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ISSUE #203 - SEPTEMBER 26, 2025



**Only Four Nights of Live Racing Left**  
**Racing starts at 7:30 p.m. Free admission & parking**

**Tuesday, September 30**

- Don't miss the 96th Running of the \$50,000 Winnipeg Futurity—a tradition rich in racing history!
- Please note: Tuesday is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Join us in honouring this important day.

**Wednesday, October 1**

- Girl's Night Out. \$100 Cash Draws, \$150 Fancy Hat Draw, \$5 drink & snack specials (main and 3rd floor): Fireball shots, Peach Tart shooters, Razderby Lemonade, 6 oz. House Wine, Chicken Fingers, Popcorn, Double-scoop Ice Cream, and the delicious Absolut Espresso Martini shooter—each shooter includes a ballot to win a \$300 Thermëa Spa gift card, courtesy of Corby Spirit & Wine.

**Tuesday, October 7**

- Fan Appreciation Night. \$5 Fireball Shot, \$5 Bud Light Cans, Happy Hour drink prices in the Clubhouse (excludes the Terrace Dining Room), 25% off all Clubhouse appetizers, \$2 ASD Programs, 50-cent Tip Sheets and 25% off all gift shop merchandise.

**Wednesday, October 8**

- Fan Appreciation Night. \$5 Fireball Shot, \$5 Bud Light Cans, Happy Hour drink prices in the Clubhouse (excludes the Terrace Dining Room), 25% off all Clubhouse appetizers, \$2 ASD Programs, 50-cent Tip Sheets and 25% off all gift shop merchandise.
- Girls Night Out. \$100 Cash Draws and \$150 Fancy Hat Draw. Happy Hour drink prices in the Clubhouse (excludes the Terrace Dining Room), 25% off all appetizers. \$5 Drink specials on the outside tarmac: Fireball shots, Peach Tart shooters, Razderby Lemonade, 6 oz. House Wine.
- **Mandatory Payout of the ASD Jackpot Pick 5 (if not won prior to). Current jackpot is \$243,567.**

**Please note that due to a private event on Tuesday, October 7, and Wednesday, October 8, the main floor and third floor will be closed during racing. Food and beverage service, as well as wagering, will be available in the Clubhouse and the outside tarmac area.**



Owner Florent Rivard (second from left), with happy family and friends, after winning the 5th race on Wednesday with Calming Force. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

### [Longshots Trigger Lucrative Pick 4, Bynoe and Keplin Maintain Big Leads in Standings](#)

Two longshots in the middle of the \$50,000 Guaranteed \$1 Pick 4 on Wednesday resulted in an excellent payoff of \$4,502!

Damario Bynoe maintained his big lead in the jockey standings with only four live race days left to go, trainer Steve Keplin, Jr. did the same in the trainer standings, and owner Florent Rivard was a partner on the longshots that ran 1-2 in Wednesday's 5th race, triggering numerous nice exotic payoffs.

**CLICK HERE** to read more.



#### ASD Player Portal

- Free ASD Live Racing Programs
- Race Night Selections
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ASDowns/player-portal



Travers Cummings

### NFL Picks by TravyFootball Week 4

Another perfect week in the books! I went 3-0 last week, which bumps my season record to 8-1. This week, I'm eyeing the Packers to bounce back against the Cowboys' shaky defence, the Texans to finally grab a win over the Titans, and the Ravens to outlast the Chiefs in a key AFC showdown.

Read the full analysis [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

**The Thanksgiving Buffet sells out every year so don't miss out and order your tickets today! 204-885-3330.**



Groom Meadow McLean leads Silver Jaguar out of the winner's circle on Tuesday evening after winning the second race for trainer Mike Taphorn. (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

The Frank Arnason Sire Stakes celebrated its 38th running this year. Back in 2012, Danger Rules prevailed over his rivals to win the 25th running of the race on June 23, 2012. (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



### 135th Breeders' Stakes: A New Face Will Take Third Leg of Crown

For the fifth year in a row, three different horses will win the Canadian Triple Crown races. This Sunday's 1 1/2-mile inner turf marathon at Woodbine will not include the winners of the first two legs.

Multiple stakes winner Tom's Magic is expected to be favoured in the Breeders' Stakes on Sunday. (Bill Denver / EQUI-PHOTO)

The Breeders' is essentially the last big money race for Canadian-bred 3-year-olds this year. Expected to be favoured is multiple stakes winner Tom's Magic, who had a tough trip in the King's Plate, but he does have a few tough rivals to beat.

-- *Canadian Thoroughbred*

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**Mandatory Payout Alert:** Churchill Downs will have a mandatory payout of the Jackpot Pick 6 on Sunday, September 28. The current carryover is 99,841.



### Santa Anita meet opens Friday and kicks into high gear early.


The fall Santa Anita meet opens on Friday and favoured features of the autumn meet at Santa Anita remain unchanged from a year ago, including low-takeout high-minimum double and pick three wagers and a stakes schedule front-loaded with Breeders' Cup prep races. There will be less glitz and more game. The focus is on horses, including weekend stakes runners trying to recapture former glory.

Full Serrano is among the headliners for Saturday's Goodwood Stakes at Santa Anita, a major prep for the Breeders' Cup Classic.(Barbara D. Livingston)

Before the stars come out this weekend, the Santa Anita autumn meet begins Friday with a no-frills program on which the priorities are handicapping and betting.

-- [Daily Racing Form](#)

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Phileas Fogg has the talent to lead from start to finish in the Woodward Stakes on Saturday. (Coglianese Photos)

**Betting on Speed the Strategy in 2025 Woodward Stakes**

A difficult question faces horseplayers betting Saturday's \$300,000 Woodward Stakes at Aqueduct's Belmont at the Big A autumn meet: Will #7 Locked bring his "A" game or run below his best?

Locked is the most accomplished horse in the Woodward field, best known for his dominating win in the Santa Anita Handicap over a Grade 1 field that included next-out Dubai World Cup winner Hit Show. If he runs to that level, he'll be tough to beat, but he hasn't been as sharp in his last two starts, and that makes this race much more interesting.

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

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**Bob's Blog The Daily Racing Form's Sam Perlman**

Sam Perlman is a name that might not be familiar to a lot of readers of the history blog, but his influence on racing locally and throughout North America was the stuff from which legends are made. Bob dug into the racing archives at his disposal and shares the story of a Winnipeg-born man who started with the *Winnipeg Free Press* in the early 1920s and went on to become editor and publisher of horse racing's "Bible," the *Daily Racing Form*, in 1949. Click [here](#) for all you need to know about Sam, who, by the way, served as a Steward right here at the Downs from 1966 to 1971.

**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.



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# Longshots Trigger Lucrative Pick 4, Bynoe and Keplin Maintain Big Leads in Standings

Sep 25, 2025 | The Inside Track



*Calming Force holds off a hard-charging Princeoftheprairie to win the 5th race on Wednesday for trainer Mike Taphorn. Owner Florent Rivard was a partner on the 1-2 longshots. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)*

**By G.S. Thompson**

Two longshots in the middle of the \$50,000 Guaranteed \$1 Pick 4 on Wednesday resulted in an excellent payoff of \$4,502, Damario Bynoe maintained his big lead in the jockey standings, and trainer Steve Keplin, Jr. did the same in the trainer standings with only four live race days left to go.

The big Pick 4 on Wednesday was the result of favourites getting beat in every race of the sequence. Trainer Mike Pierce and jockey Lenny Seecharan took the first leg in the fourth race with third choice Tenforthebigguy (\$6.80); Mike Taphorn and Ronald Ali teamed up to win the fifth race with Calming Force (\$25.60); Ryan Desjarlais and Sven Balroop pulled off another big upset in the sixth race with Little Eddie (\$33.60); and Mike Pierce was back in the winner's circle again in the seventh race with Paco's Pico (\$10.30), ridden by Antonio Whitehall.



*Paco's Pico (#3) and jockey Antonio Whitehall nip Cumberland Falls and Ciera Pruitt at the wire in the seventh race on Wednesday for trainer Mike Pierce. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)*

Both of Pierce's winners were somewhat logical, but you would have had to look beyond the numbers to have Calming Force and Little Eddie on your tickets. Both however, did have angles going for them. Calming Force had never really run a bad race in four lifetime starts, and in his previous start he'd shown marks of pending improvement with a long determined rally to win.

Little Eddie had won at the 7 ½-furlong distance three starts back and looked good doing it. He was also dropping in class for Wednesday's race after facing better in the J.W. Sifton Stakes. It showed, as he took the lead in the stretch and dug in determinedly to make sure favoured Ataboycookie never really got close to him despite a good rail rally after being bothered at the break.

The point being that solid handicapping resulted in the lucrative payoff, not just craziness.





*Leading rider Damario Bynoe after winning the 7th race on Tuesday evening aboard Charming Charlie for trainer Elton Dickey. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)*

Antonio Whitehall's win in the final leg of the Pick 4 on Wednesday gave him two victories on the week, but that wasn't enough to make a dent in the big lead Damario Bynoe opened up last week. Bynoe maintains a 50-43 lead over Whitehall, with Sven Balroop (36), Ronald Ali (23), and Rachaad Knights (23) rounding out the top five.

Both Knights and Ali scored hat tricks on the week, while Seecharan scored a double. Trainers Mike Taphorn, Tom Gardipy, Jr. and Mike Pierce led all trainers with two wins apiece, while Mike Nault and Jerry Gourneau took home singles that weren't enough to really gain on leading trainer Steve Keplin, Jr. On a quest for his first training title ever, Keplin has 35 wins, seven more than Nault (28) and eight more than Gourneau (27), followed by Wendy Anderson (22), Jared Brown (19) and Tom Gardipy, Jr. (19).

Two things of note for handicappers as we head into the homestretch of the live season. Trainer Tom Gardipy, Jr.'s horses are running some big races, and the same goes for trainer Mike Pierce. Probably best not to leave their horses off your tickets.



*Owner Florent Rivard (second from left), with happy family and friends, after winning the 5th race on Wednesday with Calming Force. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)*

Horse breaker extraordinaire and owner Florent Rivard wins the Longshot Award of the Week for the performances of his horses in the fifth race on Wednesday. Rivard owned the winner, Calming Force (11-1), in partnership with owner-breeder Garry Naherniak, and the runner-up Princeoftheprairie (15-1) in partnership with Greenlaw Farms. The winner was trained by Mike Taphorn and the runner-up was conditioned by Carl Anderson.

Both horses ran huge races, resulting in some excellent exotic payoffs including a \$1 exactor that paid \$89.55, a \$1 triactor of \$404.70 with heavy favourite Crusher Royale third, and a \$1 superfecta that paid \$3,012.85.

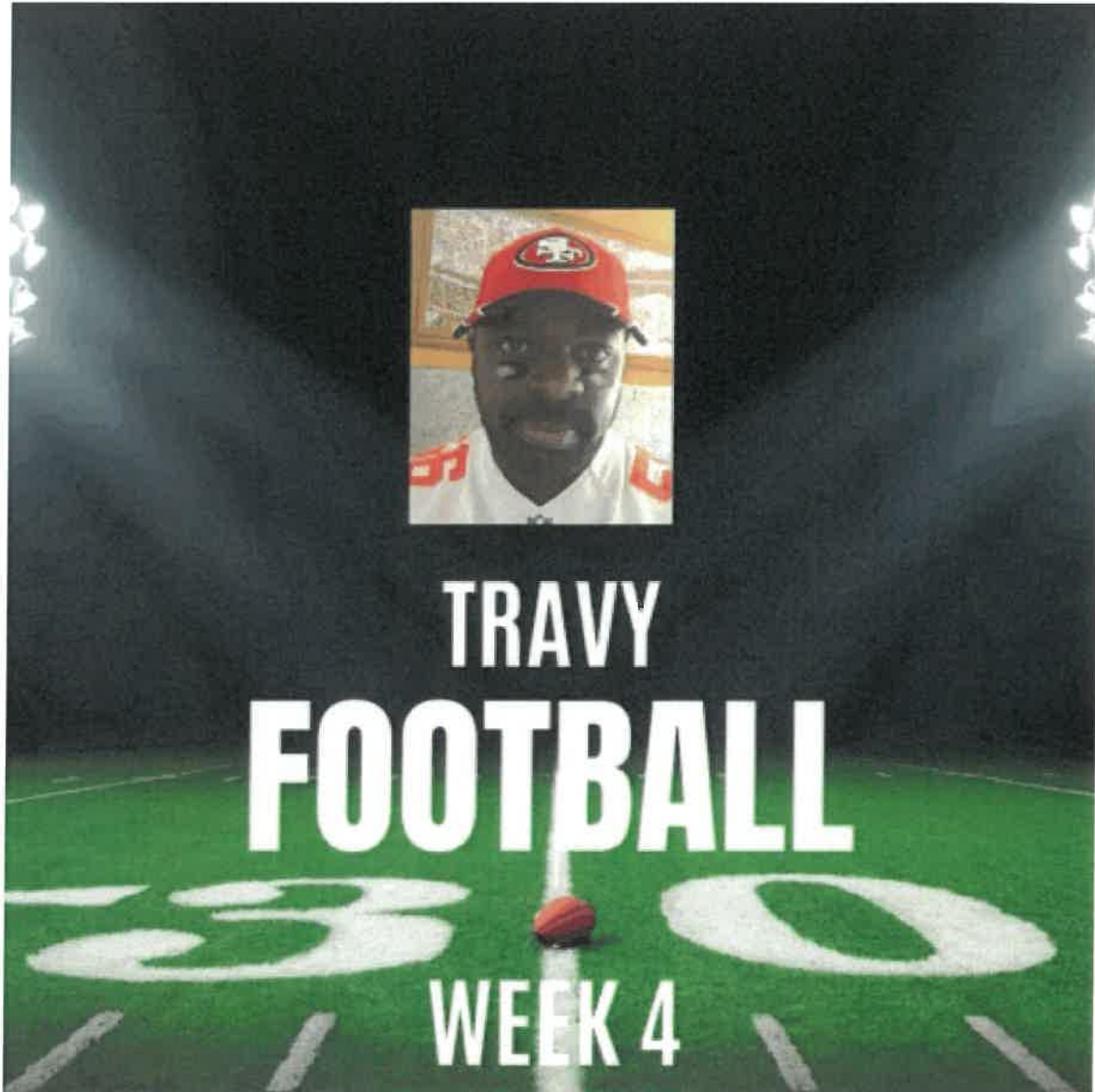
The Pick 4 was the icing on the cake.



*Ladies wearing smiles and pink hats filled the benches on Girls Night Out Wednesday at ASD. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)*

# TravyFootball Week 4

Sep 24, 2025 | The Inside Track



By Travers Cummings

**Packers over Cowboys** (Sunday night): The Packers were probably the biggest disappointment from last week losing to the crummy ol' Browns. Even though Cleveland has a solid defense, there's no excuse for the Packers, who have Super Bowl aspirations, to only score 10 points. Lucky for them, the perfect remedy for an offense that struggled, is to face the Dallas Cowboys Pop Warner level defense. They've given up 95 points in three games and have not shown the ability to even remotely slow opposing teams down. To

make matters worse, Cee Dee Lamb left the game early against the Bears after suffering a high ankle sprain that's going to keep him shelved for the next few weeks. So, they have no defense, and they lost their best player, that's not the recipe for victory, and I haven't even mentioned that former Cowboys star Micah Parsons is facing off against them for the first time since being traded. Last time these two teams played, Green Bay stomped them 48-32, expect something similar this time around.

**Texans over Titans** (Sunday noon): Only one team in NFL history has ever started a season 0-3 and made the playoffs. Both these winless teams are at the bottom of the AFC South looking up, which was expected of the Titans because they were projected to stink anyways, but the same can't be said for the Texans. After a strong rookie season from CJ Stroud, he just hasn't looked the same. Second year QBs sometimes go through the "sophomore slump", which he did, but heading into year three he was supposed to ascend into one of the better quarterbacks in the league. But, so far, he's done the exact opposite. Houston hasn't won a game yet, they're averaging a measly 12 points a game, and if they don't pull out a victory this week, there might be some major shake ups in the organization. First overall pick Cam Ward is finding life with the Titans in the NFL is quite different than his final year at the University of Miami. He will have to take his lumps this season since they have next to no talent around him. Unfortunately, someone does have to win this game I'm picking Houston to keep their slim playoffs hopes alive.

**Ravens over Chiefs** (Sunday afternoon): The Chiefs got their first win of the year last week, albeit against the Giants, but hey, a win is a win. It was another snoozfest from Kansas City, who is still missing their top two receivers in Xavier Worthy and Rashee Rice. Going back home to face the reeling Ravens is not going to be easy, seeing how they were dealt their second loss of the season courtesy of the Detroit Lions. Lamar Jackson was sacked seven times (still won me my fantasy football week with a late garbage touchdown though!), and Derek Henry had another crucial fumble at an inopportune time that the Ravens couldn't quite recover from. The Chiefs have won both previous matchups, but I also think they were significantly better in those games compared to what they are now. I can't see the Ravens losing two games in a row, so I expect them to bounce back pretty nicely against their conference rivals.

**Last week: 3-0**

**Season overall: 8-1**