

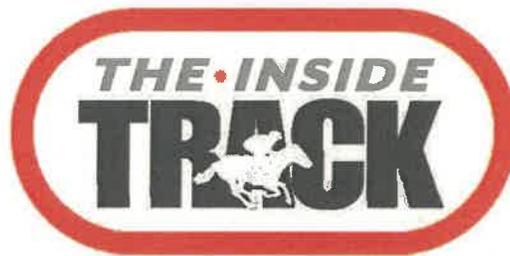
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DID YOU HEAR THE LATEST?

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

ISSUE #222 - FEBRUARY 13, 2026



2026 Live Race Dates

- Tuesday, May 12 through Wednesday, Oct. 7
Click [here](#) for full schedule.
- Reservations are now open for our renowned Prime Rib Buffet which is available on Live Race Nights only. \$59.95 per person.
- **Special Offer: \$10 off per reservation in May. Use code MAYPRIME when booking. Reservations must be made by Thursday, April 30 in order to receive this special offer.**

Live Racing starts Tuesday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m.



Trainer Jack Robertson was known as one of the top caretakers in Assiniboia Downs' history. A horseman's horseman.

Remembering Jack Robertson

December 7, 1938 - February 4, 2026

A Horseman's Horseman

Highly respected Assiniboia Downs trainer Jack Robertson passed away on Wednesday, February 4, at the age of 87. The multiple stakes-winning trainer was well known as one of the best caretakers of horses in the history of Assiniboia Downs, and his horses always gave their best.

In a game where horses can't speak for themselves, the highest praise one horseperson can bestow upon another is that he took care of his animals first and foremost. Jack Robertson earned that praise every single day.

Rest easy, horseman.

[Full story here](#)



Groom School graduate and former Groom of the Year Skyla Blanchard loves her job. (George Williams)

Explore a Career as a Racehorse Groom!

Looking for a hands-on way to get involved in the horse racing industry?

The HBPA of Manitoba Inc. is offering a 4-week paid Racehorse Groom Training Program, a chance to learn the ropes of daily barn life while working directly with racehorses.

Applications are open now! For details and to apply, visit hbpamanitoba.ca or email hbpamanitoba@mymts.net.

[Full story here.](#)



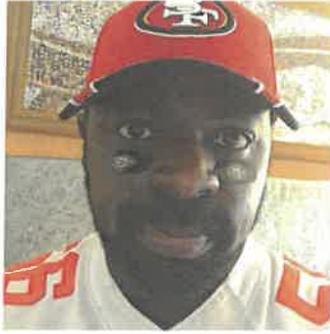
The fun never stops at Assiniboia Downs Winnipeg's place to play and win!

Did you know that Assiniboia Downs is Winnipeg's #1 Spot for VLT Jackpots? Play any of our 140 VLTs in the Club West Gaming Lounge for your chance to win!

- 🎰 Free Spin to Win draws — Friday, Saturday and Sunday starting at 6 p.m.
- 💰 Free \$200 cash draws — Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 9 p.m.

Click [here](#) to see our recent jackpots.

Open daily from 10 a.m. to 1 a.m.



Travers Cummings

NFL Picks by TravyFootball Super Bowl Recap

Super Bowl LX is done — and it wasn't pretty. From the opening snap, the Patriots were in trouble against Seattle's defense. I break down what went wrong, Maye's rough night, and why this wide-open season still leaves reason for optimism heading into 2026–27 [here](#).



Earn 3% Cash Back

Earn 3% cash back when you wager \$500 or more on your HPI account from Friday, February 13 through Monday, February 16.

Maximum cash back is \$50. (\$2.10 payouts excluded.) [Opt-in required.](#)



Mandatory Payouts

- **Saturday, February 14:** Mandatory payout of the Jackpot Hi-5 at **Mohawk Harness**. The current carryover is \$171,968.
- **Sunday, February 15:** Mandatory payout of the Jackpot Pick 6 at **Gulfstream Park**. The current carryover is \$428,893.



Road to the Kentucky Derby

- Feb. 14 - Risen Star (FG) - 50 points
- Feb. 14 - Saudi Cup - 30 points
- Feb. 15 - Sunland Derby (Sun) - 20 points
- Feb. 20 - Dubai Road to Derby (Mey) - 20 points
- Feb. 21 - John Battaglia (TP) - 20 points

Kentucky Derby Future Wager Pool #4 - Friday, Feb. 13 through Sunday, Feb. 15 - click [here](#)



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

Remembering Trainer Jack Robertson, Risen Star Stakes Trends, Saudi Cup frameable from your big race, or of your special horse, email Jason at jjhphoto@gmail.com.

Former jockey Jerry Pruitt and wife, trainer Lise Pruitt, celebrate their daughter Ciera Pruitt's first career win aboard Mineral Rights at Assiniboia Downs on May 27, 2025. Click image for full size. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Prices are excellent! Almost as good as his photos 😊



A Snapshot in Time by Bob Gates

This is Part 2 of our *Jockeys of the Past*. It's another fantastic photo, but the truth is, we aren't exactly sure what we have. Our best guess is that these are the boys from Polo Park Racetrack, with Polo's signature fence in the background, likely dating to the early 1950s. We're still working on identifying the names of these lads. (Thorlakson Family Photo)

Click photo to enlarge



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



Six Trends to Consider When Betting the 2026 Risen Star Stakes

If you analyze the recent history of the \$500,000 Risen Star Stakes (G2) at Fair Grounds on Saturday, you'll see several recurring trends suggesting the race will end in an upset.

Handicapper J. Keeler Johnson looks at six historical factors to keep in mind when handicapping the 2026 Risen Star.

-- *America's Best Racing*

CLICK FOR FULL STORY

Gun Runner Stakes winner Chip Honcho has been listed at 6-1 for Saturday's Risen Star Stakes at Fair Grounds, and he fits some solid longshot angles. (Lou Hodges)



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





Forever Young will attempt to win his second consecutive Saudi Cup on Saturday. (Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia / Abdullah Wanas Alshammari)

Saudi Cup: Forever Young Headlines, Casse Starts 'Dazzle

Breeders' Cup Classic winner Forever Young drew post position six for the \$20 million Saudi Cup (G1) at King Abdulaziz Racecourse in Riyadh on Saturday.

The son of Real Steel has earned over \$19 million and is bidding for his second consecutive Saudi Cup. He's been listed as the 7/5 favourite against 13 rivals.

Leading Woodbine trainer Mark Casse saddles Time to Dazzle in the \$2 million Turf Sprint on the undercard.

The Saudi Cup is the richest race in the world and the two day festival of racing will be on HPIbet.com. Post time on Saturday for the first race to be shown on HPI is 7:20 a.m. (CST).

-- [Canadian Thoroughbred](#)

CLICK FOR FULL STORY



Bella Ballerina has been listed as the 2-1 favourite vs seven rivals in Saturday's Rachel Alexandra Stakes at Fair Grounds. (Julie Clark / Coady Media)

Golden Rod Winner Bella Ballerina Favoured In Rachel Alexandra

Undefeated Godolphin homebred Bella Ballerina, already a Grade 2 winner and a leading Kentucky Oaks prospect, has been installed as the 2-1 morning-line favourite for Saturday's \$300,000 Fasig-Tipton Rachel Alexandra Stakes (G3) on Louisiana Derby Preview Day at Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots.

"She has been doing great," said trainer Brendan Walsh. "She's grown and gotten stronger."

Could be a good one.

-- [Paulick Report](#)

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Track Historian Bob Gates

The Best of Bob

Karen Louise Chysyk may not be a name that is easily recognizable, but she left her mark at the Downs. She won a Powder Puff Derby and conditioned 33 winners in 1980. Some of her runners included A Lot of Ability, Mr. Mar J Mar, and Susans Turn, to name just a few.

Click [here](#) to discover the life and times of this Saskatoon lass who made the Downs her home for much of the 1970s and early '80s. (From June 23, 2021)

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.



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Remembering Jack Robertson

Feb 12, 2026 | The Inside Track



Remembering Jack Robertson

December 7, 1938 – February 4, 2026

A Horseman's Horseman

By G.S. Thompson

Highly respected Assiniboia Downs trainer Jack Robertson passed away on Wednesday, February 4, at the age of 87. The multiple stakes-winning trainer was well known as one of the best caretakers of horses in the history of Assiniboia Downs, and his horses always gave their best.

Jack's reputation, as a man who could take a horse that others had given up on and bring out the very best in it, was the hallmark of a 43-year career at the Downs that produced more than 600 victories, nearly \$4 million in purse earnings, and a legacy that will endure for generations among Manitoba horsepeople.

Born on December 7, 1938, in Winnipeg, Jack spent his early years on the family farm at Lynch's Point before moving to Marcus in 1953. Horses were always a part of Jack's life, both for farm work and for pleasure. He was one of the first breeders of Paint horses in the 1950s and showed them successfully in both Canada and the United States, winning more than 100 trophies in the show ring before he ever saddled a thoroughbred.

Jack trained and competed with western pleasure horses before transitioning to thoroughbreds in the early 1970s, first racing horses at local "Sports Days" before taking out his trainer's licence in 1976. He saddled his first starter at Assiniboia Downs on May 28, 1976, and recorded his first win as a trainer with *From the Heart* on August 24, 1976, at Regina Exhibition Racetrack.

A student of pedigree who gained an edge understanding thoroughbred bloodlines through studying the more complicated pedigrees of purebred cattle, Jack was almost always among the leading percentage trainers at Assiniboia Downs. But it was his extraordinary ability to recondition horses, purchasing cast-offs and horses that couldn't compete at major American tracks and rejuvenating them mentally and physically, that set him apart from his peers.

The most notable among his reconditioning successes was local Champion and Horse of the Year Uene, a former claimer who won the 1988 Gold Cup Handicap, along with the Inaugural Handicap and the Manitoba Crocus Stakes that same season.

Jack's all-time leading money-earner at the Downs was Manitoba-bred Pete's Surprise, who won the R.C. Anderson Stakes, the Distaff Stakes, and the Canada Day Stakes in 2003–2004 and earned US\$132,468.

One of the major indicators of a top horseperson is the ability to guide horses through long, consistent careers at the track. Jack showcased his skills in that area with the game campaigner Bobby Q, who won seven stakes over the course of an eight-year career at the Downs and compiled a record of 20-12-8 from 80 starts for earnings of US\$131,784.

Bobby Q counted the Free Press Handicap, the Wheat City Handicap, the Harry Jeffrey Handicap, and the R.J. Speers Handicap among his stakes triumphs, a testament to the kind of patient, meticulous horsemanship that was Jack's trademark.

Jack won the R.J. Speers an amazing five times—with Kapalua (1989), Portage (1990), Feudal (1991), Bobby Q (1984), and Copa De Ore (1997)—a

record that speaks to his consistency at the highest level of racing at the Downs. His other major stakes victories included the Assiniboia Oaks with Iमारunaway (1993), the Derby Trial Stakes with Dazzling Beau (1995), the Winnipeg Sun Stakes with Vox Neneme (1996), the Buttons and Bows Handicap with Villa Girl (1993), and multiple editions of the Hugh Jackson Memorial, Harry Jeffrey, and Duchess Stakes.

Jack retired from training horses in 2018 after compiling a career record of 684-658-674 from 4,727 starts for purse earnings of US\$3,964,105. Those numbers tell one story. The respect he earned from his fellow horsepeople tells another.

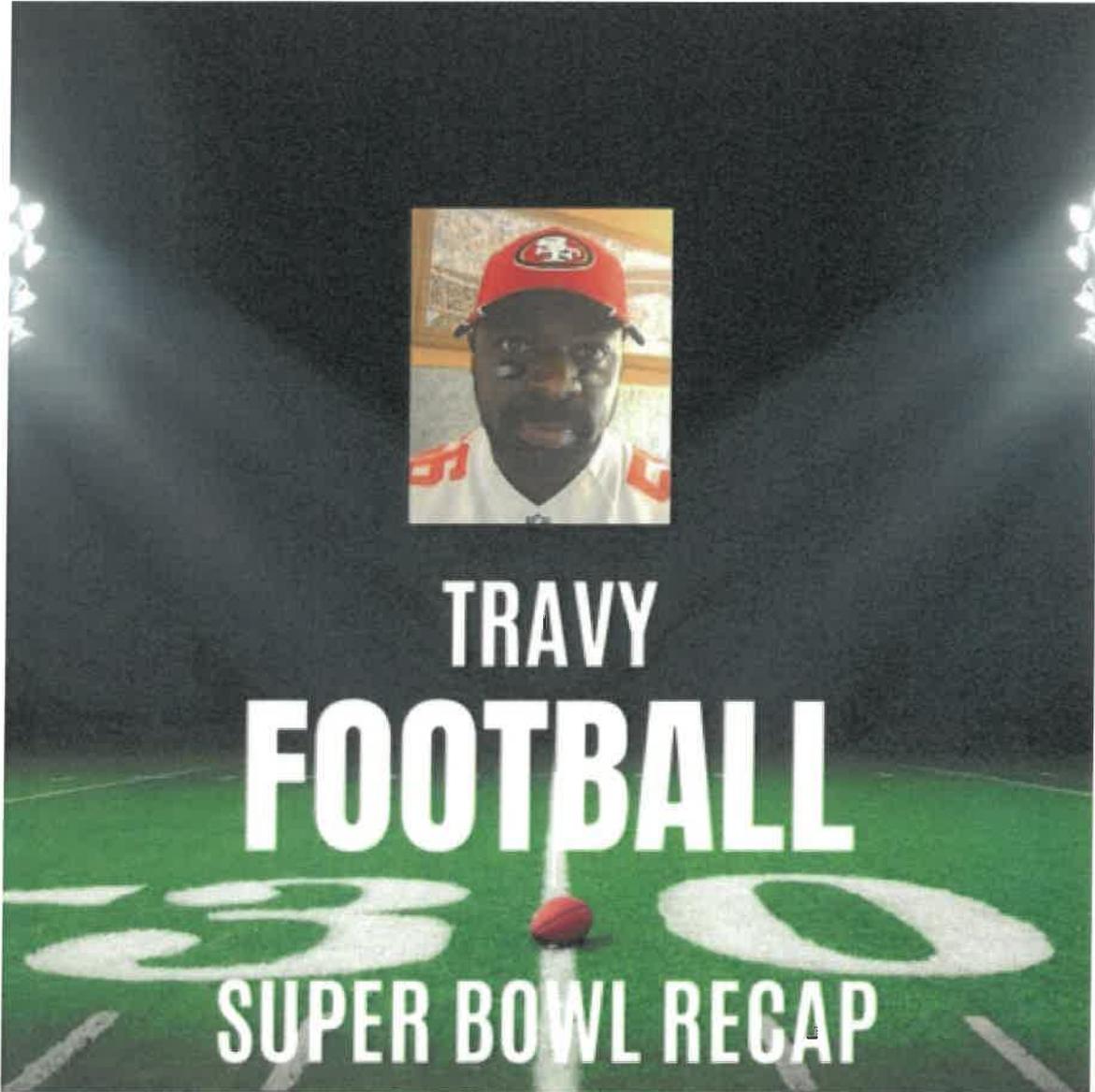
In a game where horses can't speak for themselves, the highest praise one horseperson can bestow upon another is that he took care of his animals first and foremost. Jack Robertson earned that praise every single day.

Rest easy, horseman.

A Celebration of Life will be held for Jack on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at Assiniboia Downs. Read [Jack's Full Obituary here](#).

TravyFootball Super Bowl Recap

Feb 10, 2026 | The Inside Track



Seahawks defeat Patriots 29–13: Well, that game wasn't pretty, was underwhelming, and a bit of a snoozefest for what is supposed to be the biggest game of the year. The Seahawks' defense was always going to be the focus in this matchup, and the big question was how Drake Maye and the Patriots were going to handle it.

The answer to that question is: not very well. From the opening snap, New England looked pretty hopeless. They struggled to run the ball and struggled even more in the passing game. Their first six offensive drives all ended in punts, and it looked like Maye couldn't even throw the ball properly. I personally think he was more injured than they let on (he had a bad shoulder coming into the game).

The Pats' defense held their own for as long as they could, only giving up three field goals before halftime, but a second-half fumble by Maye led to a 16-yard touchdown pass from Sam Darnold to AJ Barner. Even though the Pats did show faint signs of life by responding with a touchdown of their own, once again a turnover by Maye put the nail in the coffin. It was 29–7 at that point, and in the end, the final score was 29–13.

The feel-good story of Sam Darnold is now complete, and the Seahawks hoisted their second Super Bowl trophy 12 years later. The sight of it made me ill, and I will not say congrats to them, but I am happy for Sam Darnold, who finally got the monkey off his back.

That's a wrap on the 2025/2026 NFL season, a year in which there really was no dominant team. It was pretty wide open, hence the Patriots making it to the bitter end. Now all the teams will regroup, cut players, sign players, draft players, and hope to improve their rosters overall to come back strong in 2026/2027!

Playoffs overall: 4–5