity. "From a contest standpoint, I think that around 75% of the people should have had the horse in the next race," said Jones, referring to Enano Caro. "That horse looked like it was going to get the lead and it was paying 9-1. To me, you had to take this horse."

Enano Caro's odds dropped to 7/2, but he came through with a solid win, and only 13 others in the contest had him. Entering the final race, Jones faced a strategic dilemma. While he identified a 25-1 longshot as having a good chance to win, he opted for the logical favourite Go Fer, who survived a determined challenge from the 25-1 longshot Jones liked, Pino Bambino, to secure the tournament win.

Handicapping Philosophy and Angles

Jones' success stems from decades of study. Having played horses for nearly 40 years, he's developed a sophisticated approach incorporating multiple angles. "I learned a lot from Ivan Bigg and Marshall Posner," said Jones. "I like to listen to what people say and see if it's something that fits for me."

One of Jones' favourite angles involves horses that have run well in their previous races, despite adverse circumstances "I like it when they show something when things didn't go their way," said Jones, who particularly values fourth-place finishes, noting that "people just seem to discount a horse" when they finish fourth in their previous races.

Jones also incorporates breeding analysis using pedigreequery.com and pays close attention to equipment changes like blinkers, though context matters. "Blinkers in itself isn't a positive angle," said Jones, "But if you can find a reason why the blinkers are going on, that makes a difference." An expert quarter horse handicapper, another angle Jones carried over from those runners to thoroughbreds is class. "It works with both quarter horses and thoroughbreds," said Jones.

The Value of ASD Contests



September ASD Handicapping Challenge winners. L to R: runner-up Steve Holborn, Simulcast & Program Director Sheri Glendinning, winner Roger Jones, third-place finishers Wayne Misko and Bonnie Simmonds. (Jason Halstead /Assiniboia Photo)

Jones is a strong advocate for Assiniboia Downs' handicapping contests, citing their positive expected value (EV). "I love the contests," he said. "It's one of the best things they have going on at the Downs here. The EV is high. I don't know why everybody doesn't play in them."

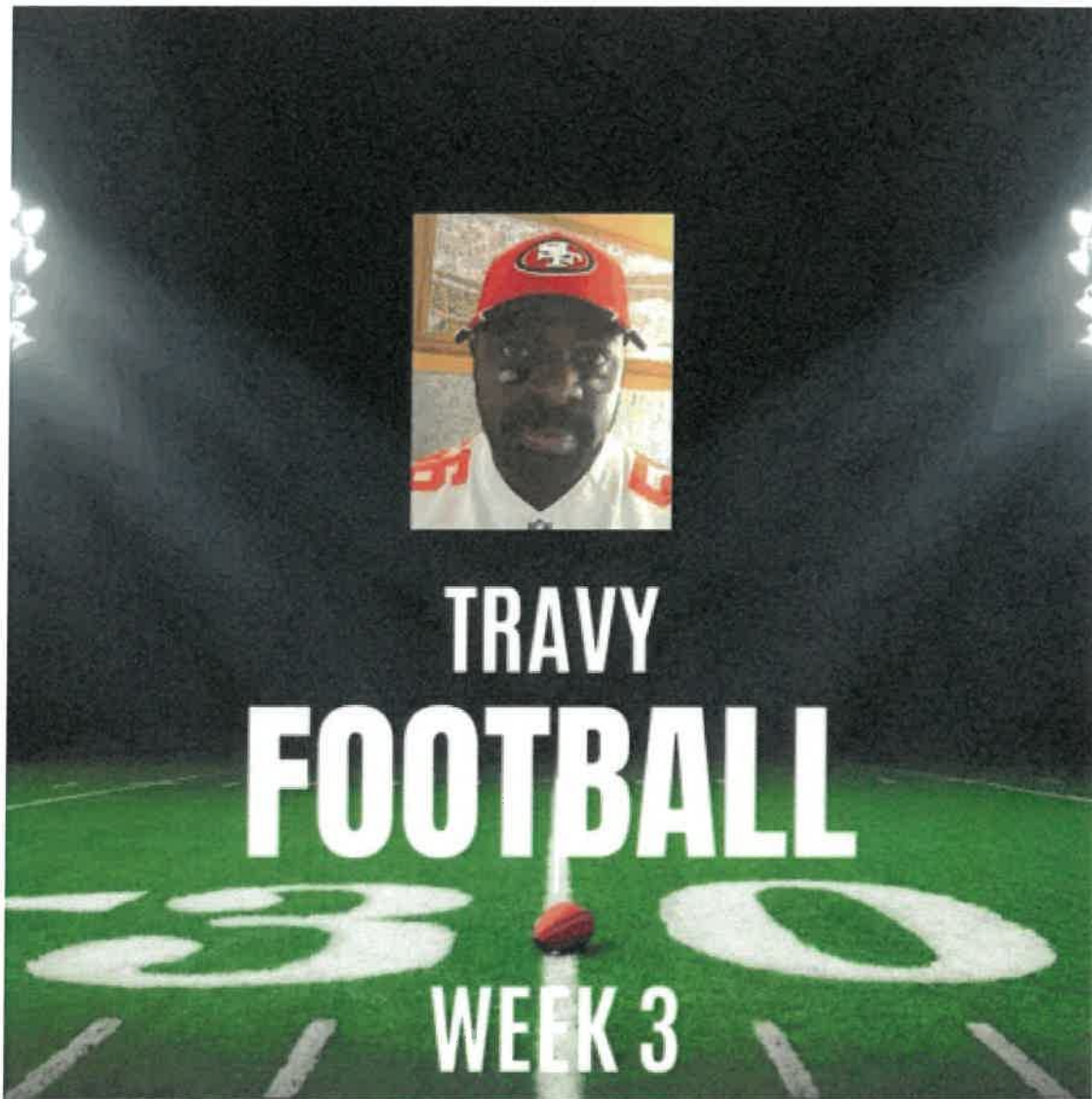
When not competing or driving people around the city, Jones works at the Fan Education Booth, on the main floor of the grandstand, helping newcomers understand handicapping basics. "A lot of people are brand new," said Jones. "But you can learn from anybody, and something new from every race you play."

Jones is looking forward to his Vegas trip with his girlfriend, which coincides with the Breeders' Cup on October 31 and November 1 at Del Mar.

He'll have all the class he needs there.

TravyFootball Week 3

Sep 17, 2025 | The Inside Track



By Travers Cummings

Vikings over Bengals (Sunday noon): I can't imagine anyone had Carson Wentz vs. Jake Browning on their bingo card when they saw the Week 3 matchup between the Vikings and Bengals. How did we even end up with this mess? I'm going to blame Bengals upper management for starters. If you're going to sign your franchise quarterback to a \$275 million contract, you'd

better invest in some offensive linemen to protect him—and so far, they have failed to do that.

To put it in perspective: former Colts QB Andrew Luck, who was essentially forced to retire due to taking too many hits, was sacked 157 times in his first 71 games played. Joe Burrow, in the same number of games, has been sacked a mind-boggling 201 times! No wonder he's always getting hurt.

Vikings QB J. J. McCarthy was riding quite the high after Week 1. He became a father and had a nice come-from-behind victory over the Bears. Week 2 saw him come back down to earth as he turned the ball over three times and didn't manage to lead any touchdown drives. On top of that, he has an injured ankle that will keep him out of the lineup for a few weeks. Enter Carson Wentz—the less said about him, the better. I trust the Vikings' defence way more than I trust the Bengals' defence, so they should be able to force a few turnovers, maybe even a pick-six, and get the win.

Eagles over Rams (Sunday afternoon): The Eagles handled their business once again against the Chiefs last week, albeit in a much closer and far less entertaining game compared to the Super Bowl. Jalen Hurts barely had 100 yards passing and zero touchdown passes; the team as a whole only had 216 yards of total offence. If it wasn't for Kelce dropping a touchdown in the end zone, the result could have turned out differently.

That said, their defence still looked solid, shutting down Mahomes, and they'll look to do the same thing to Matt Stafford and the Rams. A rematch of their playoff divisional meeting from last year, the Rams will try to avenge their loss and improve to 3-0 on the season. Going into Philadelphia and winning on their field is always a tough task, but if the Rams want to be taken seriously, these are the types of teams they'll have to beat.

Commanders over Raiders (Sunday noon): I'm making this pick contingent on Jayden Daniels actually playing. He suffered a knee injury last week against the Packers and his status for this week is questionable. What helps the Commanders, regardless of whether Daniels plays or not, is that the Raiders just aren't very good.

In the off-season, Vegas traded for Geno Smith and then signed him to an extension to make him their starting quarterback for the next couple of years. So far, he has one touchdown and four interceptions—three of those picks coming last week against the Chargers. If that wasn't bad enough, rookie running back Ashton Jeanty, who had quite a bit of hype entering the season, has

managed just 81 yards in two games. Not being able to throw or run the ball efficiently isn't going to get you many wins. It all starts up front, and the lack of run-blocking by the offensive line might be one of the reasons Jeanty is averaging only 2.7 yards per carry.

Last week: 3-0

Season overall: 5-1