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ISSUE #242 - JUNE 26, 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. 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.



CANADA DAY
AT ASSINIBOIA DOWNS
WEDNESDAY, JULY 1
RACING STARTS AT 7:30 P.M.

LIVE RACING
STARTS AT 7:30 P.M.

FIREWORKS
FOLLOWING
LIVE RACING

ADMISSION IS FREE
\$10 PARKING CHARGE
IN EFFECT AFTER 7:30 P.M.

FOOD TRUCKS
AND CONCESSIONS
AVAILABLE!

DJ MUSIC & DRINK SPECIALS
FOLLOWING THE FIREWORKS!

FREE FAMILY FUN
ACTIVITIES FROM
6:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.



Haggis (\$93.20, #1 inside) and jockey Dario Dalrymple win the 6th race on Monday for trainer Brent Hrymak. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Muddy Longshots, Monster Payoffs and Excellent Stakes Performances Highlight Week at ASD

A stream of muddy longshots, monster payoffs and excellent stakes performances highlighted the week at ASD, and Stretch of the ASD Live handicapping show rode the mechanical bull, but not for long.

Haggis (\$93.20) kicked off the longshot train on Monday with a victory in the 6th race for trainer Brent Hrymak and jockey Dario Dalrymple, and the longshots just kept coming, including a few in the four stakes run this week.

[Full story here](#)



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

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.

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



Horses charge through the mud on their way to the first turn in the 4th race on Tuesday in a week filled with longshots. (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 😊

ASD Live's "Stretch" Tries to Tame the Bull on Western Wednesday



A Snapshot in Time by Bob Gates



Who Knew? Cagey Max had a multi-year career that saw him running in mid to lower-level claiming races. Here he is seen winning his final race as a 14-year-old. He spent most of his time on the track with Harry Gumprich, who considered him one of his best. Harry treated "Max" like a member of his family and proudly

Click photo to enlarge

proclaimed that he never wore a bandage, nor did anyone have to pony the gelding (Gerry Hart Photo).



Sovereignty will likely be slightly favoured in the showdown between the best horses in North America on Saturday at Churchill Downs. (Cady-Coulardot / Churchill Downs)

Stars at Churchill: Sovereignty vs. White Abarrio

The stars of Saturday's \$2 million Stephen Foster (GI) have assembled beneath the Twin Spires as reigning Horse of the Year and Kentucky Derby (GI) winner Sovereignty, Grade I winner Baeza and Breeders' Cup Classic (GI) and Pegasus World Cup (GI) winner White Abarrio all took to the track Wednesday morning for their final preparations ahead of the summer's biggest dirt showdown.

The 45th running of the Stephen Foster is led by 6-5 morning-line favourite Sovereignty. White Abarrio was installed as the 3-1 second choice, followed by Magnitude at 7-2 and Baeza at 6-1.

This could be the race of the year.

-- [Canadian Thoroughbred](#)

[**CLICK FOR FULL STORY**](#)



Lagynos wins the Arling Stakes at Churchill Downs. (Coady MJedia / Chanse McKenzie)

Lagynos Aims for Five in a Row in Wise Dan

The streaking Lagynos bids for a fifth consecutive stakes triumph when he battles Dresden Row, Fort Washington, and six other turf horses in the \$500,000 Wise Dan Stakes (G2T) June 27 at Churchill Downs.

Coming off a win in the Arlington Stakes (G3T) May 30 at Churchill, the 5-year-old son of Kantharos has only missed in one start this year when he finished second in the Colonel E. R. Bradley Stakes at Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots in his first start of the year.

-- [BloodHorse](#)

[**CLICK FOR FULL STORY**](#)



2026 Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash Stakes Cheat Sheet

Laurel Park hosts one of Maryland's best race days of the year Saturday, June 27, highlighted by the track's premier summer sprint race, the \$175,000 Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash Stakes. The De Francis Dash going six furlongs on the main track headlines an 11-race card featuring four stakes races including the \$125,000 Japan Racing Association Turf Cup, the

Haileysfirstnotion will attempt to wire the field on Saturday in the Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash Stakes at Laurel. (Jim McCue/Maryland Jockey Club)

\$125,000 Deputed Testamony Stakes, and the \$125,000 Alma North Stakes.

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

[CLICK FOR FULL STORY](#)



Bob's Blog

The 66th running of the Free Press Stakes was run this past Tuesday (June 23). Our history guy has dug deep into his photo archives and found some photos from the 65 years of the race and presents his version of the Pictorial History of the Free Press. Click [here](#) to see the photos he uncovered from the past.




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.



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Muddy Longshots, Monster Payoffs and Excellent Stakes Performances Highlight Week at ASD

Jun 25, 2026 | The Inside Track



Haggis (\$93.20, #1 inside) and jockey Dario Dalrymple win the 6th race on Monday for trainer Brent Hrymak. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

By G.S. Thompson

A stream of muddy longshots, monster payoffs and excellent stakes performances highlighted the week at ASD, and Stretch of the ASD Live handicapping show rode the mechanical bull, but not for long.

Haggis (\$93.20) kicked off the longshot train on Monday with a victory in the 6th race for trainer Brent Hrymak and jockey Dario Dalrymple, and he was followed by longshot Starship Paradise (\$50.70) in the 7th race for leading trainer Jerry Gourneau and jockey Tyrone Nelson. That triggered a massive \$1 Pick 4 payoff off \$31,933.10 and a \$3 Pick 3 payoff of \$19,906.05!



Elston Gunn (\$39.70, #3 inside) and jockey Shavon Townsend hold off favoured Prime Suspect to win the \$50,000 Golden Boy Stakes on Tuesday for trainer Tena Birdwell. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

The longshots kept rolling in the 3rd race on Tuesday when Canterbury shipper Elston Gunn (\$39.70) dueled widest in the \$50,000 Golden Boy Stakes and called on his back class to hold off local star Prime Suspect by half a length for trainer Tena Birdwell and jockey Shavon Townsend. Two races later in the 5th race trainer Jerry Gourneau was at it again with the longshots, turning loose Bergheim (\$30.40) to win the \$50,000 Free Press Stakes under Renaldo Cumberbatch. The combination of Elston Gunn and Bergheim combined with Golden Buck (\$8.80) in the 4th race resulted in yet another huge \$3 Pick 3 payoff off \$3,908.85. And the longshots weren't done yet.

In the 6th race on Tuesday, My Little Tootsie (\$57.80) wired the field for trainer Judy Hunter and gave jockey Renaldo

Cumberbatch his second big longshot of the evening. We finally got back to the favourites in the 7th race when You Vee Cee (\$3.00) scored for trainer Steve Keplin, Jr., but the stage was already set for another lucrative \$1 Pick 4 payoff of \$7,671.10 and a \$3 Pick 3 that paid \$2,409.30.



Bergheim and jockey Renaldo Cumberbatch return after winning the \$50,000 Free Press Stakes on Tuesday for trainer Jerry Gourneau. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

The first five races on Wednesday were won by short-priced horses, but Century Mile shipper What a Force (\$21.90) got the longshots back on track in the 6th race with a wire-to-wire victory in the \$50,000 Chantilly Stakes for trainer Tim Rycroft and jockey Jose Asencio. Favourites came back to the fore in the 7th race when trainer Robertino Diodoro saddled Turf Paradise shipper Dontgiveupthefight (\$6.00) to win the \$50,000 La Verendrye Stakes under jockey Kimal Santo.



What a Force and jockey Jose Asencio win the \$50,000 Chantilly Stakes on Wednesday for trainer Tim Rycroft.

Notably, the La Verendrye was filled with all kinds of trouble trips, including that of runner-up Rocky Bae Rae (\$24.30), another Turf Paradise shipper who was just up for the place for trainer Cindy Krasner after being squeezed and steadied early. If you're looking for a future longshot you might find one in this race replay.

And yet another longshot got the job done in the final race of the week on Wednesday when Will the Thrill (\$28.40) rallied to win a close photo over Shamayim (\$19.10) for trainer Fred Rawson and jockey Sven Balroop, resulting in a \$1 Pick 4 of \$2,068.25 and a \$3 Pick 3 of \$2,285.25. It seemed there was money to be made everywhere during the week, if you could just find the right longshots to include in your multi-race wagers, especially in the Pick 3s.



Dontgiveupthefight in the winner's circle after her victory in the \$50,000 La Verendrye Stakes on Wednesday for trainer Robertino Didoro and jockey Kimal Santo. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

Trainer Jerry Gourneau continued his dominance, scoring hat tricks on Monday and Wednesday and adding two more victories on Tuesday to open up a massive lead in the standings. He now has 30 wins, 18 more than runner-up Steve Keplin, Jr., and is winning at a 26% clip. On the jockey side, Sven Balroop won three races on the week to bring his total to 15 victories, three more than Antonio Whitehall (12), and it appears no one is going to run away with the jockey title this season. Dario Dalrymple and Javaniel Patterson have 10 wins apiece, followed by Shavon Townsend and Tyrone Nelson with seven each.



Stretch of the ASD Live handicapping show rode the mechanical bull for seven seconds. He then returned to handicapping. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

And finally, we had the post parade ponies prancing to the popular line dancing music on the last Western Wednesday of the summer, and Stretch of the ASD Live handicapping show riding the mechanical bull. Stretch only lasted seven seconds before being bucked off, and immediately returned to what he was good at...

Picking winners.