



Weekly Horseplaying Report and Fun Stuff

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Thursday, April 7, 2016

By Ivan Bigg



TWO CHANCES TO GET RICH TODAY FOR 20-CENTS

• Gulfstream Rainbow 6: \$281,000 • Golden Gate Golden 6: \$180,000



VEGAS HEROES

ASD players finish 10th and 14th out of 592 entries

They did themselves and Assiniboia Downs proud – and were well-deserving of a welcome Tuesday night at the James Richardson International Airport. From left, **Larry Liebrecht, Wayne Misko, Murray Chaban and Doug Evans** teamed up to finish 10th and 14th out of a whopping 592 entries in the *Horse Player World Series* at the Orleans Hotel Casino last Thursday to Saturday. Their prize money totalled more than \$17,000 (Cdn) which they shared equally.

“To have two guys in the top 20 is phenomenal,” electrician Liebrecht said shortly after walking through the arrival gate as Evans flashed a billfold with thousands of dollars in U.S. currency. It sure is. Misko’s name was on the 10th place entry and Liebrecht on the 14th place one. Misko also was the sixth best player overall on Saturday. But the other two also had entries and they agreed to share in each other’s success. Misko and Evans had earned entry into the tournament by winning ASD tournaments last year.

The Downs also paid the entries for **Jim Roberts** who finished 241st and for **Len Charney** who placed 337th. Want to be on your way to Vegas next March? Then enter monthly tournaments during live racing and other tournaments to accumulate points to earn the title of *Handicapper of the Year* (which Misko is). (Ivan Bigg photo)

Bullet briefs . . .

- **Biggest prep day Saturday: Wood, Blue Grass, Santa Anita Derby**
- **Bonus cash for your wagers continues**
- **Get ready for Keeneland, Woodbine, Lone Star and Emerald**
- **Which Florida track is the “better bettor” track for ASD players?**
- **All eyes on Woodbine: How will Poly horses perform on Tapeta?**
- **Can Rob do a Dubai at Aqueduct? Find out Saturday at 10:30 a.m.**

***** **FUN & GAMES** *****

TRIPLE YOUR CHANCE OF WINNING MUGS THIS WEEKEND: With three Kentucky Derby prep races running Saturday, you triple your chance of winning a set of two handsome Kentucky Derby sculpted mugs—and add to your chance of winning a \$100 win/place bet in the Derby. The contest ends next week with the Arkansas Derby. Congrats to last week's mug winners following the Florida Derby and Spiral Stakes: **Anne Champion** and **Terry Alderson**. [Leaderboard](#).

TRIVIA TEASER: What jockey rode in two Breeders' Cup races with a broken wrist, broken ribs and broken pelvis? (a) **Pat Day** (b) **Jerry Bailey** (c) **Richard Migliore** (d) **John Velasquez** *Answer at bottom of column.*



Click for schedule

DO THE DOWNS



[Carryovers](#)
[Minimum](#)
[wagers list](#)



Mother's Day! 885-3330 for brunch or race night buffet

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
3 DERBY FUTURE WAGER Gulfstream 11:35 AM Tampa Bay 11:35 AM at 6 PM -\$10 SHAVED PRIME RIB	4 Mahoning 11:45 AM Sam Houston 1 PM Will Rogers stakes Turf Paradise 3:25 PM Woodbine (H) 6:30 PM	5 Mahoning 11:45 AM Sunland 1:30 PM Will Rogers stakes Turf Paradise 3:25 PM at 9:00 PM	6 Tampa 11:35 AM EVANGELINE BEGINS 5:50 PM	7 Freehold 11:30 AM Gulfstream 12:15 PM Prime rib buffet plus pasta bar at 8:30 PM	8 Freehold 11:30 AM Tampa Bay 11:35 AM KEENELAND BEGINS 12:05 PM -\$10 RIB DINNER -\$5 Alive thoroughbred 7 PM -\$10 buy-in poker 7:30 PM Free VLT tourney 8 PM	9 I won big 10:30 AM Aqueduct 11:20 AM DERBY PREP: Woodbine (Asc) Santa Anita Derby Blue Grass (Ke) EMERALD BEGINS 4 PM at 7 PM (TRAIL) -\$10 MEATLOAF DINNER -\$5 Alive harness 7 PM -\$10 buy-in poker 7:30 PM Free VLT tourney 8 PM
10 Tampa Bay 11:35 AM SANTA ANITA MEET ENDS 2:30 PM -\$10 SHAVED PRIME RIB	11 Mahoning 11:45 AM Sam Houston 1 PM Turf Paradise 3:25 PM Mohawk 6:30 PM	12 Mahoning 11:45 AM Sunland 1:30 PM Turf Paradise 3:25 PM	13 Tampa 11:35 AM	14 Freehold 11:30 AM Gulfstream 12:15 PM LOS ALAMITOS TB BEGINS 4 PM Prime rib buffet plus pasta bar	15 Freehold 11:30 AM Tampa Bay 11:35 AM Gr. 1 stakes Oaklawn & Keeneland -\$10 RIB DINNER -\$5 Alive thoroughbred 7 PM -\$10 buy-in poker 7:30 PM Free VLT tourney 8 PM	16 I won big 10:30 AM Mahoning 11:15 AM DERBY PREP: Arkansas Derby MOUNTAINEER BEGINS 6 PM -\$10 MEATLOAF DINNER -\$5 Alive harness 7 PM -\$10 buy-in poker 7:30 PM Free VLT tourney 8 PM

8 PM - MIDNIGHT: \$6 OFF Peller Estates wine • \$3 OFF nachos, wings • \$2 OFF chicken fingers, skins • \$1 OFF beer, shots

[CLICK HERE TO ENLARGE](#)

LAST PRIME RIB BUFFET IS THURSDAY, APRIL 28: Just four more chances (tonight, next Thursday, April 21 and April 28) to dig into a Thursday certified Angus prime rib buffet with pasta bar. Dine tonight for **\$10 off** a buffet for two by downloading [this coupon](#).

FOUR WEEKS TO KY DERBY AND LIVE RACING: Time to book your Mother's Day brunch or buffet on the first day of live racing, May 8. That's the day after the Kentucky Derby. Remember, first post on Mother's Day is 7:30 p.m. Reserve at 204-885-3330.



Official stations of horse racing.
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SPORTS SCHEDULES: [Blue Jays](#) [Blue Bombers](#)

BETTER BETTOR TRACKS FOR MARCH

You were much better playing Tampa than Gulfstream

Last month, ASD bettors spent about half as much betting Tampa races as they did Gulfstream races but they were far more successful at Tampa, posting more wins than losses. Does Tampa offer more

predictability or are players just more confident in their Tampa plays than they are with Gulfstream plays? Are you playing Tampa?

Not surprisingly, ASD players were also better bettors at Dubai, too, likely the result of following ASD handicapper **Rob MacLennan's** analysis which included his watching 120 replays from 14 countries.

Also ASD players excelled at Delta, Remington, Sam Houston, Turf Paradise, Fonner Park, Parx, Penn National and four harness tracks: Century Downs, Western Fair, Buffalo and Monticello. Remember, by being a better bettor, you draw more money into Manitoba's economy and, hence, are a better citizen.



Nice going, Tampa players!

MEET BEGINS SATURDAY IN WINDCHILL

ALL EYES ON WOODBINE

Will change to Tapeta surface be dramatic or minimal?

Horses for courses. We've all heard that. Now there's a huge new variable as the 130-day Woodbine thoroughbred season opens at noon CDT Saturday with snow and a double-digit windchill in the forecast.



Poly is out; Tapeta is in. What Poly horses will take to Tapeta; who won't?

Horses accustomed to racing on Polytrack will be facing a brand new challenge: Tapeta

As we know, every synthetic track is different from one another. Even Woodbine Poly horses had difficulty trying to transition to Keeneland's former Poly. Now Tapeta is a whole new ball game.

So, will the change to Tapeta play out dramatically or minimally for horses accustomed to Poly? We should start to get some idea starting at noon Saturday.

One thing seems certain during the meet: We're likely to see few shippers—except for turf races—so big purse money in stakes races will stay right at home. When Meydan Race Course in Dubai had a Tapeta track, North American dirt horses stayed away. That's one of the reasons they switched to dirt – to attract big name U.S. horses.

THE WEEK THAT WAS

BACK-TO-BACK TRIPLE CROWNS? With **Nyquist** cruising to victory in the Florida Derby, defeating the vaunted **Mohaymen** rather easily, thoughts turn to the real possibility there could be another Triple Crown winner this year just like the back-to-back winners of **Seattle Slew** and **Affirmed** in 1977-78. But Mohaymen supporters are saying "not so fast," pointing to his wide trip and the front-runner rail bias at Gulfstream last Saturday that gave the edge to Nyquist. With only four more prep races remaining (three this Saturday), will a dark horse emerge?

"BIG" GROUP BOUNCES BACK; ROB GUESTS SAT: Saturday's "I won big" group got back to winning ways last week, winning the Rainbow pick 6 (\$500) and a couple other wagers for a 50 per cent return on their investment. Now everyone is looking forward to this Saturday when ASD handicapper **Rob MacLennan** will put his highly successful Dubai handicapping techniques to work at Aqueduct where the Wood Memorial should produce big betting pools.

"I won big" regulars should pay attention to the last six races (the pick-6). As usual, everyone is invited. Usual time and place: Clubhouse plaza 10:30 a.m.

WILD, BLACKHAWKS

CONNECTIONS ENJOY ASD: The Downs was the destination last week for connections of the Chicago Blackhawks and Minnesota Wild who were in town to play the Jets.

One time Jet **Eddie Olczyk**, now a colour commentator for NBC covering the Triple Crown and Breeders' Cup in addition to national NHL broadcasts and the Chicago Blackhawks, enjoyed Thursday's prime rib buffet with ASD CEO **Darren Dunn**. And, in the Race Book Saturday, **Kevin Gorg**, FOX analyst for the Wild, played the races all afternoon with Wild media relations guy **Aaron Sickman**. Gorg says Minnesotans sympathize with Canadian hockey fans who have no team in the playoffs. "We're so close to you, we're *Canucks at heart*," he said.



Fox Sports' Kevin Gorg (left) and Wild's Aaron Sickman in Race Book

VEGAS TOURNEY WINNER GETS

\$320,000 (U.S.): A player by the name of **Daniel Kaplan** won last week's *Horse Player World Series* and won almost \$320,000 U.S. The Orleans tournament is very top heavy with prize money: \$120,000 for second and then \$56,000, \$40,000 and \$24,000. From sixth to 10th (which included ASD's **Wayne Misko** in 10th), the prize money is about \$8,000 U.S. Then from 11th to 20th (ASD's **Larry Liebrecht's** entry was 14th), the prize money is about \$4,000 U.S.

CHARACTER WINS PUT JETS IN LEAD FOR BIGG CUP: Tank? Not the Winnipeg Jets. They played their hearts out to win their final home game against the Minnesota Wild then beat their nemesis Anaheim Ducks in OT. With just two games remaining, that put them in the lead for the Bigg Cup (best western Canadian team) **(1) Winnipeg 74 points (2) Vancouver tied with Calgary with 73 points (4) Edmonton 67 points**



"TIPS 'N' TRICKS"

with Marshall Posner



Q. How do I check stats for jockeys and trainers using HPIbet?

A. There are a couple of ways. First, click on any jockey's name in any race and a pop-up window with his or her current meet statistics will be visible. The same goes for trainers (view image [here](#)). You can also get a quick list of the Top 5 jockeys, trainers and owners for every track by clicking on the **TRACK LEADERS** tab along the bottom of the Race Entries screen (view image [here](#).)

Lastly, you can always just enter the name of the person you're looking for in the **Search** box found in the top header (view image [here](#)).

Got a question for Marshall? Email theinsider@ASDowns.com
Review previous questions and answers [here](#).

Where are they now?

by Rob MacLennan

Lone Star kicks off tonight at 7:05 with Spider's Alibi

Lone Star's meet kicks off tonight at 7:05 p.m. with trainer **Charlie Smith's Spider's Alibi** entered in the first race, the \$50,000 Premier Stakes. He's 20/1 on the morning line with jockey **Rohan Singh** but he should be able to show some closing ability in the tough field.

With just over 4 weeks until opening night at ASD, horses are starting to migrate north but some have taken one last crack down south. Last Saturday at Turf Paradise, the **Don Schnell** barn sent out the 6-year-old

Magic d' Oro for a 4th place finish in an allowance race while the 3-year-old Winnipeg Futurity winner **Heber** was a troubled 5th in the Arizona Stallion Stakes.

Schnell has run a number of Manitoba-bred 3-year-olds recently, readying them for the spring/summer meet. Watch for three entrants this Saturday including the 3-year-old **Blackburn** in the sixth race.

Meanwhile, trainer **Jared Brown's** barn has been active in the claiming box adding and subtracting horses weekly. This week the barn lost **Indy Racer** to a claim but claimed back the 4-year-old **Believe Too**. On Sunday, the 5-year-old mare **Hotaling Heart** tries her hand on the grass in the 9th race.

At Fonner, 4-year-old **Witt Six** ran up the track in the Tondi Stakes but he had a horrible trip, forced nine wide into the first turn. The **Jerry Gourneau** barn did have two winners over the weekend though: 4-year-old filly **Networked** (\$11.80) and 3-year-old filly **Witt's Henny Penny** broke her maiden at \$5.60.

DERBY PREPS: WATCH FOR UPSET IN BLUE GRASS -- This weekend has three preps--the Santa Anita Derby, the Blue Grass and the Wood Memorial. Look for a longshot to cloud the Derby picture in the Blue Grass because the field is wide open. The Santa Anita Derby is between **Mor Spirit** and **Danzing Candy**. *(Rob will present an intense analysis of Aqueduct's Wood Memorial card at the "I won big" workshop Saturday at 10:30 a.m. Join us!)*



Rohan Singh
Rides Spider tonight

HISTORY ON THE HOOF: The best of Bob

Did you know . . . that a fan favourite horse nicknamed "the Toytown Express" led a Victory Bond Parade in Winnipeg from Main Street to City Hall in 1941? Read "*The mighty Seabiscuit raced in Winnipeg?*" [here](#).



ANSWER TO TRIVIA TEASER: (c) **Richard Migliore**. A horse fell on him two days before the 2004 Breeders' Cup at Lone Star and he rode through the pain of multiple fractures in the Sprint (**Bwana Charlie**) and the Mile (**Artie Schiller**) then needed two months to heal. He now works as a racing analyst for HRTV, NYRA and Fox Sports.



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3975 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3K 2E9 • Ph (204) 885.3330 • Fax (204) 831.5348
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