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ISSUE #206 - OCTOBER 17, 2025



October ASD Handicapping Challenge winner Tanis Atras with jockey Kendrick Carmouche and son Rob at Saratoga.

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"I just got lucky," said Tanis, but we all know that's not 100 percent true. It takes a good degree of skill to win these tournaments. Our local handicappers can go toe-to-toe with punters anywhere, and it wasn't the first time she's won the summer tourney.

CLICK HERE to read more.

Interview with 2025 ASD Leading Trainer Steve Keplin, Jr.

Trainer Steve Keplin, Jr. won his first training title at Assiniboia Downs in 2025. The 32-year-old Turtle Mountain Chippewa from Belcourt, N.D. compiled a record of 40-27-19 from 130 starts, winning at an exceptional 31% win clip, and his horses were always the ones to beat. Dalyss Hanson, the son of another excellent ASD trainer, Deb Hanson, interviewed Keplin for his [Swim Lessons Podcast](#). Entertaining and well worth a listen!



Breeders' Cup from Del Mar

Catch all the excitement of the Breeders' Cup from Del Mar, Friday, Oct. 31 at 1:35 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 1 at 12:05 p.m.

- Free Breeders' Cup Programs & Daily Racing Forms available at all locations starting Wednesday, Oct. 29 by 5 p.m.
- 📺 Breeders' Cup Merchandise Draws at all locations on Saturday, Nov. 1.
- 🎧 Plus, don't miss Kirt & Stretch's special Breeders' Cup show—available on the ASD YouTube Channel!
- 👉 Earn 3% cashback when you wager \$1,000 or more on any track on Friday, Oct. 31 and Saturday, Nov. 1. Maximum cashback is \$100. Opt-in at [HPibet.com](https://www.hpi.com).



Travers Cummings

NFL Picks by TravyFootball **Week 7**

Week 7 brings some intriguing matchups and plenty of storylines to keep things interesting. A couple of underdogs are starting to find their rhythm, and injuries could play a huge factor in a few key games. I've taken a close look at three matchups that I think will tell us a lot about where certain teams are headed this season — including one overseas battle and a divisional showdown that could shake things up.

Check out my full [Week 7 picks](#) and analysis.



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🎰 Free Spin to Win draws — Friday, Saturday & Sunday starting at 6 p.m.

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Click [here](#) for more info.



Owner/trainer Eugene Burns guides Track Robber and leading rider Damario Bynoe into the winner's circle for trainer Mike Pierce after their victory in the final race of the season at ASD. (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 🍷



Click photo to enlarge

A Snapshot in Time by Bob Gates

40 years ago, on October 11, 1985, Electric Fever got loose on the lead in the Manitoba Matron and never looked back. Downs all-time leading trainer, Gary Danelson conditioned the mare for partners Graham McKenzie and Calvin Shaw. The bay mare's win in the 5th running of the Matron pushed her career earnings over the \$100,000 mark. Nice horse! (Gerry Hart photo)



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Ragtime is the horse to beat at 3-1 in this Saturday's Lexus Raven Run Stakes at Keeneland. (Coady Media)

2025 Raven Run Stakes at a Glance

Apparently, there is a multitude of 3-year-old filly sprinters looking for graded stakes honors in their own age bracket before the year ends. That would explain why Saturday's \$400,000 Lexus Raven Run Stakes, a Grade 2 stakes at Keeneland, attracted an overflow field of 15 that includes three also-eligible entrants. The size of the field also promises to offer great betting value, especially in the exotics.

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

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South African mare Feather Boa returns from a one-year layoff in Sunday's Noble Damsel Stakes at Aqueduct. (JC Photos)

Noble Damsel Stakes Attracts Competitive, International Field

Team Valor International's Group 2-winner Feather Boa looks to make a successful return after more than a year off in Sunday's Listed \$150,000 Noble Damsel, a one-mile inner turf test for fillies and mares at Belmont at the Big A.

More international flavor will be added by La Generacion's Coni Fizz, who comes into the race off a G1 victory going nine furlongs on the dirt in the Estrellas Distaff on June 28 at Hipodromo Argentino De Palermo in her native Argentina.

Interesting betting race!

-- [Paulick Report](#)

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The field for the Breeders' Cup Classic this year is shaping up to be one of the best in the history of the race. Time to start handicapping! (Mathea Kelley)

Breeders' Cup TV Schedule, Post Times

Breeders' Cup Limited has announced the broadcast schedule and post times for the 42nd running of the Breeders' Cup World Championships, set for Oct. 31-Nov. 1 at Del Mar, and this year's coverage will deliver an unprecedented multiscreen, multiplatform viewing experience.

The Classic is shaping up as an international showdown featuring last year's top three finishers Sierra Leone, Fierceness, and Japanese star Forever Young, alongside Kentucky Derby, Belmont, and Travers Stakes winner Sovereignty, and Preakness and Haskell Stakes winner Journalism.

What a race!

-- [BloodHorse](#)[CLICK FOR FULL STORY](#)

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The Best of Bob

Did you know that the first woman jock to ride in a Canadian Triple Crown race in 1973 was also the first female rider to race in the Manitoba Derby in 1977? Bob has the story of this young Saskatoon lass [here](#). (From August 21, 2019)

Feedback & Inside Track Archives

We would love to hear from you! Email your comments and/or suggestions to theinsidetrack@ASDowns.com.

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Tanis Atras wins ASD Handicapping Challenge, says she just "Got Lucky"

Oct 16, 2025 | Handicapping, The Inside Track



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Tanis Atras won the final ASD Handicapping Challenge of the live racing season on October 7 by \$1.80 over Brent Daurie, and she was one of three women that gave the men a lesson by finishing in the top five.

"I just got lucky," said Tanis, but we all know that's not 100 percent true. It takes a good degree of skill to win these tournaments. Our local handicappers can go toe-to-toe with punters anywhere, and it wasn't the first time she's won the summer tourney. Tanis also took home first-place honours on July 31, 2023.

This time, she built her bankroll to \$75.70 to take home the \$3,500 first-place prize and the trophy. Runner-up Brent Daurie (\$73.90) gave it a valiant effort to finish second, followed by Maggie Van Eerd (\$66.40), Brad Kinnear (\$65.70), and Nicole Baker (\$65.60).

The mother of former top ASD trainer Rob Atras, Tanis also knows her way around a barn, which certainly can't hurt on the handicapping front. After seven years conditioning top horses at ASD, Rob moved to the tough NYRA circuit in New York in 2017 and immediately made an impact, winning at a 20% clip and becoming a Grade 1 stakes-winning trainer with a win in the 2021 Coaching Club American Oaks (G1) with Maracuja. Rob is well on his way now, with a career win-clip of 20 percent and a record of 467-396-340 from 2,323 starts for purse earnings of \$22,349,145. An amazing accomplishment!

Meanwhile, Mom continues to be a winner here. Tanis's bets in the tourney included two winners, a second-place finisher, and three third-place finishers, but her winners were nicely priced and included Mechanic Susie (\$10.90) in the first race and Saturday's Babe (\$21.80) in the second race.



Mechanic Susie helped get Tanis Atras off to a winning start with her victory for trainer Elton Dickey in the first race of the ASD Handicapping Challenge. Shown here with Groom Kenroy "Cuba"

Rowe and jockey Antonio Whitehall. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

"I can tell you I just got lucky," said Tanis about Saturday's Babe. "After the nine was scratched at the last minute in the second race I changed my bet quickly and landed on the four, which paid over \$40 across the board. It was a Jerry Gourneau horse, which are usually good bets."

And it was.

Tanis's strategy is to read the past performances and determine the top two or three horses. She then checks the trainer and jockey percentages. Her background in horses also helps, having connected with top former ASD trainer Jack Robertson decades ago while living in Amaranth, owning horses, and then experiencing life in the barn in an even more intimate fashion when son Rob became a trainer. He also helped her become a better handicapper.

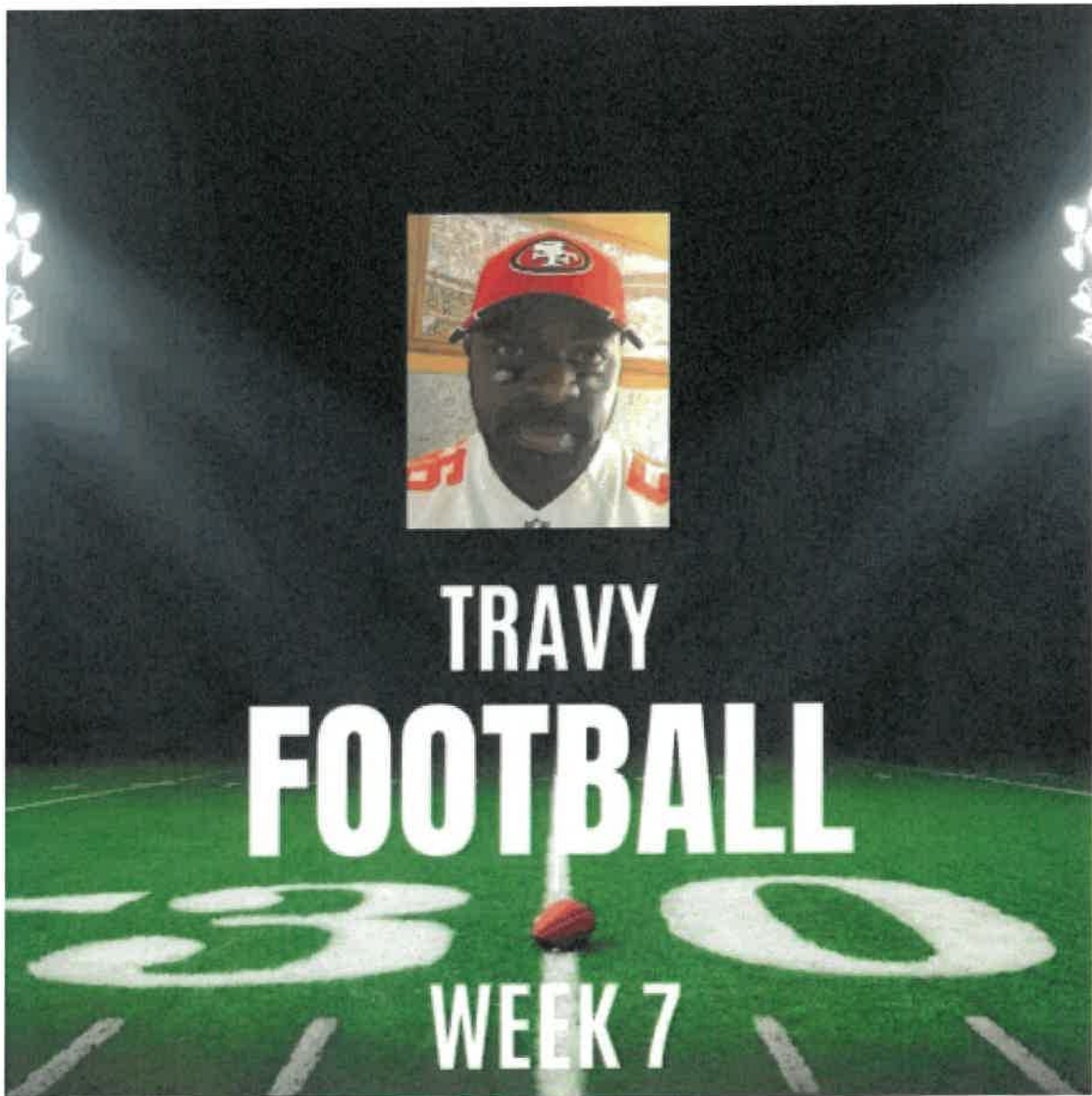
"I would like to thank Sheri (Glendinning) for all the reminders and programs," said Tanis, who enjoys competing in the tournaments. "She does a good job." After her last win, Tanis's advice to people thinking about playing in the tournaments was, "Don't give up. Anybody can win."

She followed her own advice.

NOTE: The first Player's Choice Handicapping Tournament of the off-season at ASD goes this Saturday, October 18. The deadline for entries is Friday at 4 p.m. First prize is \$1,000. Is it your turn to get lucky?

TravyFootball Week 7

Oct 15, 2025 | The Inside Track



Bears over Saints (Sunday noon): Now that the Bears have avenged their loss from last year against the Commanders courtesy of a Jake Moody field goal as time expired, they'll travel back home and prepare for a frisky New Orleans Saints team. The Saints gave their best effort but came up a little short last week against the Patriots and will look to find some sort of momentum against the Bears. When you're 1-5 there isn't too many positive things to take away from, but they've really only been blown out once this season, by the Seahawks, the rest of their games have been somewhat close. Caleb Williams and the Bears offense looked much better compared

to previous weeks and are only one game back of the Lions and Vikings in their division. Caleb needs to stay with the quick passes and not hold the ball too long and this should be an easy win for the Bears.

Jags over Rams (Sunday morning): This pick is contingent on Puka Nacua NOT playing since he left the game last week with an ankle sprain. Nacua leads the league in receptions (54) and is second in yards (616) so if they're missing that kind of production on the field Sunday morning, it might be a tough outing for Matt Stafford and the Rams. The Jags are taking their annual trip overseas to London for this one and coming off a loss. They will want to keep pace with the Colts in their division. Trevor Lawrence didn't play bad against Seattle, but runningback Travis Etienne only had 27 yards rushing and that's just not enough production. Seattle does have the second best run defense, so maybe that was the cause of Etienne's woes. He should have an easier time against the Rams 15th ranked run defense.

Chiefs over Raiders (Sunday noon): After a slow start to the season, the Chiefs had a big statement win against the Lions last week. Slowing down the Lions offense is no easy feat, but for the first time since week one, the Lions were held to under 30 points. The Chiefs also put up 30 points themselves and are now getting their number one receiver Rashee Rice back from suspension. Also working in Kansas City's favour is the AFC West is still a pretty jumbled mess between them, the Broncos, and the Chargers. The Raiders are coming off a win against the Titans, who ended up firing their coach earlier this week. But beating Tennessee doesn't say much, in fact, only beating them by 10 says more about the Raiders inability to play good even against the really bad teams.

Last week 2-1

Season overall 11-7