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

ISSUE #205 - OCTOBER 10, 2025



ASD Champions Presentation:
From left to right: Chief Murray
Clearsky, ASD Leading Trainer
Steve Keplin Jr., ASD Leading
Jockey Damario Bynoe, ASD CEO
Darren Dunn. (Jason Halstead /
Assiniboia Photo)

Assiniboia Downs Closes With Record-Breaking 2025 Season, Trainer Steve Keplin, Jr. and jockey Damario Bynoe Win First-Ever Titles

Assiniboia Downs concluded its 2025 live racing season on a high note Wednesday night, setting a new all-time wagering record and celebrating two first-time champions.

Trainer Steve Keplin, Jr. won his first training title with 40 victories, jockey Damario Bynoe won his first championship with 60 victories, and total wagering reached \$75.2 million, setting a new track record and surpassing the previous benchmark of \$63.2 million in 2020 by an impressive \$12 million.

Thanks to our tremendous fans and the horsepeople who put on the show, wagering increased by 21.16% from the 2024 season, with the average wagering per card hitting \$1.5 million. Thank you everyone!

CLICK HERE to read more.

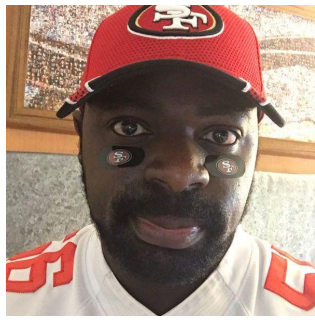


ASD Player Portal

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



ASDowns/player-portal



Travers Cummings

NFL Picks by TravyFootball

Week 6

It was a rough outing last week, but I'm ready to bounce back with a fresh slate of matchups that have plenty of storylines. From a struggling AFC powerhouse trying to stop the bleeding, to a pair of teams who can't seem to hang on to the football (literally), and a Super Bowl contender that needs to remind everyone they still belong at the top—this week's games are packed with intrigue.

See my Week 6 picks [here](#).



Thanksgiving Buffet - SOLD OUT

Thanksgiving Buffet - SOLD OUT

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



Track Robber walks back to the barn with a band of gold over his mane after winning the final race of the 2025 meeting at ASD for trainer Mike Pierce. (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

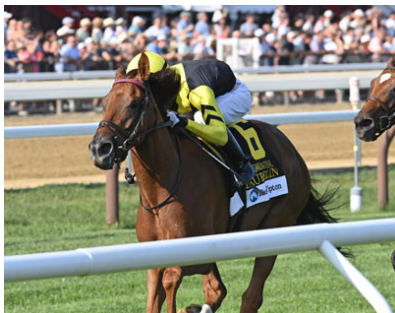


A Snapshot in Time by Bob Gates

Here we have Buck Domino winning his second consecutive Gold Cup in 1985. The dark bay was trained by 26-year-old George Williams (seen above at Buck's hind quarters). Yes, friends that's our very own George W. who trained the champion older horse at ASD for his father and two partners. (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



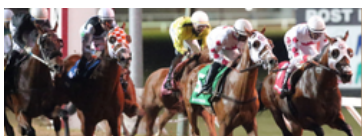
Noel's Weekend Winners: Turf Stakes Selections at Aqueduct, Keeneland

The big fall meets are in full swing and Keeneland and Belmont at the Big A are two of the tracks that offer top-notch fall racing and wagering every weekend at this time of the year. For this weekend's winners, handicapper Noel Michaels takes a closer look at Saturday's featured races from each of these tracks with a plan to cash some late afternoon bets on the weekend. Enjoy!

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

CLICK FOR FULL STORY

Laurelin has been listed at 5/2 for the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup Stakes at Keeneland on Saturday. (NYRA/Chelsea Durand)



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



Gal in a Rush, Ms. Tart Meet Again in Ontario Fashion Stakes

Gal in a Rush and Ms. Tart have different connections and train at separate racetracks hundreds of miles apart. But when it's time to race, the two female sprinters regularly land in the same spot.

This Saturday at Woodbine in the Ontario Fashion Stakes (G3), they'll meet for the sixth time this year. Most recently, Gal in a Rush came out on top, winning the Presque Isle Downs Masters (G2) in Pennsylvania, but three times this year, Ms. Tart has finished ahead of her.

The morning-line has Gal in a Rush is 5/2, while Ms. Tart is 20-1. Who's your play?

-- [*Blood Horse*](#)

CLICK FOR FULL STORY

Gal in a Rush has been listed at 5/2 for the Ontario Fashion Stakes on Saturday at Woodbine. (Coady Media / Renee Torbit)



Canadian-bred Mission of Joy punched her ticket to the Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf (G1) when she won the Rodeo Drive Stakes (G1) Santa Anita. (Benoit photo)

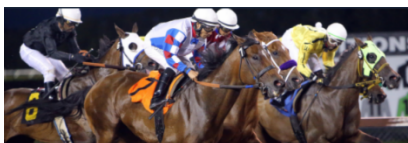
Canadian-bred Mission of Joy Punches Ticket to Breeders' Cup

A desperate final surge from Canadian/Ontario-bred mare Mission of Joy in last Saturday's Rodeo Drive Stakes (G2) at Santa Anita resulted in her first graded stakes win and a spot in the \$2 million Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf.

A \$32,000 yearling purchase at the 2021 Fasig-Tipton October sale by Ryan Zabrowski of RyzanSun, Mission of Joy is one of the last Sam-Son Farm-bred horses still racing.

-- [Canadian Thoroughbred](#)

[CLICK FOR FULL STORY](#)



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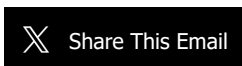
The Best of Bob

What was one of the greatest turnarounds in the history of the Manitoba Derby? A veteran trainer wins only one race in an entire season and bounces back the following year to win 14, earn \$178,494 in purses and the Manitoba Derby. Bob has the inside scoop on this storybook tale [here](#). (From July 24, 2018)

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.



Assiniboia Downs Closes With Record-Breaking 2025 Season

Oct 9, 2025 | The Inside Track



2025 Champions: From left to right: Chief Murray Clearsky, ASD Leading Trainer Steve Keplin Jr., ASD Leading Jockey Damarion Bynoe, ASD CEO Darren Dunn. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

By G.S. Thompson

Assiniboia Downs concluded its 2025 live racing season on a high note Wednesday night, setting a new all-time wagering record for the track and celebrating two first-time champions.

The 2025 season saw unprecedented success, with total wagering reaching \$75.2 million. This not only set a new track record but also surpassed the previous benchmark of set of \$63.2 million in 2020 by an impressive \$12 million. Total wagering increased by 21.16% from the 2024 season, with the average wagering per card hitting \$1.5 million.



Track Robber's mane lit up like gold on the way back to the barn after winning the last race of the 2025 meeting for trainer Mike Pierce. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Contributing to this year's success was the positive response from horseplayers to the track's customer-focused initiatives, including the strategic move in recent years to reduce all takeouts below 20%, a practice only a few North American tracks have adopted.

Closing day featured a thrilling mandatory payout of the ASD Jackpot Pick 5. The jackpot had reached over \$300,000, and an additional \$1.7 million was pumped into the pool on Wednesday, resulting in a pool of over \$2 million at post time for the third race. The payout was \$260.70 for a \$1 winning ticket.



Racing under the moon on the final night of the season at ASD. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

The 2025 season was marked by two young rising stars who are now first-time champions in the jockey and trainer ranks. Damarion Bynoe earned his first leading jockey title with 60 wins, 12 more than three-time ASD riding champion Antonio Whitehall, followed by Sven Balroop (36 wins), Prayven Badrie (29), and Rachaad Knights (24).

Steve Keplin, Jr. celebrated his first leading training title with 40 victories, eight more than runner-up Mike Nault (32), followed by five-time title holder Jerry Gourneau (30), Wendy Anderson (24) and Jared Brown (23).



Trainer Steve Keplin, Jr. won his first training title at the Downs with 40 victories. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Keplin's victory is particularly significant as it marks the 11th consecutive year that the Assiniboia Downs leading trainer title has been won by a First Nations trainer. The achievement was recognized during the closing day program by special guest Chief Murray Clearsky of Waywayseecappo First Nation, who presented the trophy to the new champion.

"What a finish this year with record wagering and the remarkable achievements from Damario and Steve Keplin Jr., both earning their first titles," said Darren Dunn, CEO of Assiniboia Downs. "We are so grateful for our growing fanbase of loyal horseplayers, the horsepeople that are giving it their all every day, and all the staff that helps to bring it all together. Thank you for another outstanding season."



New apprentice Ciera Pruitt had an excellent first season at ASD in 2025 with 12 victories. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

The racing highlight of the season was the \$125,000 Manitoba Derby, which was won by Attack, trained by Craig Robert Smith and ridden by N'Rico Prescod for the ownership team of Smokin Guns Stable, Highfield Investment Group, Inc., Lucky Diamonds Racing, Graham, Jamie and Dialed In Racing Stable.

A massive crowd on Derby evening resulted in record-breaking wagering across the board, with \$323,267 being wagered on the Manitoba Derby, and total wagering for the evening topping \$3,974,168, setting a new Derby record at Assiniboia Downs and the second highest handle in the track's history.



Track Robber wins the final race of the season at ASD with leading rider Damarion Bynoe up for trainer Mike Pierce. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Local fans were also a major highlight of the season, and attendance on-track for the live racing was larger than we've seen in over a decade, highlighted by the fabulous success of Girls Night Out on Wednesdays during the summer. Girls Night Out will be back again next year, and we're already looking forward to opening day on Tuesday, May 12, 2026!

Thank you everyone!



Girls Night Out on Wednesday evenings was a tremendous success and will be back for 2026. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia photo)

TravyFootball Week 6

Oct 9, 2025 | The Inside Track



By Travers Cummings

Rams over Ravens (Sunday noon): Being 1-4 definitely wasn't how the Ravens thought the first month of the season was going to go, but when your defense can't stop anyone, coupled with Lamar Jackson being out, getting wins won't be an easy thing. Last week they were annihilated by the Texans at home and struggled to move the ball with Cooper Rush at QB. Derek Henry has been M.I.A only rushing for 75 yard in the last two games combined, which is very unusual for him. It's one thing if your offense is garbage, but the defense has also given up 79 points in the

last two contests. Now the Rams are coming to town fresh off their upset loss to the 49ers and will be hungry to get back in the won column. I can't think of any way the Ravens win this game, so expect another blow out.

Colts over Cardinals (Sunday afternoon): The irony of these two teams playing each other after what transpired the last two weeks is not lost on me. The Cardinals shot themselves in the foot against the Titans and the Colts errored two weeks ago against the rams. If I could use expletives here I would, but it absolutely drives me insane when players STILL drop the football before crossing the goal line. It's happened twice just in the last weeks by these two very teams and it cost them wins each time. In the Cardinals case, all Emari Demercado had to do was cross the goal line and it would have put them up 28-6, game over. Instead, he was too concerned about celebrating and threw the ball aside on the 1-yard line. Cardinals coach Johnathan Gannon tore him a new one on the sideline, to the point he was fined \$100,000 for it, but in my opinion it was justified.

Two weeks ago, Colts receiver Adonai Mitchell tried celebrating early and the ball slipped out of his hand at the one-yard line, which led to a touchback instead of a touchdown. Hopefully those two goofs will learn from their mistakes, but given recent history, someone else is bound to do it again soon.

Bills over Falcons (Monday evening): The Bills were the last undefeated team heading into Sunday night, but the '72 Dolphins can once again pop the champagne now that the only undefeated season in history is still intact. Buffalo played a very sloppy game against the feisty Patriots team. Josh Allen turned the ball over a couple of times, and runningback James Cook never really got going. To his credit, Pats second year QB Drake Maye made some incredible throws on their final drive to put them in position to kick the winning field goal.

The Bills will have to shake that off and head to Atlanta who is coming off their bye week. You don't know which Falcons team is going to show up each game, the one that put up 34 points against the Commanders, or the one put up a donut against the Panthers. Either way, as good as Buffalo is, they can't take teams like this for granted because their defense isn't good enough to stop opposing offenses from moving the ball on them. They need a big statement game win here to let the NFL know they are still the team to beat.

**Last week 0-3
Season overall 9-6**