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ISSUE #211 - NOVEMBER 21, 2025



Judo, the top earner at ASD in 2025, shown here winning the R.J. Speers Memorial. Praven Badrie up for leading trainer Steve Keplin, Jr. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Leading Earners. Top 5 Horses at ASD in 2025.

There were some exceptionally well-managed horses at Assiniboia Downs in 2025, and they naturally included the top five money earners, all high-class runners that anyone would love to have in their stable.

Judo, Welcometohollywood, Betterlucknexttime (Manitoba-bred), Burrow Down and Attack...

Who was the best of the bunch?

[Full story here.](#)



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Travers Cummings

NFL Picks by TravyFootball **Week 12**

TravyFootball here! Week 12 brings big questions across the league—division leads shrinking, star quarterbacks banged up, and contenders trying to prove they still belong in the playoff conversation. I'm breaking down three key matchups, including a tough road test in Chicago, a chilly battle at Arrowhead, and a primetime game where a high-powered offence gets its leader back.

Fresh off a 3–0 week and sitting at 21–12 on the season, I've got my eyes on some crucial storylines. Think you can guess which way I'm leaning? Check out this week's breakdown [here](#).



Jockey Prayven Badrie with his trophy after winning the R.J. Speers Memorial on July 14 aboard Judo for trainer Steve Keplin, Jr. and owner James Parisien. Click image for full-size photo. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

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

The 1987 season barely made its way into November when the 120-day meet came to a close on November 1st. Two-year-old Prairie Oaks won the third race on the busy 13-race card. Jockey Brian Bochinski's win here was one of five on the day. Wait a minute, is that a young Bill Chabot holding Prairie Oaks? I believe it just may be. (Gerry Hart Photo)



- \$13.95 Daily Lunch Special
- Happy Hour (3 to 5pm & 9pm to close)
- Daily Evening Specials
- Details at ASDowns.com



King's Plate Winner Mansetti Heads to Kentucky Bluegrass

Al and Bill Ulwelling's King's Plate champ Mansetti is not done his 2025 campaign just yet. The bay 3-year-old colt, coming off second-place finishes in the Prince of Wales Stakes and Ontario Derby, is giving grass a try on Saturday, November 22, in the Grade 3 Commonwealth Turf at Churchill Downs.

2025 King's Plate winner Mansetti is slated to make his debut on the turf this Saturday in the Commonwealth Turf Stakes at Churchill Downs. (Julia Ferreira photo)

Mansetti is trained by Kevin Attard and will again be ridden by Pietro Moran. The Plate hero drew post six in the 1 1/16-mile race, which drew 11 entrants.

-- [Canadian Thoroughbred](#)

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Horses race into the first turn at Fair Grounds. The New Orleans venue

Let the Good Times (and Racing) Roll: Tips for Winning at the Fair Grounds Meet

Live racing returned to Fair Grounds on Thursday, Nov. 20, as the New Orleans racetrack hosts its 154th season. The 2025-26 meet will encompass 70 race days through March 22 and will offer racing fans and handicappers some of the best wagering to be found during the winter season.

Fair Grounds' meet will be highlighted by 56 stakes worth a total of \$8.65 million headlined by some of the most important races on the road to the Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve.

opened yesterday for its 154th season of racing and runs through late March. (Lou Hodges, Jr. /Hodges Photography)

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

CLICK FOR FULL STORY



Nevada Beach Looks Best in Native Diver

After a disappointing run in the \$7 million Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) at Del Mar Nov. 1, Nevada Beach is back in action Nov. 22 facing four rivals in the \$100,000 Native Diver Stakes (G3).

The 3-year-old Omaha Beach colt found himself shuffled back in the early stages of the 1 1/4-mile Classic against the best dirt horses in the world, but that shouldn't happen on Saturday.

Nevada Beach is out to make amends in the Native Diver Stakes on Saturday at Del Mar. (Anne M. Eberhardt)

-- [*BloodHorse*](#)

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The Best of Bob

This week's history blog includes a potpourri of memories that came to our history guy as a result of a special inspiration. Who knew that an everyday activity would kick start a story from our racing's past. Well, it certainly did for Bob, and he shares with us an idea to help preserve the past. Click [here](#) to learn more about Bob's basis for this week's story. (From May 23, 2024)

Track Historian Bob Gates

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.



Leading Earners! Top Five Horses at ASD in 2025.

Nov 20, 2025 | The Inside Track



Judo (#3 between horses) and jockey Sven Balroop on their way to winning the Harvey Warner Manitoba Mile for trainer Steve Keplin, Jr. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

By G.S. Thompson

There were some exceptionally well-managed horses at Assiniboia Downs in 2025, and they naturally included the top five money earners, all high-class runners that anyone would love to have in their stable.

Who was the best of the bunch?

Judo



Leading 2025 ASD money earner Judo (outside) and jockey Prayven Badrie win the R.J. Speers for leading trainer Steve Keplin, Jr. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Judo put together a four-race win streak in 2025 that included victories in the Free Press Stakes, the R.J. Speers and the Harvey Warner Manitoba Mile Stakes. The 5-year-old gelding by Street Sense also finished second in the Already Dia Overnight Stakes and fourth in the Gold Cup, but he was always the horse to beat for leading trainer Steve Keplin, Jr. and owner James Parisien. Claimed by Keplin for \$12,500 at Turfway Park in December of 2024, Judo finished the year as a triple stakes winner with a record of 4-1-1 and earnings of US\$81,749. Nicely done!

Welcometohollywood



Welcometohollywood returns after winning the Jack Hardy Stakes for trainer Jared Brown, groom Susan Crane, and jockey Antonio Whitehall. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Welcometohollywood started her season locally with second-place finishes in the Honourable Lady Overnight Stakes and the Chantilly, and then went on a three-race win streak that included the Jack Hardy Stakes, Manitoba Oaks, and the Century Casino Oaks at Century Mile. Trained by Jared Brown for himself and ownership partner John Ganas, the 3-year-old filly by Omaha Beach also finished second in the Manitoba Matron Stakes. Purchased for just US\$7,000 at the 2023 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Yearling Sale by Brown and Cam Ziprick, last year's Winnipeg Futurity winner compiled a 2025 record of 3-3-0 from eight starts for earnings of US\$108,949, US\$63,259 of which came from Assiniboia Downs races. Truly a bargain!

Betterlucknexttime



Manitoba-bred Betterlucknexttime gets a pat from jockey Antonio Whitehall as groom Brittany Bergen leads him into the winner's circle after their victory in the Frank Arnason Sire Stakes for trainer Mike Nault. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Betterlucknexttime was the top Manitoba-bred on the money earnings list in 2025, and yet another local star who went on a three-race win streak. Bred by Larry Falloon and Denis Huberdeau, the 3-year-old gelding by Nonios won both the Frank Arnason Sire Stakes and the J.W. Sifton Stakes and compiled a 2025 record of 4-1-1 from nine starts for earnings of US\$57,823 for owners A2 Thoroughbreds and True North Thoroughbreds and trainer Mike Nault. A \$25,000 Manitoba CTHS Yearling Sale purchase in 2023, last year's Buffalo Stakes winner has now earned US\$91,519 from a career record 6-2-1 in 13 starts, easily paying back his purchase price with a handsome profit!

Burrow Down



Burrow Down powers home to win the Manitoba Matron under jockey Damario Bynoe for trainer Mike Taphorn and groom Katie Morris. (Danielle Langlois / Assiniboia Photo)

Burrow Down won the Manitoba Matron Stakes for the third year in a row at Assiniboia Downs, and continued to build on her stellar local record. Trained by Mike Taphorn for owner Gerald Babchishin, the 6-year-old mare by Connect also won the Canada Stakes at the Downs after beginning her year with a victory at Century Mile in the RedTail Landing Handicap. One of the best mares ever to race at ASD, Burrow Down finished the season with a record of 3-1-1 from six starts for earnings of US\$78,413, of which US\$56,579 came from her local races, and improved her lifetime record to 12-6-6 from 35 starts for earnings of US\$216,155. The horse to beat in every one of her local races.

Attack



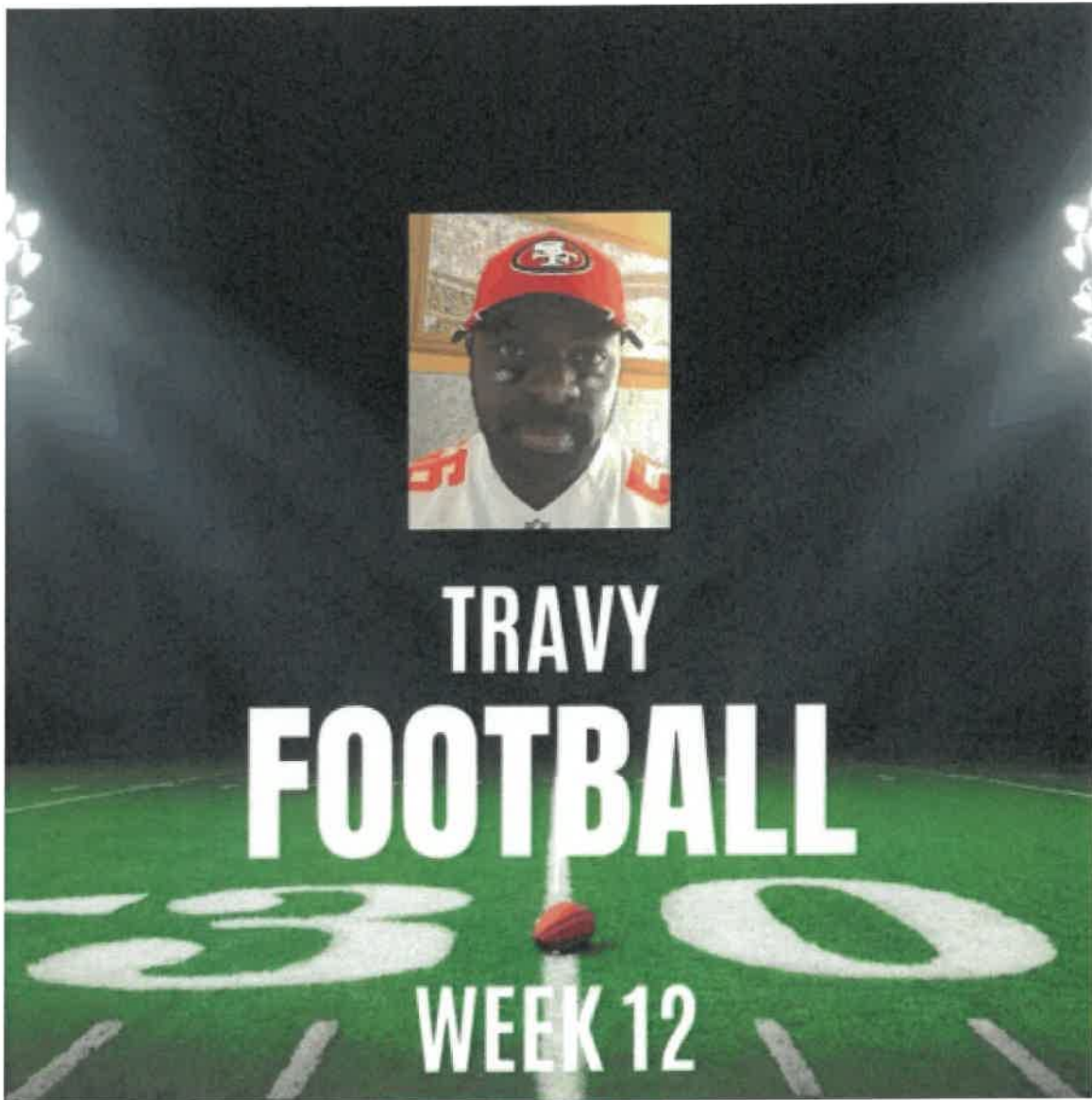
2025 Manitoba Derby winner Attack (checkered blinkers) and jockey N'Rico Prescod early in the running of the 77th Derby. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Attack took the fifth spot on the earnings list thanks to his victory in the Manitoba Derby, which was his lone start at Assiniboia Downs in 2025, and he did it via disqualification of the horse that crossed the finish line first, Take Charge Tom. Conditioned by top Alberta-based trainer Craig Smith, the 3-year-old gelding by Munnings had trouble early in the Derby, partially caused by Take Charge Tom, but made a spirited run late to be beaten only 1 ¼-lengths before being elevated to the win spot. Owned by a partnership that included , Attack went on to finish third in the Canadian Derby (G3) and sixth in the B.C. Derby (G3), to win the \$25,000 owner/trainer bonus offered in the Western Canada Derby series. He finished the year with a record of 1-0-2 from seven starts for total earnings of US\$84,743, US\$55,519 of which came from his Manitoba Derby victory.

Congratulations to the top five earners at ASD in 2025, all of which had stellar care and connections for longtime owners and top trainers. The same could be said for the top five Manitoba-bred earners at ASD in 2025, which we'll cover next week!

TravyFootball Week 12

Nov 19, 2025 | Uncategorized



By Travers Cummings

Bears over Steelers (Sunday noon): After having a pretty comfortable lead in the AFC North, all of a sudden the Steelers find themselves only one game up on the Baltimore Ravens for the division lead. Last week's victory didn't come without a loss as Aaron Rodgers fractured his non-throwing wrist. He won't need surgery, but his status for this game is up in the air. If he can't play, journeyman QB Mason Rudolph will get the start.

Pittsburgh really can't afford to lose this one, but going on the road to Chicago will be a tough task.

The Bears pulled off another win in the dying seconds of the game last week against the Vikings. It's the third or fourth time they've done it this season, and that's why they find themselves atop the standings in the NFC North. It's hard to believe if this team is for real or not, just due to the fact they've had multiple games that could have gone the other way, but when you're the Bears—who have been one of the league's punching bags for years—you'll take any win you can get.

Chiefs over Colts (Sunday noon): I feel like most of the football world is happy to see when the Chiefs are not having a good season. Kansas City fell to third in the AFC West after losing to division rivals, the Denver Broncos. In what could be called a defensive battle, the Chiefs just couldn't hold on for one last drive, and Will Lutz kicked the game-winning field goal as time expired. It seems like they're ripe for the picking right now, especially with a juggernaut like the Colts coming to town, but I just can't bring myself to pick against Mahomes at home in this one. They'll definitely need to figure out a way to slow down Jonathan Taylor, who's having an MVP-type year, but it might be a little chilly out there at Arrowhead Stadium, and the Colts are an indoor team who might not like to play in the elements. If Mahomes and the Chiefs want to continue their 11-year streak of making the postseason, they have to win these big games.

Niners over Panthers (Monday night): Boy oh boy, was I ever excited to see Brock Purdy back in action last week. He hasn't played a game since Week Four due to a nagging turf toe injury, but last week he was finally healthy enough to return. Mac Jones did a fine job filling in for him, but the offence just looks like a well-oiled machine when Purdy is behind centre. George Kittle caught two touchdown passes and Christian McCaffrey contributed with three touchdowns of his own. As happy as I am to see the offence clicking, the defence is a different story. Despite winning the game 41–22, the defence allowed Cardinals quarterback Jacoby Brissett to complete 47 passes on them, which broke an NFL record previously held by former Patriot and Cowboy Drew Bledsoe. If San Fran is going to stay competitive, they can't allow things like that to happen again, even with the absurd number of injuries they've suffered.

Last week: 3–0

Season overall: 21–12