

Thursday buffet hit

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
14  Laurel 11:35 AM Derby Future Wager -\$10 SHAVED PRIME RIB	15  Louis Riel Day / Presidents Day UP THE ANTE TOURNEY Laurel 11:25 AM DERBY PREP: Southwest (DP) at 7 PM	16 Monticello 11:25 AM Mahoning 11:45 AM Sam Houston 1 PM Turf Paradise 1:40 PM at 7 PM	17 Monticello 11:25 AM Gulfstream 11:35 AM Tampa 11:35 AM	18 Monticello 11:25 AM Gulf, Tampa 11:35 AM  Prime rib buffet with pasta bar at 6:30 PM -\$10 RIB DINNER -\$5-Alive thoroughbred 7 PM -\$10 buy-in poker 7:30 PM -Free VLT tourney 8 PM	19 Monticello 11:25 AM Gulf, Tampa Laurel 11:35 AM Santa 3 PM -\$10 RIB DINNER -\$5-Alive thoroughbred 7 PM -\$10 buy-in poker 7:30 PM -Free VLT tourney 8 PM	20 "I won big" 10:30 AM Plaza Mahoning 11:15 AM DERBY PREP: Risen Star (FG) at 6 PM -\$10 MEATLOAF DINNER -\$5-Alive harness 7 PM -\$10 buy-in poker 7:30 PM -Free VLT tourney 8 PM
21 Gulfstream 11:35 AM -\$10 SHAVED PRIME RIB	22 Monticello 11:25 AM Mahoning 11:45 AM Sam Houston 1 PM Turf Paradise 1:40 PM Woodbine (H) 6:30 PM at 7 PM	23 Monticello 11:25 AM Mahoning 11:45 AM Sam Houston 1 PM Turf Paradise 1:40 PM at 7 PM	24 Monticello 11:25 AM Gulfstream 11:35 AM Tampa 11:35 AM	25 Monticello 11:25 AM Gulf, Tampa 11:35 AM Aqueduct 12:20 PM  Prime rib buffet with pasta bar at 7:30 PM -\$10 RIB DINNER -\$5-Alive thoroughbred 7 PM -\$10 buy-in poker 7:30 PM -Free VLT tourney 8 PM	26 Freehold 11:30 AM Gulfstream 11:35 AM Aqueduct 12:20 PM -\$10 RIB DINNER -\$5-Alive thoroughbred 7 PM -\$10 buy-in poker 7:30 PM -Free VLT tourney 8 PM	27 "I won big" 10:30 AM Plaza Player's Choice Tourney DERBY PREP: Fountain of Youth (GP) Gulfstream Stakes at 2 PM -\$10 MEATLOAF DINNER -\$5-Alive harness 7 PM -\$10 buy-in poker 7:30 PM -Free VLT tourney 8 PM

CLICK HERE TO ENLARGE

LOVE THE SCOOPIN'! It doesn't get better than mouthwateringly tender certified Angus prime rib and the pasta station but buffet diners Thursday nights love the scooping to top off their meals. The scooping? Yes, there's an ice cream chest where you get to dig into eight changing varieties of ice cream -- as much or little as you wish, to add to your desserts or not. You'll get to scoop tonight **AT \$10 OFF a buffet for two** by downloading this [coupon](#). It's a nice touch. Reserve at 204-885-3330.



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KENTUCKY DERBY QUALIFIERS

NOW THEY'RE 50 POINTS

Risen Star at Fair Grounds Saturday is first of seven

So now it's on to the Championship Series of prep races for the Kentucky Derby, the seven races that carry 50 qualifying points for the Derby followed by the 100-pointers (Florida Derby, Blue Grass, Santa Anita Derby, Wood Memorial, etc.)

This Saturday, it's the Risen Star from Fair Grounds. What is becoming more and more apparent is that there are no overwhelmingly talented colts as there is a filly (**Songbird**) and time is running out for one of them to show a blazing flash of brilliance -- although some are saying that the last to first move by **Suddenbreakingnews** in the Southwest Stakes at Oaklawn on Monday was special. We'll get another chance to evaluate his talent in the Rebel Stakes at Oaklawn next month.



Suddenbreakingnews (Coady photo)
Will "last to first" make him The One?

But now it's the Risen Star. No colt has yet to crack 109 which was **Nyquist's** Equibase speed in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile. (He had 108 in the San Vicente at Santa Anita Monday.) Will any colt surprise us this Saturday?

(**IN CASE SOMEONE ASKS:** **Risen Star** won the Preakness and Belmont Stakes in 1988 and achieved a first when he became the third generation 3-year-old colt to win the Eclipse Award, also won by his father, **Secretariat**, and grandfather, **Bold Ruler**.)

DERBY TEASER: How many greys or roans have won the Derby? (The grey **Mohaymen** is among early favourites to win this year's Derby.)

(a) 2 (b) 5 (c) 8 (d) 11. Answer at bottom of column.

BETTING QUIZ



How well do you know the minimum wagers at thoroughbred tracks?

1. What is the minimum superfecta wager at Santa Anita?
(a) 20-cents (b) 60-cents (c) \$1
2. What is the minimum triactor wager at Fair Grounds?
(a) 20-cents (b) 60-cents (c) \$1
3. What is the minimum wager on the pick-6 at Golden Gate?
(a) 20-cents (b) 60-cents (c) \$1 (d) \$2
4. What is the minimum Super Hi 5 bet at Fair Grounds?
(a) 20-cents (b) 60-cents (c) \$1 (d) \$2
5. What is the minimum pick-6 wager at Laurel?
(a) 20-cents (b) 60-cents (c) \$1 (d) \$2
6. What is the minimum win/place/show wager at Fair Grounds?
(a) \$1 (b) \$2
7. What is the minimum pick-3 wager at Sunland?
(a) 20-cents (b) 60-cents (c) \$1
8. What is the minimum pick-4 wager at Sam Houston?
(a) 20-cents (b) 60-cents (c) \$1

See answers at bottom of column. How did you rate? Eight for eight? Congrats! You get to wear an "Ask the Betting Guru" button. Under eight? Then download the chart listing all tracks [here](#). The chart is also pinned to the bulletin board in the Race Book. **At an OTB?** You can print the chart FREE at any program kiosk (look for the "free" section).

HANDICAPPING

"Up and down" horses are good plays

When a so-so horse has been raised in class, then lowered back to his original level, consider him a serious threat. Not sure why that's the case, except that racing with better horses somehow sharpens a horse to perform better back in his original class. Consider these two races from last Wednesday:

Tampa race 4 -- #6 Saturdaywhataday (morning line 10/1). Take a look at the program and you'll see that after Saturdaywhataday finished sixth at **C1m 8000nw3L**, his connections elevated him to **C1m12000nw3L** where he also finished sixth. And what happened when he was dropped back down to C1m 8000nw3L? He finished second at 18/1 and paid \$11.80 to place.

Delta race 2 -- #7 Hancock County (morning line 7/2). Program shows he was bumped up from **C1m 4000nw1/6m** (where he finished fourth) to **C1m 7500cnd** where he also finished fourth. And what happened in the drop back to C1m 4000nw1/6m? He won and paid \$7.20.

Up and down -- a worthy addition to your handicapping arsenal.



A winning rule

* * *

Congrats to Marshall! He was perfect at Sam Houston

Congrats to web designer **Marshall Posner** who has been answering your HPI questions in *The Insider* (see below). He said he had a perfect day at Sam Houston Tuesday -- 10 for 10 with rolling pick-3s, rolling doubles and the pick-5. He said he turned \$100 into \$3,400. It was only the third time in decades of race-playing that he could make such a claim. (The other two cards he was perfect at, he said, were at Bay Meadows and Arlington Park.)

Among his wins was the pick-5 which cost him \$30 to win \$1,450. His \$1 wheel was 4/1,6,7/2,7/6/237810. Individually, his horses paid \$4.20, \$7.20, \$7.20, \$9.20 and \$11.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "We have to find a way." -- every player on every Canadian NHL team.



Love the loot! We win, too, by getting his template on how to win!

Structural engineer **John Rocke**, seen here accepting a \$1,300 tower of bills from tournament director **Dawn Forbes**, not only did himself proud by winning Monday's *Up the Ante* horseplayer challenge he also has done us a favour by telling us how he turned his \$100 bankroll into \$1,026 in six plays, making it appear fairly easy. Once you read his account [here](#), you'll say to yourself: "Hey, I should be able to do that, too!" The 51-year-old owner of an engineering company has been playing the races for 35 years. The runner-up among the 26 entrants was **Len Charney** with a bankroll of \$143.95. The next tournament is the regular Player's Choice contest a week from this Saturday.

THE WEEK THAT WAS

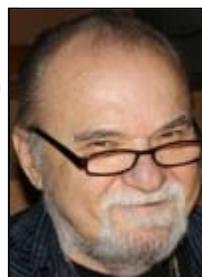
WILL THIS BUFF SHINE, TOO? When the **Buff** we all know and love (Winnipeg Jets' **Dustin Byfuglien**) leaves the ice this spring, another Buff should be getting ready to take to the race track for the first time -- because Buff is a 2-year-old Manitoba-bred colt named to honour the big hockey defenceman. Bred by **Wayne Anderson** and Hillside Farms, Buff's dad is **Quest** (winner of the grade 2 Clark Handicap at Churchill) and his mother is **Boston Song** (whose father, **Boston Harbor**, was a Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner).

If tradition continues, Buff should show some talent. What tradition? Manitoba babies connected to auspicious events have done well. **Jon's Golden Run**, named for Olympian gold medalist **Jon Montgomery**, won the most important race for Manitoba-bred 2-year-olds, the Buffalo. And **Gold N Sochi**, named for Winnipeg's Olympic gold medal curlers skipped by **Jennifer Jones**, came second in the Debutante and Sales Stakes and won a maiden allowance last year. Will the four-legged Buff similarly do his two-legged namesake proud?



Dustin Byfuglien
One good Buff deserves another

WAS HE BORN TO BET? WOOF! When nothing seems to be going right at the betting windows, what do you do? For veteran horseplayer **John Urbanski** last Saturday it was playing **his birth time** (his birth time?) in an exactor and triactor. As he explained it: "I was born at 5:49." So he punched in an exactor box and triactor with those numbers -- and cashed \$122 at Gulfstream. But his ability to cash in on oddly-picked numbers, he said, also had him cashing a \$200 triactor a while back when he played the 1-7-9 dog license number of his father's cocker spaniel, **Charlie**. Okaaay. What's next out of John's tickle trunk?



John Urbanski
Birth time is a winner

"WEEP NO MORE" TRIGGERS "BIG" TEARS: Both the "I won big" group and the Vancouverite who had won \$22,000 the previous week in the pick-5 at Tampa missed a tricky \$29.60 filly, **Weep No More**, in last Saturday's pick-5 that paid \$3,400 for \$1. The horse was a 3-year-old filly with only two starts who looked too slow -- but she obviously was not finished developing as she showed by beating more seasoned rivals. A group member had indicated during the pre-races discussion that the filly had good breeding but, alas, scant attention was paid to his observation when the tickets were constructed. So we move on to this Saturday to try to make amends -- 10:30 a.m. on the plaza. Confidence remains high. We need to give vacationing group member **Ron Phelps** some joy over his morning coffee in Palm Springs.

Where are they now?

by Rob MacLennan

Heber wins turf debut at Turf Paradise; ASD horses try stakes Sat.

Winnipeg Futurity winner **Heber** made an impressive turf debut Monday at Turf Paradise, returning \$4.20. This Saturday the Arizona Oaks and Turf Paradise Derby will have an ASD horse you may recognize, both trained by **Eurico Martens** and ridden by **Jennifer Reid**. In the Oaks, **Big Bad Janine**, coming off an allowance win at 23/1, should sit back and make a good run. In the Derby, **Ready Intaglio** looks like one of the horses to beat. Should like the distance. Great value if you can get his 9/2 morning line.



Jennifer Reid
Rides stakes on Saturday

Meanwhile, **Jared Brown** chalked up a second with 4-year-old gelding **Believe Too** who was claimed for \$12,500. Brown claimed a horse right back the next race which is Brown's style. Watch for 7-year-old **Bosque Angel** in a conditioned claiming event on Sunday. **Magic D'Oro**, making his 2016 debut for **Don Schnell**, made a bit of a run in the Phoenix Gold Cup but probably needed the start. Watch for Schnell's 7-year-old gelding **Congregationalist** in race 8 on Saturday.

57/1 AT SAM HOUSTON: **Jerry Gourneau's** 3-year-old filly **Witt's Go Go** lit up the board when she finished second at 57-1 at Sam Houston. Four-year-old gelding **Cowboy Curlin** was a runner-up as well in his race. The barn as always is popular at the entry box. At Delta tomorrow, watch for 3-year-old **Lift Me Up** in the 7th race and Gourneau sends four at Sam Houston on Saturday. **Charlie Smith** has been active at Sam Houston as well. His 6-year-old **Royal Mocha** ran second. Tomorrow, **Spider's Alibi**, third in the Manitoba Derby last year, makes his 2016 debut in the first race with **Rohan Singh** up.

OAKLAWN: **Murray Duncan** ran a number of horses this past week. **Bear's Big Boy** ran third for \$30,000 and was claimed out of the race. Look for Duncan to find a big priced winner here soon.

MY TAKE ON FAIR GROUNDS STAKES: On the national racing scene Saturday, Fair Grounds features the \$200,000 Rachel Alexandra Stakes for 3-year-old fillies and the \$400,000 Risen Star Stakes for 3-year-old colts, a prep race for the Kentucky Derby. The Rachel Alexandra looks like **Royal Obsession's** race to lose, but I will take a shot on **Lemon Drop Belle** closing at a price. The Risen Star is wide open. **Mo Tom** will be favoured off his LeComte win, **Airoforce** and **Gun Runner** come out of a key race in the Kentucky Jockey Club Stakes and the x-factor is **Dolphus** who has won two of his three races and is the half-brother to *Horse of the Year* **Rachel Alexandra**.



"TIPS 'N' TRICKS"

with Marshall Posner



Q. How do I check probable payouts and will-pays?

A. Knowing potential payoffs can be an excellent wagering tool. (Should I make a cover bet? Should I include a horse in my pick 4 that is being heavily bet in the doubles?) and they're readily accessible using the new HPIBet system. Simply go to the race you're playing and click on the **PROBABLES AND WILL-PAYS** tab to the right of the RACE ENTRIES tab (view image [here](#)). This will take you to a screen that has several different options available.

Depending on the track and race you're playing, you'll have access to both the exacta and daily double probables as well as potential will-pays for any bets that are closing out in this race including daily doubles, Pick 3 and most of the time, Pick 4's. Unfortunately, Pick 5 and Pick 6 payouts are never included in this section at this point.

NOTE: It's important to take note of the payoff amounts because some tracks use \$1 denominations while others use \$2 and/or 60-cent payoffs for certain bets (view image [here](#)). Also, note that **PROBABLES AND WILL PAYS** are not accessible on your Smartphone. The scaled-down version of the software does not include this function. It is still available if you're using a tablet, however.

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

HISTORY ON THE HOOF: The best of Bob

Did you know . . . that he rode the horse that set a place record at the Downs, \$242, and that he rode a horse that won the final race at TWO yearly race meets, and that he was the "go-to" jockey for ornery horses? Who was this jockey whom ASD patriarch **Bert Blake** described as "underrated?" Find out in "a man for all horses" [here](#).



ANSWER TO DERBY TEASER: (c) Eight greys or roans have won the Kentucky Derby

ANSWERS TO MINIMUM WAGER QUIZ: (1) 20-cent supers at Santa (2) 60-cent tris at Fair Grounds (3) 20-cent pick-6 at Golden Gate (4) 60-cent Super Hi 5 at Fair Grounds (5) 20-cent pick-6 at Laurel (6) \$1 win/place/show at Fair Grounds (7) 60-cent pick-3 at Sunland (8) \$1 pick-4 at Sam Houston



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