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

ISSUE #204 - OCTOBER 3, 2025



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

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. Current jackpot is \$282,859 (if not won prior to).**

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.



Owners Gary Danelson and Bonnie McCrory celebrate with jockey Antonio Whitehall after winning the Winnipeg Futurity with Omaha Warrior on Tuesday at ASD. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

2-Year-Old Stars Impress in Winnipeg Futurity and Buffalo Stakes, Bynoe and Keplin Take Big Leads Into Final Week

A pair of 2-year-olds came up with huge performances in the Winnipeg Futurity and Buffalo Stakes, and jockey Damario Bynoe scored a 4-bagger on Wednesday evening to take a 10-win lead over Antonio Whitehall into the final two days of live racing next week at ASD.

The live racing season is coming to a thrilling close, with the ASD Jackpot Pick 5 pool now sitting at \$282,859. If there are no single winning tickets on the Pick 5 next Tuesday, the pool should be gargantuan for the mandatory payout on the final day of the meeting, Wednesday, October 8.

Get your wheelbarrows ready!

CLICK HERE to read more.



ASD Player Portal

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



ASDdowns/player-portal



Travers Cummings

NFL Picks by TravyFootball

Week 5

This week I'm breaking down two matchups where shaky offensive lines and struggling quarterbacks could decide the outcome. I'll tell you which defences are primed to dominate, and which teams need to prove they can move the ball if they want a shot at winning. Get the full breakdown of my Week 5 picks [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.



2025 Winnipeg Futurity winner Omaha Warrior gets a well-deserved kiss from groom Dodie Chmilowsky after his big win. (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

ASD
Assiniboia Downs
GAMING & EVENT CENTRE



[Click photo to enlarge](#)

A Snapshot in Time by Bob Gates

Pictured here is "Red" Smith's 2-year-old gelding Fancy As winning the Buffalo Stakes 25 years ago on September 17, 2000. Fancy As was one of the finest Manitoba-breds ever. He was bred by our own Ed Pawluk and as a two and three-year-old won 13 of his first 15 starts, finishing second in the other two races. (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



Breath Away (GB) has been listed at 6-1 for her first appearance in Canada on Saturday. (Julia Sebastianelli / EQUI-PHOTO)

Breath Away Makes Canadian Debut in Dance Smartly - Fall Turf Pick 3

Nine fillies and mares will vie for top spot in the \$200,000 bet365 Dance Smartly Stakes (G2T) on Saturday at Woodbine on a stellar card that also includes the Nearctic Stakes (G2T) and the Canadian International (G1). Breath Away, a multiple graded stakes-placed mare, has been listed at 6-1 for her first appearance in Canada in the Dance Smartly, which awards the winner an automatic invitation to the Pegasus World Cup Filly & Mare Turf Invitational Stakes (G2T) at Gulfstream in January.

A special Fall Turf Pick 3 with a \$5 minimum and a 15% takeout will be offered on the three turf stakes. Sounds like a fun bet to us!

-- [Canadian Thoroughbred](#)

[CLICK FOR FULL STORY](#)



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



Three Double-Digit Longshots to Consider on Fall Stars Saturday at Keeneland

It's opening weekend at Keeneland, and one of the premier meets in the country boasts a stellar Saturday program with 11 races, including five graded stakes that serve as key preps for the 2025 Breeders' Cup World Championships.

Andrew Champagne at America's Best Racing has several horses you may want to take a closer look at.

Spice Runner has been listed at 12-1 for the \$650,000 Claiborne Breeders' Futurity on Saturday at Keeneland. (Coady Media)

They figure to be pretty big prices on Saturday, but the potential is there for them to outrun their odds.

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

[CLICK FOR FULL STORY](#)



Thorpedo Anna wins the Personal Ensign at Saratoga. (Coglianese Photos)

[Thorpedo Anna Seeks Eighth Grade 1 Win in Spinster](#)

Reigning Horse of the Year Thorpedo Anna has not raced at Keeneland since her debut in October 2023, when she romped to an 8 1/2-length win in a 7-furlong maiden special weight.

The 4-year-old daughter of Fast Anna returns to the Lexington track on Sunday for the \$650,000 Spinster Stakes (G1), seeking her eighth win at the highest level. "It is all systems go," said trainer Kenny McPeck.

-- [BloodHorse](#)

[CLICK FOR FULL STORY](#)



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[Bob's Blog](#) [There's No Place Like Home](#)

We have reached the end of Bob's Blogs for the 2025 season. This week he does his usual year-end review with the "Old Man" from the last row of the benches in the shade of the grandstand. Click [here](#) to see what the old man has to say this year.

While this is the last of Bob's stories for this season, we haven't heard the last of the history guy. Starting next week in this very spot, we will once again feature "The Best of Bob." The re-runs of some of Bob's faves will take us through the winter, until he returns next spring to delight us with new tales of the turf.

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.

2-Year-Old Stars Impress in Winnipeg Futurity and Buffalo Stakes, Bynoe and Keplin Take Big Leads Into Final Week

Oct 2, 2025 | The Inside Track



Omaha Warrior wins the \$50,000 Winnipeg Futurity on Tuesday at ASD. Antonio Whitehall up. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

By G.S. Thompson

A pair of 2-year-olds came up with huge performances in the Winnipeg Futurity and Buffalo Stakes, and jockey Damarion Bynoe scored a 4-bagger on Wednesday evening to take a 10-win lead over Antonio Whitehall into the final two days of live racing next week at ASD.

Whitehall did his best to make up some ground on Bynoe on Tuesday night, scoring a hat trick to Bynoe's double, but Bynoe came back strong on Wednesday with a 4-win night to all but put the 2025 jockey title away.



Winnipeg Futurity Winning Connections. L to R: Trainer Jared Brown, jockey Antonio Whitehall, owners Gary Danelson and Bonnie McCrory, Manitoba Jockey Club Chairman Dr. Norm Elder and his wife Lorena. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Whitehall, a three-time leading rider at the Downs, can take some solace in the fact that he got the big money in the \$50,000 Winnipeg Futurity on Tuesday aboard Gary Danelson and Bonnie McCrory's Omaha Warrior for trainer Jared Brown. Whitehall gave Omaha Warrior a perfect trip, stalking a duel between favourite Wecanonlyimagine and second choice Tap the Parlay, and came with a powerful rally to take over at the sixteenth pole and draw off to win by 4 ¼-lengths over his stablemate Wecanonlyimagine, providing Brown with a 1-2 finish in the race.

A \$20,000 purchase for Danelson and McCrory at the 2024 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Yearling Sale by Brown, Omaha Warrior also won the Graduation Stakes at ASD earlier in the season. The son of Omaha Beach-Arcina by Arch improved his career record to 2-0-1 from four starts with his win in the Futurity, for earnings of US\$47,471. It was a sentimental win for Danelson, the all-time leading trainer at the Downs, who is no longer training. He's facing some health issues now at the age of 88, and it felt so good to see him in the winner's circle with a big smile.



Winnipeg Futurity winner Omaha Warrior gets a kiss from his groom Dodie Chmilowsky after his big win. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Danelson and McCrory's big win also occurred on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and all the Downs staffers wore orange shirts in a show of respect and remembrance.

Downs CEO Darren Dunn highlighted the importance of this recognition: "The participation of First Nations in our racing program is so incredibly important to Assiniboia Downs. We are so proud of the many success stories that have been created here and their contributions to the sport, which includes 10 consecutive leading trainer titles won by an indigenous person and in 2025 now tracking strongly for 11 with the near insurmountable lead that trainer Steve Keplin Jr. has."



Mighty Mikee and jockey Shavon Belle on their way to victory in the \$40,000 Buffalo Stakes at ASD on Wednesday for trainer Devon Gittens. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

On Wednesday evening, fans were treated to another powerhouse performance from Manitoba-bred 2-year-old Mighty Mikee in the \$40,000 Buffalo Stakes, courtesy of trainer Devon Gittens. The grey gelding by Mitole-Piccadilly Line by Air Force Blue set a fast pace early in the one-mile race and simply romped away in the stretch under no urging from jockey Shavon Belle to notch the largest winning margin of the day in North America at 17 $\frac{1}{4}$ -lengths.



Devon Gittens' assistant trainer Rheco Gittens and jockey Shavon Belle share a happy moment after winning the Buffalo Stakes with Mighty Mikee on Wednesday. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

It was the second stakes win for Mighty Mikee, who had earlier won the CTHS Sales Stakes. Bred by Larry Falloon and owned by a partnership that includes Falloon, Anne Champion, and McLaren Racing, Mighty Mikee was the sales topper at \$32,000 in the 2024 Manitoba CTHS Yearling Sale, and he has easily paid for himself with earnings of US\$50,974 from a record of 3-1-0 in four starts.



Ownership partner Blaine McLaren and assistant trainer Devon Gittens with Mighty Mikee in the winner's circle after their Buffalo Stakes victory on Wednesday. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Jockey Damario Bynoe is riding flawlessly as we enter the final two days of the live racing season, and he has all but won his first riding title in North America. The same goes for trainer Steve Keplin, Jr. who has a commanding seven-win lead heading into next week.



Leading rider Damario Bynoe returns with a smile after winning the 7th race on Wednesday's card aboard Please the Court, his fourth win of the evening. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

The 2025 live racing season at Assiniboia Downs is coming to a thrilling close, and the wagering excitement has reached a fever pitch, with the ASD Jackpot Pick 5 pool now sitting at \$282,859. If there are no single winning tickets on the Pick 5 next Tuesday, the pool should be gargantuan for the mandatory payout on the final day of the meeting, Wednesday, October 8.

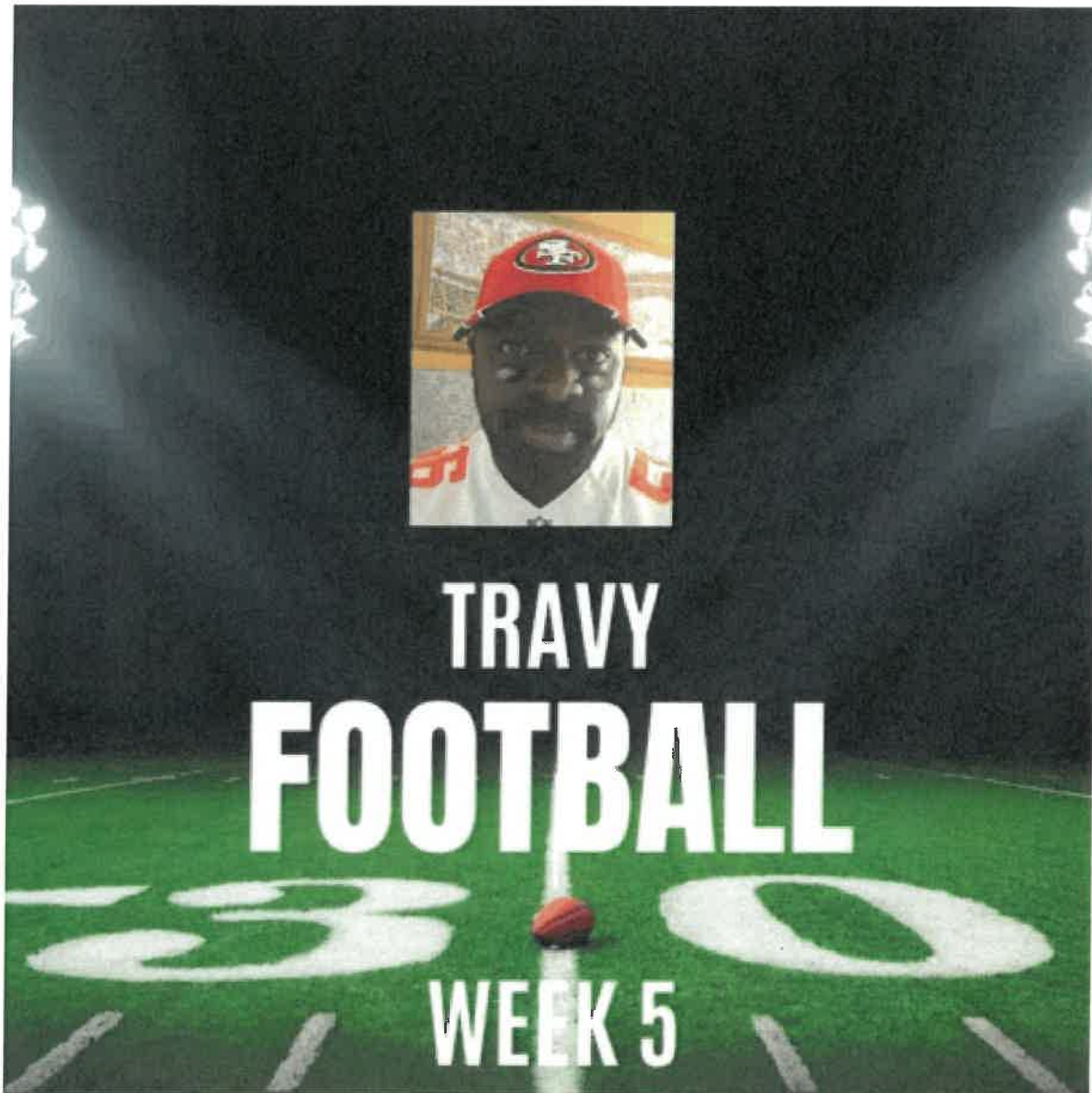
Get your wheelbarrows ready!



Only one more Girls Night Out next Wednesday! (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

TravyFootball Week 5

Oct 1, 2025 | The Inside Track



By Travers Cummings

Browns over Vikings (Sunday morning): If only the Browns had an offense to go along with their defense, I feel like they would have won a couple more games this season. I don't know how much longer Joe Flacco is going to last as the starting QB (update, he's been benched). With him under center, Cleveland has yet to reach 20 points in any contest and they definitely struggle to move the ball downfield. It might be time to give way to one of the rookies they drafted in Dillon Gabriel or Shedeur Sanders. Their defense just

spends too much time on the field to be effective for four quarters. Having said that, Carson Wentz and the Vikings are coming to town and he is the exact type of QB that the Browns can feast on. Wentz was sacked six times by the Steelers, and their defense isn't even as good as Cleveland's is. Like I mentioned before, if the Browns plan on winning this, they have to get the offense going.

Chargers over Commanders (Sunday afternoon): Just when you thought the Chargers were going to break out into that upper echelon of teams, they laid an egg against the Giants, who were starting a rookie Quarterback. I guess the one good thing coming out of this is game is that Chargers rookie running back Omarion Hampton finally had a breakout performance, rushing for 128 yards and one touchdown. If he can keep that up, it should help alleviate some of the pressure on Justin Herbert and the passing game.

Commanders QB Jayden Daniels missed his second straight game last week against the Falcons but is expected to be back for this week 5 matchup. The bigger issue for Washington though, is there defense, having given up 58 points the last two weeks.

Jets over Cowboys Upset alert! (Sunday noon): The Cowboys unexpectedly found themselves in quite the shootout with the Green Bay Packers last week. Even after five quarters of football, it wasn't enough time to decide a win, and the very rarely seen tie game happened. I couldn't believe how easily Dak Prescott picked apart the Packers defense, and that was without Cee Dee Lamb. Now they hit the road to play a winless New York Jets. It really does take a special type of talent to be consistently bad every year like the Jets are. They can change coaches, change players, change quarterbacks, try to change the culture surrounding the team, but the more things change, the more they stay the same, and it's looking like yet another failed season. On paper, the Jets should be better than their 0-4 record, and they should be able to move the ball well against the Cowboys defense, who is probably still exhausted from last week's game.

Last week 1-2 (The Packers tied, but since I picked them to win, I'll take that as a loss)

Season overall 9-3