

DID YOU HEAR THE LATEST?

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

ISSUE #224 - FEBRUARY 27, 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.
- **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.

Dream Season: Ziprick Thoroughbreds Welcomes First Foals of 2026



The first thoroughbred foals of the year are on the ground in Manitoba!

Ziprick Thoroughbreds reports they have three newborn dreams so far, but we're sure there are lots more out there. If you have any new foals you're proud of, please send us photos, sires and dams, and any interesting stories you have about them. We'll share the best of what we receive here in the Inside Track.

For Cam Ziprick, this time of year carries a special kind of magic, the moment when pedigree and promise finally take their first wobbly steps into the

Nielson colt out of Fox Appeal. What a

cutie! (Ziprick Thoroughbreds)

world. And if the early arrivals are any indication, 2026 could be a very good year.

[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. 28 - Fountain of Youth (GP) - 50 points
- Feb. 28 - Gotham (AQU) - 50 points
- Mar. 1 - Rebel (OP) - 50 points
- Mar. 7 - Tampa Bay Derby (TAM) - 50 points
- Mar. 7 - San Felipe (SA) - 50 points
- Mar. 14 - Virginia Derby (CNL) - 50 points



Frankie's Girl stumbled at the break in the 7th race on July 23, but came flying home under jockey Ronald Ali to win by half a length for trainer Wendy Anderson. 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 😊



A Snapshot in Time by Bob Gates

Our fourth and final look at our *Jockeys of the Past* comes from the 'Room' in 1979 — a lot of familiar names, to be sure. Some have passed on, but what a group (Gerry Hart 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





Class President has been listed at 10-1 for Sunday's Rebel Stakes, but he may be worth a further look based on who he's been running against. (Ryan Thompson/Coglianese Photo)

Looking Past the Favourites in 2026 Rebel Stakes

Sunday's \$1 million Rebel Stakes (G2) at Oaklawn Park is an important qualifier for the May 2 Kentucky Derby and an appealing betting race.

The field includes the Mark Casse-trained winners of Oaklawn's two prior Kentucky Derby preps, Strategic Risk (Smarty Jones Stakes) and Silent Tactic (Southwest Stakes). But...

Handicapper Patrick Reed has his eye on a couple of longshots.

-- *America's Best Racing*

CLICK FOR FULL STORY



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



Spectacular Field for Fountain of Youth and Derby Points

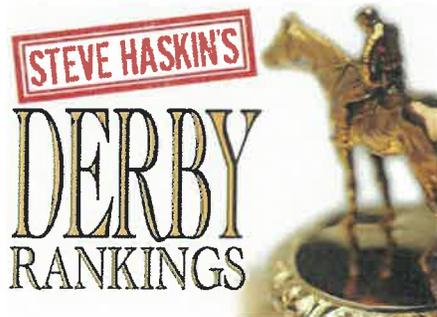
Undefeated Champagne (G1) winner Napoleon Solo, Mucho Macho Man winner Commandment, and undefeated Jackson Hole, Chief Wallabee, and Swale winner Solitude Dude are five of the 11 entered for Saturday's \$425,000 Coolmore Fountain of Youth (G2) at Gulfstream Park.

Champagne Stakes winner Napoleon Solo was just a \$40,000 auction purchase. The son of Liam's Map is a contender in the Fountain of Youth on Saturday. (NYRA photo)

The 1 1/16-mile Fountain of Youth offers 105 (50-25-15-10-5) Kentucky Derby qualifying points and is one of 10 stakes on an amazing card that includes eight graded stakes!

-- *Canadian Thoroughbred*

CLICK FOR FULL STORY



Steve Haskin's weekly Kentucky Derby Rankings takes a closer look at the contenders in the big Derby preps this weekend. Always worth a read!

[2026 Kentucky Derby Rankings - Week 6](#)

There are three big Kentucky Derby preps this weekend, and Hall of Fame writer Steve Haskin is changing up his format, shortening the comments on the ranked horses to include the most pertinent information and taking a closer look at those competing in this weekend's preps.

Look closely at the comments for the horses in Saturday's Fountain of Youth at Gulfstream Park and Gotham Stakes at Aqueduct, and for the three closely matched contenders in the Rebel Stakes at Oaklawn Park on Sunday.

-- [Secretariat.com](#)

[CLICK FOR FULL STORY](#)



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



The Best of Bob

When was the quinella wager first offered in Winnipeg and what were some of the record payouts over the years. This week your favourite track historian has it all, from the early days at Polo Park racetrack through eight decades of history right here at Assiniboia Downs. Click [here](#) to learn more about what was once one of the more popular wagers offered at racetracks. (From June 21, 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.



Dream Season: Ziprick Thoroughbreds Welcomes First Foals of 2026

Feb 26, 2026 | The Inside Track



Nielson colt out of Fox Appeal. (Ziprick Thoroughbreds)

by G. S. Thompson

The first thoroughbred foals of the year are on the ground in Manitoba!

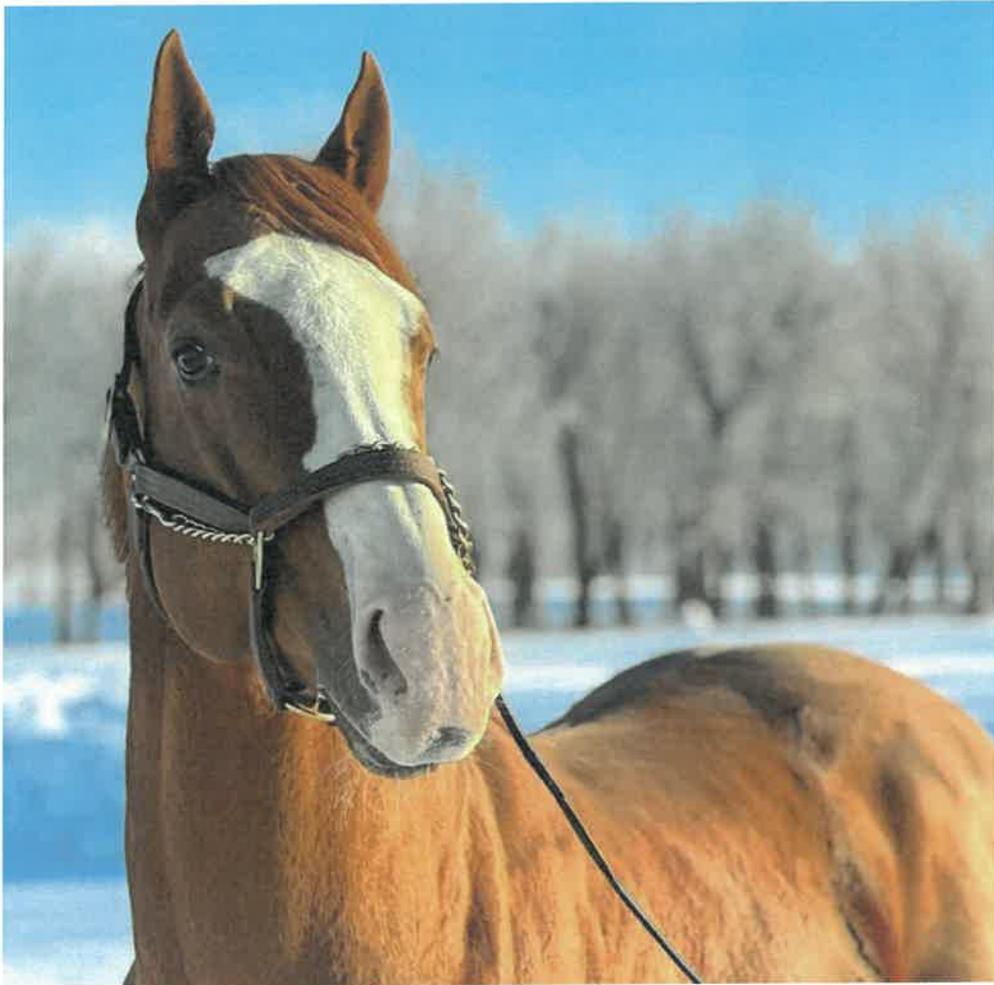
Ziprick Thoroughbreds reports they have three newborn dreams so far, but we're sure there are lots more out there. If you have any new foals you're proud of, please send us photos, sires and dams, and any interesting stories you have about them. We'll share the best of what we receive here in the Inside Track.

For Cam Ziprick, this time of year carries a special kind of magic, the moment when pedigree and promise finally take their first wobbly steps into the world. And if the early arrivals are any indication, 2026 could be a very good year.

The early arrivals for Ziprick include one foal by Speculating and two by Nielsen, and it's the Nielsen babies that have him particularly excited. Nielsen is a son of the legendary Curlin, one of the great North American sires, and his first crop is exactly what you'd expect from that bloodline.

"The Curlin horses are usually big, strong animals," said Ziprick. "And these babies are big, strong, and leggy. They're unreal. They're the nicest babies we've ever had from any of our stallions."

High praise from a man who has been breeding thoroughbreds for four decades. The visual descriptions alone make you want to head out to the barn. Multiple champion Manitoba-bred Hidden Grace has produced a chestnut filly by Nielsen with a bold white blaze splashed across her face, and multiple stakes-placed Fox Appeal's contribution is an equally striking colt by Nielsen, a big chestnut with a bald face and three white socks.



Nielson (Curlin-My Wandy's Girl by Flower Alley) (Ziprick Thoroughbreds)

With six more foals expected, Ziprick has plenty more to look forward to. Perhaps the most intriguing arrival still to come is a foal out of a mare named Swimsuit Issue, a 12-year-old Scat Daddy mare that Ziprick quietly picked up at auction in Kentucky for \$12,000. The bargain price belies her credentials.

Swimsuit Issue is the dam of local Debutante Stakes winner Wecanonlyimagine, who also won the Princess Margaret Stakes at Century Mile and finished second in the Winnipeg Futurity. She is currently in foal to Kentucky Jockey Club Stakes (G2) winner Keep Me In Mind, and Ziprick plans to breed her back to Nielsen next season.

"She's got a lot of pedigree," Ziprick said.

Three stallions will stand at Ziprick Thoroughbreds this year: Speculating, Nielsen, and Thousand Springs, a son of Ghostzapper. Stud fees are set at \$1,250. The program is

largely a self-contained partnership between Ziprick, Kelly Halliday, and Charles Fouillard.

Ziprick is also excited about two horses related to Canadian champion and millionaire Escape Clause, whom he bred in partnership with Arnason Farms. He has a yearling half-brother to Escape Clause by Speculating that will be in this year's [Manitoba CTHS Yearling Sale](#), and a 3-year-old half-sister to Escape Clause by Speculating that started only once last year.

Let the dreaming begin.