

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

DID YOU HEAR THE LATEST?

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

ISSUE #223 - FEBRUARY 20, 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.



Using a multiple-ticket wagering strategy for the Pick 4 on ASD live racing can be lucrative!

A Winning Pick 4 Strategy for Live Racing at ASD. Practice Makes Perfect!

The \$1 Pick 4 at Assiniboia Downs has become one of the best bets in North American racing, with pools consistently topping \$75,000 and many times going over \$100,000, but many Pick 4 bettors leave money on the table.

With less than 90 days left before the live race meet begins on May 12, we thought it would be a good time to share this Pick 4 betting strategy, which will give you enough time to test and tweak it before you cash those big tickets on the local races.

[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.

The Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Authority of Manitoba (LGCA) regulates the province's liquor, gaming, cannabis, and horse racing industries. We license liquor sales, service and manufacturing, gaming employees, products, and operations; retail cannabis stores; and horse racing. We strive to serve the public interest by regulating these industries in a respectful, impartial, and balanced manner.



The LGCA is seeking highly motivated individuals to work within the Gaming Services Department, which is part of the Operations Unit. The Race Administration Official position is to provide reasonable assurance that all horse racing activities licensed or authorized by the Liquor Gaming and Cannabis Authority (LGCA) are conducted safely, honestly, with integrity and in the public interest, and are operated in accordance with legislated requirements. The incumbent may work in both the thoroughbred and standardbred live racing season.

<https://lgcamb.ca/job-postings/>

Apply to:

Advertisement #44985
 Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Authority of Manitoba
 Human Resources
 1055 Milt Stegall Drive
 Winnipeg MB R3G 0Z6
 Fax: 204-927-5384
 Email: resumes@LGCamb.ca



Road to the Kentucky Derby

- Feb. 20 - Dubai Road to Derby (Mey) - 20 points
- Feb. 21 - John Battaglia (TP) - 20 points
- Feb. 28 - Fountain of Youth (GP) - 50 points
- Feb. 28 - Gotham (Aqu) - 50 points



Leading trainer Steve Keplin, Jr. and jockey Prayven Badrie give a thumbs up with the trophy after winning the R. J. Speers Memorial Stakes with Judo on July 14 for owner James Parisien. Click image for full size. (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

In our second-to-last segment of our Jockeys of the Past, we found a shot of the Downs riders posing with racing icon Eddie Arcaro on June 18, 1962. At the time, Arcaro had recently retired and was a goodwill ambassador for the American Totalisator Company.

Pictured from left to right are Frank Barroby, Bob Stewart, Dave Giacomelli, and Dick Armstrong. Leroy Rodriquez, Travis Herman, Fred Duffy, Fred Dodge, Norman Leid, Charlie Steck, and Jimmy Reil. The left group, kneeling: Kelly Keyworth, Tak Inouye, Tommy Stadnyk, and Ron Archer, with Eddie Arcaro in the middle. Kneeling on the right: Glen Smith, Clay Ivey,

**3rd Annual
MANITOBA
TATTOO EXPO**

**60 Artists
&
30 Vendors**

*Tattoos, Piercings,
Shopping, Full Course
Menu, Bar & VLTS*

**Local Legends
CHARLIE FETTAH
&
DJKUTDOWN**

February
 Fri 20th 4 pm - 11 pm
 Sat 21st 10 am - 11 pm
 Sun 22nd 10 am - 6 pm

Assiniboia Downs | 3975 Portage Ave.

**odin's eye
TATTOO & PIERCING**



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





2026 John Battaglia Stakes at a Glance

All-weather runners will get a highly useful prep for the March 21 Jeff Ruby Steaks and pick up some Kentucky Derby qualifying points in Saturday's John Battaglia Memorial Stakes at Turfway Park.

The Battaglia attracted an overflow field of 13 and will award the top five finishers 20-10-6-4-2 points toward a start in the first jewel in the Triple Crown. The race will be broadcast live on FanDuel TV.

The John Battaglia Stakes on Saturday at Turfway Park has attracted a huge field, which means you'll get your price! (Coady Media)

Handicapper Bob Ehalt has a 7/2 horse for you, and a longshot!

-- *America's Best Racing*

CLICK FOR FULL STORY



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



Jockey Club's Sovereign Awards Finalists Include Judo, Martin Drexler

The finalists for the 51st Sovereign Awards, presented by the Jockey Club of Canada honouring the best in Canadian racing for 2025, were revealed on February 13. Local stakes star Judo is a finalist for Champion Older Main Track Male, and former ASD leading trainer Martin Drexler is a finalist for Outstanding Trainer.

The Sovereign Award trophy honours the best in Canadian horse racing.

Congratulations!

-- *Canadian Thoroughbred*

CLICK FOR FULL STORY



2026 Kentucky Derby Rankings - Week 5

With no standouts yet to speak of, Hall of Fame scribe Steve Haskin has expanded his Derby contender list to 20 horses. There is only one North American prep this weekend, and a star could emerge, but the big races are fast approaching.

The Fountain of Youth at Gulfstream, the Gotham at Aqueduct, and the Rebel Stakes at Oaklawn Park next weekend could shake up the rankings.

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)

-- Secretariat.com

CLICK FOR FULL STORY



- Earn Points for Wagering
- Wagering Bonuses
- HPIbet.com Wagering Promotions



The Best of Bob

Another week, another unusual find that turned out to be an inspiration for our blog story. Bob tells us that he was going through some old photos from the '60s and quite by accident found a 65-year-old business card attached to the reverse of one of the frames. A little digging here and there and voilà the week's history story was born! Click [here](#) to learn more about the Downs first PR guy, Bruce Boreham. (From July 3, 2025)

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.



Assiniboia Downs | 3975 Portage Avenue | Winnipeg, MB R3K 2E9 CA

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Our Privacy Policy](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

A Winning Pick 4 Strategy for Live Racing at ASD. Practice Makes Perfect!

Feb 19, 2026 | The Inside Track



By G.S. Thompson

The \$1 Pick 4 at Assiniboia Downs has become one of the best bets in North American racing, with pools consistently topping \$75,000 and many times going over \$100,000, but many Pick 4 bettors leave money on the table.

With less than 90 days left before the live race meet begins on May 12, we thought it would be a good time to share this Pick 4 betting strategy, which will give you enough time to test and tweak it before you cash those big tickets on the local races.

Structuring Pick 4 Tickets to Cash Multiple Times

Most recreational bettors approach the Pick 4 the same way. They throw all their contenders onto a single wheel ticket, cross their fingers, and hope to cash once. This can occasionally be a reasonable strategy, but it leaves serious

money on the table. Read on to discover a smarter way to build your Pick 4 tickets.

The Core Concept

The multiple ticket method is built around a simple idea: identify your single strongest selection in each leg, then structure separate tickets that isolate each key horse individually. When two or three of your best horses win, you cash two or three tickets instead of one.

Here's a typical four-race sequence to illustrate the point. Your top selection in Leg 1 is the 2-horse at 4-1, with the 3 and 4 as backup contenders. In Leg 2, you love the 6-horse at 5-1, with the 4 and 7 as alternatives. Leg 3 has the 1-horse at 2-1 as your key, backed up by the 9 and 10. In the final leg, the 8-horse at 7/2 is your anchor, with the 2, 5, and 6 rounding out your coverage.

The Single-Ticket Mistake

Combining all those contenders onto one \$1 wheel — 2,3,4 / 4,6,7 / 1,9,10 / 2,5,6,8 — costs \$108 and produces exactly one ticket. Cash it or don't. There's no reward for being right in three of four legs with your top selections.

Building the Multiple Ticket Structure

Instead, you construct five separate tickets totalling \$137:

A \$1 wheel singling your Leg 1 key (2 / 4,6,7 / 1,9,10 / 2,5,6,8) costs \$36. A \$1 wheel singling your Leg 2 key (2,3,4 / 6 / 1,9,10 / 2,5,6,8) costs \$36. A \$1 wheel singling your Leg 3 key (2,3,4 / 4,6,7 / 1 / 2,5,6,8) costs \$36. A \$1 wheel singling your Leg 4 key (2,3,4 / 4,6,7 / 1,9,10 / 8) costs \$27. A \$2 straight ticket combining all four key horses (2 / 6 / 1 / 8) costs \$2.

Total investment: \$137 — just \$29 more than the single-wheel approach.

Where the Real Payoff Lives

Assume the Pick 4 pays \$500 on a \$2 ticket, meaning \$250 for a \$1 ticket. The single-wheel bettor collects \$250 regardless of how many top selections won. The multiple-ticket bettor collects \$250 when one key horse wins alongside contenders, \$500 when two keys win, \$750 when three keys hit, and

\$1,500 when all four keys win, because the \$2 straight ticket fires along with the four \$1 tickets.

The difference between walking out with \$250 and potentially walking out with \$1,500 comes down to \$29 and knowing how to structure your action.

This is what separates serious Pick 4 players from the field and turns you into a long-term winner. But, as always...

Practice makes perfect.