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ISSUE #239 - JUNE 5, 2026



Live Racing every Tuesday and Wednesday plus select Mondays

Live Racing this Tuesday & Wednesday

- Live racing starts at 7:30 p.m.
- Enter for your chance to spin our \$10,000 Lucky Longshot wheel.
- Every Wednesday in June is Western Wednesdays. Grab your cowboy hat and get ready for some fun. Click [here](#) for more info.
- Reserve your table for our renowned all-you-can-eat Prime Rib Buffet which is available on Live Race Nights only.

Click [here](#) for full schedule.



First Stakes of 2026 Feature Two Big Upsets, Line Dancing a Hit on First Western Wednesday

The first stakes races of the 2026 season at ASD got underway this week, and Jerry Gourneau opened up a huge lead in the trainer standings, and the first Western Wednesday of June was a hit with the line-dancing bull-riding crowd.

Gourneau won eight of the 21 races carded this week, including the \$50,000 Beau Blade Stakes on Tuesday

Groom Charlotte Stevens leads Bergheim out of the winner's circle after his victory in the \$50,000 Beau Blade Stakes on Tuesday for trainer Jerry Gourneau. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

with longshot Bergheim (\$34.80) and jockey Renaldo Cumberbatch, for leading owner Henry S. Witt, Jr., and that wasn't the only upset in the stakes.

A fresh claim won the Lil Missknowitall Stakes at 26-1.

[Full story here](#)

ASD Assiniboia Downs GAMING & EVENT CENTRE

SIGN UP FOR A NEW HPI ACCOUNT
AT THE FAN EDUCATION CENTRE

AND GET A **FREE \$25 DEPOSIT** PLUS **\$100** WHEN YOU BET
> YOU GET A \$100 BONUS

Terms and conditions apply. See Fan Education Centre for details.



Free \$500 Cash Draws after Live Racing plus free \$200 Cash Draws on the Weekends

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 \$500 cash draws — after every Live Race Night
- ◆ 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.

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

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



Owner/Trainer/Breeder Appreciation Dinner

You and a Guest are cordially invited to our Owner/Trainer/Breeder Appreciation Dinner.

- Thursday, June 11
- Terrace Dining Room at Assiniboia Downs
- Cocktails: 5:00 p.m.
- Prime Rib Buffet: 6:00 p.m.
- Tickets: \$20 donation. All donations will go to the Winners Foundation and Final Furlong

Owner/Trainer/Breeder Appreciation Dinner. Thursday, June 11.

Tickets can be purchased at the General Office or by calling 204-885-3330. The deadline to purchase tickets

Two Big Upsets in First Stakes of Season at ASD, Western Wednesdays a Hit is Monday, June 8. **An LGCA licence number is required at the time of purchase.**



ASD Assiniboia Downs
GAMING & EVENT CENTRE

WESTERN WEDNESDAYS
AT
ASSINIBOIA DOWNS

LIVE RACING • MECHANICAL BULL • LINE DANCING

EVERY WEDNESDAY IN JUNE

ENTER TO WIN
A COORS BBQ!
THE DRAW WILL BE MADE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

LINE DANCING
AFTER RACE 2 AND 4

RECEIVE A BALLOT. TWO DRAWS WILL BE MADE FOR A **\$25** WAGERING VOUCHER.

TRY YOUR LUCK ON THE MECHANICAL BULL!

CHILI
WITH A SMOKED CHEESE AND ONION BUN
AVAILABLE AT CONCESSIONS ON THE MAIN AND THIRD FLOORS.

\$10

SPECIAL DRINK
WHISKY BUSINESS
(SOUTHERN COMFORT, SPRITE AND LIME JUICE)

\$8.50



Horses charge towards the first turn in Race 3 on June 1 at ASD. 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 😊



2% CASH BACK

WHEN YOU WAGER **\$100** OR MORE ON ANY TRACK THROUGH YOUR **HPI** ACCOUNT

ASD Assiniboia Downs
GAMING & EVENT CENTRE

SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH

YOU MUST OPT-IN AT HPIBET.COM

\$2.10 PAYOUTS NOT INCLUDED. MAXIMUM CASH BACK \$25.



Click photo to enlarge

A Snapshot in Time by Bob Gates

Following a stellar career, Major Enterprise was paraded in front of the grandstand on July 1, 1986, with Ken Hendricks aboard. The adoring crowd got to say their goodbyes as the 'Major' headed off to a much-deserved retirement. The multiple stakes winner earned more than \$200,000 in his nine years on the track. (Gerry Hart Photo)



This week's Big-Race Showdown races are the \$500,000 Jaipur Stakes, the \$1 million Met Mile, and the Belmont Stakes, all June 6 at Saratoga Race Course. (Eclipse Sportswire)

Big-Race Showdown: Expert Picks for Jaipur Stakes, Met Mile, Belmont Stakes

For the 10th year in a row, America's Best Racing is challenging some of the brightest minds in horse betting to come up with their top three picks for key races every weekend leading up to the 2026 Triple Crown and then continuing through the 2026 Breeders' Cup World Championships at Keeneland.

The handicappers face off in what we like to call the "Big-Race Showdown."

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

CLICK FOR FULL STORY



Nysos drew the rail for the Metropolitan Handicap this Saturday at Saratoga, and handicapper Noel Michaels says he's the pick at 9/5. (Benoit Photo)

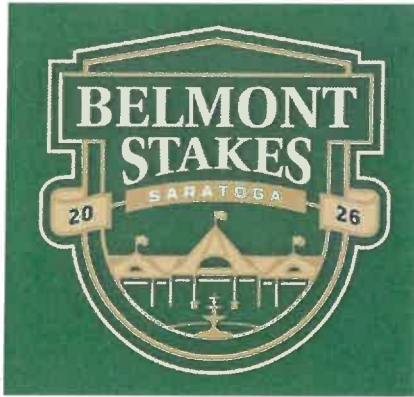
Met Mile At a Glance: Favoured Nysos Good Distance Fit

While the Belmont Stakes (G1) headlines the June 6 card at Saratoga Race Course, the Metropolitan Handicap (G1) commands plenty of attention by itself as the \$1 million secondary feature race on the card.

The 2026 "Met Mile" shapes up as intriguing match-up of many of this year's best older horses competing at the middle distances.

-- [*BloodHorse*](#)

CLICK FOR FULL STORY



The 158th running of the Belmont Stakes presented by NYRA Bets is slated as Race 13 on the 14-race card with a post time of 6:04 p.m. Central.

Golden Tempo, Renegade in Belmont-at-Saratoga Match Up

In what is expected to be a competitive and memorable renewal of the \$2 million Belmont Stakes (G1) presented by NYRA Bets, the final jewel in racing's Triple Crown is set to be run for a third and final time at Saratoga Race Course on Saturday, with the Kentucky Derby winner Golden Tempo and runner-up Renegade taking center stage amidst a field of nine sophomores.

Phipps Stable and St. Elias Stable's Golden Tempo will look to continue a historic run for trainer Cherie DeVaux, who became the first woman to train a Kentucky Derby winner, and did so in her very first attempt. She vies to join Jena Antonucci [2023, Arcangelo] as women to have trained a Belmont Stakes-winner.

-- [Canadian Thoroughbred](#)

[CLICK FOR FULL STORY](#)



Track Historian Bob Gates

Bob's Blog

On occasion of the 96th running of the Winnipeg Futurity something very special took place at Assiniboia Downs. A two-year-old by the name of Omaha Warrior gave the Downs all-time leading trainer his first win in the Futurity. What made it special was the fact that Gary Danelson hadn't owned a two-year-old in more than 45 years! Click [here](#) as Bob revisits how Omaha Warrior gave the iconic horseman a new lease on life.

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.



First Stakes of 2026 Feature Two Big Upsets, Line Dancing a Hit on First Western Wednesday

Jun 4, 2026 | The Inside Track



Groom Charlotte Stevens leads Bergheim out of the winner's circle after his victory in the \$50,000 Beau Blade Stakes on Tuesday for trainer Jerry Gourneau. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

By G.S. Thompson

The first stakes races of the 2026 season at ASD got underway this week, we escaped the challenging weather, trainer Jerry Gourneau opened up a huge lead in the trainer standings, and the

first Western Wednesday of June was a hit with the line-dancing and bull-riding crowd.

Gourneau won eight of the 21 races carded this week, including the \$50,000 Beau Blade Stakes on Tuesday with longshot Bergheim (\$34.80) and jockey Renaldo Cumberbatch, for leading owner Henry S. Witt, Jr. to take a dominating 10-win lead in the trainer standings. Gourneau now has 18 wins on the season, 10 more than Steve Keplin, Jr. (8), followed by Wendy Anderson (5), Mike Nault (4), Jason Homer (3), and Tom Gardipy, Jr.

Bergheim is the leading earner in 2026 at the Downs with US\$25,002 for owner Witt, Jr. who is 12 wins and more than US\$100,000 ahead of his nearest rival in the standings with 15 victories and \$US154,811 in purse earnings as he tries for his eighth straight owner title.



Spin the Breeze pulls off a 26-1 upset in the Lil Missknowitall Stakes on Wednesday with Kerron Khelawan up for trainer Wendy Anderson. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Second on the horse list is former claimer Spin the Breeze (\$53.40), who also pulled off an upset in the stakes with a wire-to-wire victory in the \$25,000 Lil Missknowitall Stakes under Kerron Khelawan on Wednesday for trainer Wendy Anderson and ownership partner Jeff Goy. Spin the Breeze was claimed out of her start previous to the Lil Missknowitall for \$12,500 and immediately paid for herself with the \$15,960 winner's share of the purse. Nicely done Wendy!



Groom Katie Morris leads Truly Unbelievable and jockey Kimal Santo in the winner's circle after their victory in the Corporate Shuffle Stakes on Tuesday for trainer Robertino Diodoro. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

In other stakes action, four-time Manitoba Derby-winning trainer Robertino Diodoro shipped in Truly Unbelievable (\$6.20) from Sunland Park to post a mild upset in the \$25,000 Corporate Shuffle Stakes for 3-year-olds on Tuesday with Kimal Santo in the irons for ownership partners Arnold Bennewith and Rick and Clayton Weist. Could this be another Derby horse for Diodoro? Sure looks like it.

The \$25,000 Beausox Stakes for 3-year-old fillies also went to a new arrival on Wednesday evening, with former Keeneland runner Evolution (\$3.50) wiring her field under jockey Antonio Whitehall for trainer Will Tourangeau and owners Cattleman's Club Stable. Nice to see you in the winner's circle again Emile Corbel!



Former ASD leading trainer Emile Corbel (green jacket) was in the winner's circle again, this time as an advisor to the ownership group of the horse, after Evolution's win in the \$25,000 Beausox Stakes on Wednesday for trainer Will Tourangeau, ridden by jockey Antonio Whitehall. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Other notable performances on the week included another first-time-starter winner from trainer Jason Homer, who saddled Coastie (\$4.40) to win the first race on Tuesday in an all-out stretch duel under jockey Neville Stephenson, and the first winner here for former Hastings Park trainer Cindy Krasner. Krasner saddled What's Skakin (\$15.50) to win the sixth race on Tuesday, and he did it the hard way under jockey Kerron Khelawan, stalking six-wide and rallying from last to first for owner Dennis Spence.



Line dancers were out in full force for the first Western Wednesday of June!

The line dancing on Western Wednesday attracted numerous participants who should also be applauded for their performances. Is the most popular dance craze from the '90s ready to make a comeback? It appears that way! As for the entertaining mechanical bull riding, no one managed to stay on very long.

Could you?