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ASSINIBOIA DOWNS



The Inside Track | Issue #62 | January 13, 2023



DINING



BET NOW



140 VLTS

- Open daily from 10 a.m. to 1 a.m.
- VLTs, Race Carrels and Tables are sanitized between customer use.

In this edition . . .

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Do the Downs!

CLUB WEST GAMING LOUNGE

140 VLTs available daily in our spacious Club West Gaming Lounge from 10 a.m. through 1 a.m. Please note that our VLTs are santized between play. Click [here](#) for a full list of games available at ASD.

Special promotions in our Clubwest Gaming Lounge:

- Every Thursday & Friday - Enter for your chance to spin the wheel for up to \$100. Draws will be made every 30 minutes starting at noon.



2023 PLAYER'S CHOICE ONLINE HANDICAPPING TOURNAMENTS:

- Saturday, January 21, 2023
- Saturday, February 18, 2023
- Saturday, March 18, 2023
- Saturday, April 15, 2023
- Saturday, May 13, 2023



Entry fee: \$25. Bankroll: \$60. Place 10 (\$2 WPS) wagers on any North American race that takes place on the contest day. You must have a Manitoba HPI account to participate. Deadline to enter is 4 p.m. the Friday before the tournament. For complete list of 2023 handicapping tournaments click [here](#).

JANUARY CASH BACK SPECIALS

- **MONDAY MADNESS:** Earn 3% cash back on all eligible wagers Mondays during the month of January (January 16, 23 & 30). Minimum wager \$100. Maximum cash back \$25. (\$2.10 payouts are not eligible.) **All wagers must be placed on your HPI account.**
- **PEGASUS BONUS:** Earn 2% cash back on all eligible wagers on Gulfstream Park on Saturday, January 28. Minimum wager \$100. Maximum cash back \$25. (\$2.10 payouts are not eligible.) **All wagers must be placed on your HPI account.**



Dining at Assiniboia Downs

HAPPY HOUR - Daily from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. to close

- 6 oz. House Wine - \$4.50
- House Spirits - \$4.50
- Domestic Beer - \$4.50

- Fireball - \$4.50
- Downs Caesar - \$5.50
- Pint Longshot Lager - \$5.50
- Poutine - \$8.00
- Onion Rings - \$8.00
- Chicken Fingers - \$9.00
- Cheese Nachos - \$9.00
- All Day NFL Sunday Special - Regular Wings \$10 (all day Sunday only)

All of the above specials are dine-in only.



BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER & SNACKS

The Club West Dining Room and Lounge is open daily at 10 a.m. until 1 a.m. for breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks and beverages. Our menu includes favourites such as chicken wings, pizza, chipotle mozza burger (pictured), steak sandwich or bacon and eggs plus much more! See the full menu [here](#).



NEW! VALUE ADDED CHEF'S SPECIALS!

Introducing our new value added Friday and Saturday specials. Friday's feature "Steak and Suds" which includes an 8 oz. top Sirloin steak plus a complimentary pint of ASD Lucky Lager and Saturday's feature "Prime and Wine" which includes an 8 oz. cut of Certified Angus Prime Rib plus a complimentary 6 oz. glass of house wine.

Served from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Reservations are not required.

Friday \$24.95 STEAK & SUDS



8 oz. top Sirloin charbroiled and seasoned with our smoky dry rub. Served with fresh vegetables and choice of mashed potatoes or french fries. **Plus a complimentary pint of ASD Lucky Lager!**



Saturday \$29.95 PRIME & WINE



Certified Angus Prime Rib (8 oz.) cut. Served with fresh vegetables and choice of mashed potatoes or french fries, horseradish and Yorkshire pudding au jus. **Plus a complimentary 6 oz. glass of house wine!**



Valentine's Dinner & Dance

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Enjoy our renowned Certified Angus Prime Rib buffet from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. then dance until midnight at our Valentine's Dinner & Dance!

- Certified Angus Prime Rib served with Yorkshire Pudding Au Jus
- Chicken Parmesan
- Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
- Herb Roasted Baby Red Potatoes
- Spinach Lasagna
- Fresh Vegetables in Aromatic Butter
- Rolls, Butter and Flatbread
- Caesar Salad

- Broccoli Mandarin Salad
- Golden Beet Salad
- Greek Vegetable Salad
- Jumbo Shrimp and Cocktail Sauce
- Smoked Salmon Pizza
- Dills, Sweet Mix Pickles & Beets
- Kolbassa and Cheddar Cheese
- Cakes, Pies, Cookies and Dainties

\$49.95 per person (plus taxes & gratuities). Call 204-885-3330



Purchase your tickets by January 31 and receive a complimentary 6 oz. glass of wine or bottle of house wine for reservations of four or more.

Call Samantha at 204-885-3330. Use promo code VALENTINE2023.

At The Post with G.S. Thompson

Readers' Writes

ASD Memories from the 1960s and '70s



Suzanne White leads jockey Jimmy Anderson and Merry's Hi Note into the winner's circle after their victory in the 1970 J. W. Sifton Memorial Handicap.

You just never know who the *The Inside Track* might reach!

Suzanne White, who was at Assiniboia Downs in the 1960s and '70s, recently sent us the following memories from her time at the Downs six decades ago.

"I was just reading my email of *The Inside Track* from December 30, 2022," wrote White. "A couple of memories came up for me. My ex-husband, Ken Murray, was the trainer for Merry's Hi Note when she won the John Sifton Memorial in 1970.

"After I send this message, I will send a couple of photos. One is of the winner's circle with Merry's Hi Note. And another photo that was taken right after the race, of Merry's Hi Note, Jimmy Anderson and myself."



Merry's Hi Note in the winner's circle after her victory in the 1970 J. W. Sifton Memorial Handicap.

Bred by Lorraine Jackson, Merry's Hi Note was by Argentinian graded stakes competitor Ulpiano out of Hugh Jackson's first mare Merry Glance. Merry's Hi Note won the 1969 Buffalo Stakes and the 1970 J. W. Sifton Memorial Handicap and went on to become the dam of 1976 Manitoba Derby winner Merry's Jay.

Trained by Clayton Gray for Hugh Jackson, Merry's Jay was the first Manitoba-bred of the modern era to win the Manitoba Derby, 38 years after breeder R.J. Speers won it with the filly Gowerlace in 1938. Merry's Hi Note was also the dam of multiple stakes winner Picatune, who in turn foaled stakes winners Major Pick, Picabit and Pick Sure.

"There were others to be sure, but these names give you a glimpse into the quality of some of Jackson's charges," wrote track historian Bob Gates on the ASD blog [here](#).

FIFTH RACE

Purse \$1,000—Claiming—For Three-year-olds and upward. Non-winners since August 15th. Weights, three-year-olds 112 lbs., older 118 lbs. Claiming price \$1,000.

Track Record: 1:10 1/2—Mansur (4), 109 lbs.—September 18, 1958
Midland Empire (7), 107 lbs.—September 15, 1959

ASK FOR HORSE BY THIS NUMBER

OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY
1 Goebel Bros. (Lehr, N.D.) Green, gold "G" on back	E. Scherbenko	Boyd Morrie
VERALEES Ch.m.6. Vaidina Bully—Sea Nun		108
2 H. Corneille (Kenora, Ont.) Blue, white "HC" on back, white sleeves	T. Patton	Norman Dubois
PANCHO'S FIRST Dk.b.g.4. Pancho—Tin Loon		*108
3 Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Williamson (So. Sioux City, Nebr.) Red and pink	J. P. Williamson	Manuel Bravo
BALDY MAN Ch.g.9. Main Man—Morva		118
4 Pennington & Waslavski (Wpg., Man.) Crisse, black circle on sleeves	L. Swartz	Norman Leid
REPP SUPPLY B.g.9. Piccolo—Easter Valley		118
5 K.C. & C.G. Adams (Macdowall, Sask.) Green, green "CA" on gold diamond on back, gold sleeves	C.G. Adams	Robert Stewart
SASKATOON Ch.m.8. Spanish Main—King's Heiress		*103
6 Mrs. F. L. Taylor (Winnipeg, Man.) White, green "T" on back, green trim	F. L. Taylor	John Dewhurst
BELLE BOYD Dk.b.m.5. Combat Boots—War Ventures		113
7 Asanza Bros. (Langley, B.C.) Flamingo, lime "FB" on back, lime stripes on sleeves	A. G. Smithers	Tommy Stadnyk
LANGLEY PRINCE B.g.3. Ky. Lea—Sweet Runner		105
8 L. Schwartz (Fairbury, Nebr.) Blue, gold trim & "S" on back	Owner	Mike Kahler
FANNY'S ONE B.m.9. Bothwell—Fanny Lee		113
9 Mr. & Mrs. D. Abel (Custer, Mont.) Tangerine, white "A" on back, tangerine bars on white sleeves	D. Abel	Don Meade
DIVER'S BOY B.g.7. Ariel Diver—Bluegrass Girl		*113
10 Don R. Pope (Dodson, Mont.) Blue, yellow yoke & stripes on sleeves	Owner	Fred Tobacco
BETTER BOOT B.g.6. Lance Corporal—Toney Ann		*113

13 lbs.; *5 lbs. Apprentice Allowance Claimed.

Program Selections—2-6-4

TIME

Tommy Patton - I walked Home For Him - He was leading Trainer and went on to New York. He paid me really well

SECOND ANNUAL "Powder Puff Derby"

For Lady Riders. 1961

Track Record: 1:58 1/2—Hasty Host (2), 119 lbs.—September 18, 1959

1 E. Johansen (Midnapore, Alta.) Red, white cross sash front & back	Owner	Connie O'Neil
MEXICAN D. B.f.3. Flak—Alone		
2 M. Duncan (Carberry, Man.) White, green shamrock front & back, green sleeves	E. Mahoney	Mary Dennison
PRECAMBRIAN B.g.6. Barre Granite—Bold Mito		
3 White Shoe Stable (Rimbey, Alta.) Black, white horseshoe on back	A. L. Mathes	Joan Jones
BOW RUNNER B.g.6. *Moonlight Run—Hi Broad		
4 Luella Schoen (Miles City, Mont.) White, black "B" on back	W. Schoen	Lois Plath
SAM GRAY B.g.6. Gray Dream—Frisky Maiden		
5 R. McLaughlin (Selfridge, N.D.) Black, orange sleeves	Owner	Heather Willis
MERECIDO B.g.7. Prince—Mercedita		
6 W. Ewalt (Miles City, Mont.) Gold, green shamrock front & back, gold sleeves	Owner	Mary White
LITTLE UMPA B.g.8. Ariel Diver—Miss Bangor	Son-Venue	
7 M. A. Geary (Wilmington, Del.) White, red "MG" in circle front & back	Owner	Doris Littlewood
TEXAN SIGH Ch.g.10. Pinebloom—Taz		

NO BETTING ON THIS RACE

NO RACES WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY

FIRST RACE FRIDAY 6:00 P.M.

PRICES:

Largest Daily Double—July 27, 1960—Fanny's One (9) and Suezac (7)—\$2,006.00.

Smallest Daily Double—Sept. 12, 1958—Spangled Jack (4) and Truesday (6)—\$9.30.

Largest Quinella—Aug. 26, 1959—Prairie Chief (6) and Blue Sir (10)—\$417.40.

Smallest Quinella—July 6, 1960—Boots Darling (10) and Springs Best (4)—\$6.00.

Largest Straight and Place—June 16, 1959—Law O'Rose—\$121.00 - \$106.00.

Largest Show—July 27, 1960—Fanny's One \$44.80.

Today marks the second running of The Powder Puff Derby. The winner will receive the Linda Scott Memorial Trophy, presented to Assinibola Downs for annual competition by friends of the late Miss Scott. The first running last year was won by Eileen Blake, today's race. Connie O'Neil is the only rider today who rode last year.

Assinibola Downs is the only track in Canada to include a Powder Puff Derby, for lady riders, in its regular race program.

PATROL CAR

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Winnipeg's Mercury, Meteor & Comet Dealer

ASD Program for the 1961 Powder Puff Derby. Suzanne (Mary) White rode #6, Little Umpa.

The story about Karen Chysyk winning the Powder Puff Derby in 1971 also stirred memories for White. "I wasn't close to winning," she said. "But in 1961, I rode in the Powder Puff Derby. I will send a newspaper picture. There are a number of names you will likely recognize.

"I am Mary White. My name is confusing, as I was Mary Murray when I was married to Ken Murray. When we divorced I went back to my maiden name and I now use my middle name, so now Suzanne White. I am now 80."



1961 Powder Puff Derby jockeys. Suzanne (Mary) White third from right.

"I very much enjoy reading *The Inside Track*," continued White. "I left Winnipeg in 1980. Some of the stories and people are quite familiar to me, especially from my time at Assiniboia Downs. My first job was with Tommy Patton in 1960, walking hots. Later I also galloped a few for him. I then trained with my ex-husband Ken Murray for a few years.

"I appreciate my emails from Assiniboia Downs. Happy New Year to everyone."

Same to you Suzanne! And thanks so much for the memories!

2023 SHIPPING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

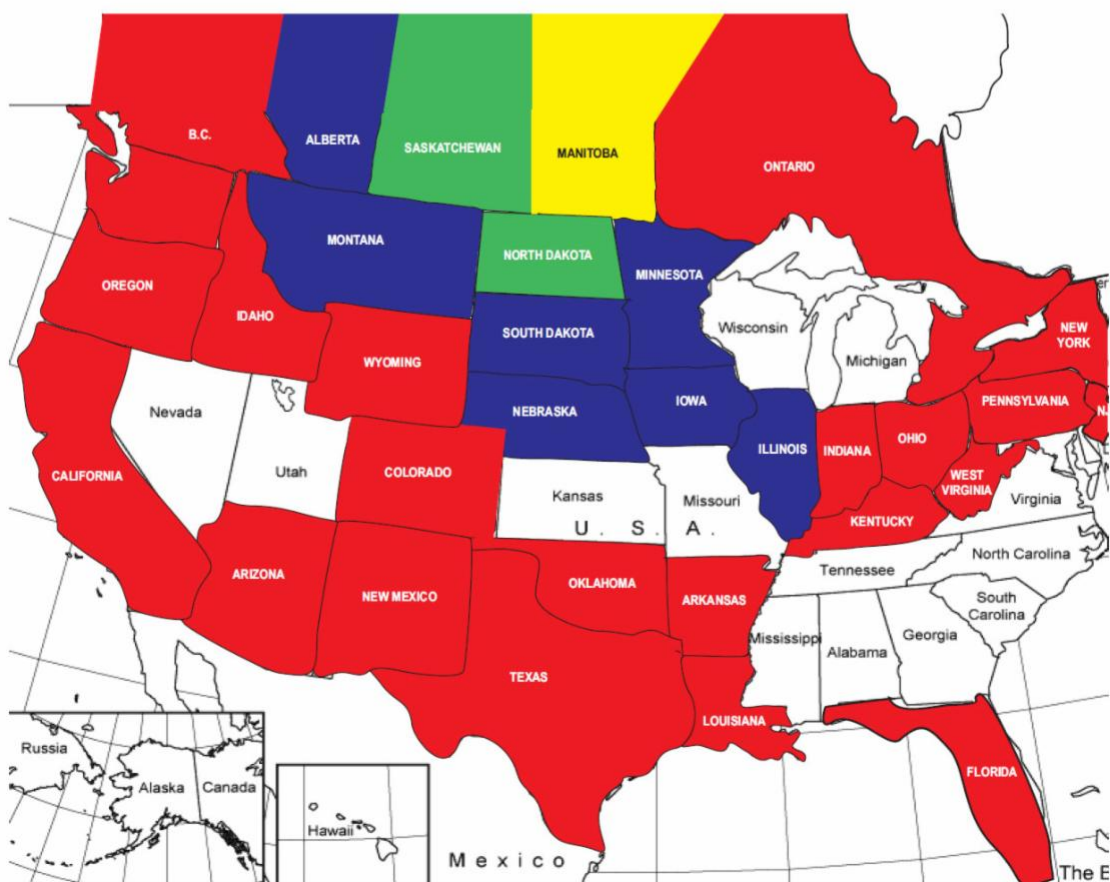
A one time credit per horse is automatically put in the horse owner's account by the horsemen's bookkeeper after the horse has completed one start.

Zone 1 - \$250 per horse

Zone 2 - \$350 per horse

Zone 3 - \$500 per horse

Zone 4 \$1,000 per horse



2023 ASD Race Dates Announced

Excellent Purses, Stakes Schedule and Shipping Incentives in Place for 2023 at ASD

Assiniboia Downs offers some of the best shipping incentives in North America, and an excellent purse and stakes schedule to match. If you're looking for a great place to race this summer, you won't find a more friendly and inviting track anywhere. We've also got one of the kindest racing surfaces in North America, complemented by numerous additional amenities.

The 50-day 2023 live race meeting begins on Monday, May 22, and runs through to Tuesday, September 19. We race Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings at ASD, which means you can take the weekends off and enjoy our fabulous Manitoba summer weather with family and friends! Links to the 2023 shipping incentives, racing and graded purse schedules [here](#).

ASD 2023 Condition Book #1



ASSINIBOIA DOWNS • WINNIPEG, MANITOBA • CANADA



CONDITION BOOK #1

Monday, May 22 - Wednesday, June 21, 2023

The first ASD Condition Book for 2023 is here! Time to get excited! Click [here](#) to download.

CAN'T MAKE IT TO THE TRACK TO WAGER?

Watch and wager at one of our off-track betting locations:

- **Canad Inns Windsor Park** - 1034 Elizabeth Road
- **Green Brier Inn** - 1611 Main Street
- **Rookies at Central Hotel** - 201 Melrose Avenue East
- **Quest Inn** - 367 Ellice Avenue
- **McPhillips Station Casino** - 484 McPhillips Street
- **Club Regent Casino** - 1425 Regent Ave W
- **Nor-Villa Motor Hotel** - 1763 Henderson Hwy.
- **Club 3D** - 3317 Portage Avenue
- Wager 24/7 at HPIbet.com

LAURIE ELSOM (1941-2022)

Condolences to the family and friends of longtime ASD trainer, Laurie Elsom, who passed away at the age of 81 on December 28, 2022. Laurie loved his horses, and had many friends in the Assiniboia Downs backstretch, where he trained horses from 1978 to 2007, winning 110 races. Read Laurie's full obituary [here](#).



In The News

Voting for 48th Sovereign Awards for Canadian Racing Opens

Voters across Canada will submit ballots by January 22 for the champions of Canadian racing for 2022. Ceremony on April 13.



The coveted Sovereign Award Trophy.

Voting for the 48th Annual Sovereign Awards begins Monday, January 9, 2023. Ballots and statistical information have been sent out by the Jockey Club of Canada to voters across Canada. The completed online ballots are due no later than 11:59 p.m. (EST) on Sunday, January 22, 2023. More from the *Canadian Thoroughbred* [here](#).

Trainer Robertino Diodoro Scores Win #3,000

Manitoba Derby record holder won his first race at Northlands Park in 1995 and is now the 37th North American trainer to hit the 3,000 win mark.



Robertino Diodoro celebrates his 3,000th career win as a trainer. (Coady Photography)

Trainer Robertino Diodoro became the 37th conditioner in North America to win 3,000 races when Arthurian won a \$10,000 claiming race on last Saturday at Oaklawn Park in Hot Springs, Arkansas. The 48-year-old Diodoro, who is from Calgary, Alberta, then won his 3,001st race when Lovely Ride won the Pippin Stakes. More from Jennifer Morrison at the *CanadianThoroughbred* [here](#).

Report: Stallion Air Support Dies From Bee Attack



Air Support at Churchill Downs in 2010. (Anne M. Eberhardt photo)

U.S. graded stakes winner Air Support was one of two stallions who died in India last week after "thousands of bees" attacked them at India's Kunigal Stud Farm, the *Times of India* reported. Air Support was 15. More from Byron King at the *BloodHorse* [here](#).

A Snapshot in Time
By Track Historian Bob Gates



This week's "Snapshot in Time" is the first of a four-part series in which we remember Downs' Patriarch Albert Edward Blake. Today's memory features a young "Bert" Blake with his pony Danny Boy. The photo was taken at the Blake residence in Brandon. (Blake family photo)

Road to the Kentucky Derby

- Jan. 21 - Lecomte (FG)
- Jan. 28 - Southwest (OP)
- Feb. 4 - Holy Bull (GP)
- Feb. 4 - Withers (AQU)
- Feb. 4 - Robert B. Lewis (SA)
- Feb. 11 - Sam F. Davis (TAM)



See Kentucky Derby prep winners [here](#).

Carryover Watch

- Gulfstream (January 13) - Jackpot Pick 6 carryover - \$140,781
- Woodbine Harness (January 13) - Jackpot Hi-5 carryover - \$111,270
- Parx (January 16) - Jackpot Pick 5 carryover \$71,966

See all carryovers [here](#).

Top NFL Picks by TravyFootball: Week 19

49ers over Seahawks (Saturday afternoon): The Brock Purdy era of football will head into the playoffs with a full head of steam as they take on a familiar division foe in the Seattle Seahawks. I know teams tend to play harder when it comes to playoff time, but I personally don't expect this game to be close.



Will it be a 65-7 beatdown like Georgia gave TCU last Monday in the college football championship? No, but a double digit victory is very likely. I can't say enough about Brock Purdy and how fast he ascended into one of the top QBs playing in the NFL right now. It helps when your team is loaded with offensive weapons like Christian McCaffrey, Deebo Samuel, and the now resurgent George Kittle. This very well could have gone the opposite direction though. If you told me that San Fran would claim the #2 seed in the NFC with a 7th round QB playing, I would have said you were crazy. Seattle managed to sneak into the playoffs thanks to a little luck courtesy of the Detroit Lions beating the Green Bay Packers.

Bills over Dolphins (Sunday noon): At the time of this writing, I don't even know who will be playing QB for the Dolphins. I can't imagine Tua Tagovailoa being cleared after suffering a third concussion a few weeks ago. Teddy Bridgewater is still dealing with a broken finger, which leaves only third stringer, Skylar Thompson, and he's just...awful. At the end of the day though it really doesn't matter who's playing QB for them cause Buffalo just seems like the team destined to get to the big dance considering everything that happened. Notice how I said "get to" the big dance, not actually winning it (that honour will go to the 49ers!), but I do believe Buffalo beating Miami is a lock!

Bucs over Cowboys (Monday night): Saving the best game of the first round for last, two of the most polarizing entities in football will collide when Tom Brady and the Bucs host America's greatest team to love (or hate), the Dallas Cowboys. Talk about a game that could go either way. There's an argument to be made that either team could win this one. I'm going to stick with Brady here though, as he's been playing much better as of late and the Cowboys have done just the opposite. There's no excuse for losing to the Commanders last week, who started a rookie QB in Sam Howell. Even though they really didn't have much to play for, they left their starters in the game for the majority of it and still only managed to score six points. That's certainly not going to get it done against a motivated Tom Brady, who is chasing an unprecedented eighth Super Bowl ring.

Last week (2-1)

Overall (40-14)

The Best of Bob

by ASD Historian Bob Gates

Did you know that in the early days of Polo Park the richest race ever run in the west was the Western Canada Handicap. Only one horse won this race three times. Who was this champion? Hint: He was a Max Freed horse who raced at the Downs until he was 13. Only the sharpest of you trivia buffs will be able to shed some light on this early history of the turf. Click [here](#) for the answer. (From July 2019)





Upcoming events at ASD

- Spin to Win in the Clubwest Gaming Lounge - Thursdays & Fridays - [more info](#)
- 3% cash back Mondays in January (16, 23, 30) - [more info](#)
- 2% cash back on Saturday, January 28 - [more info](#)
- Annual Super Flea Market - Saturday, Feb. 4 & Sunday, Feb. 5 - [more info](#)
- Valentine's Dinner & Dance - Tuesday, Feb. 14 - [more info](#)
- Together Again - FROST: Loud Luxury + special guests - Feb. 24 - [more info](#)

Feedback

We would love to hear from you! Email your comments and/or suggestions to theinsidetrack@ASDowns.com.

The Inside Track Archives

Did you know that past issues of The Inside Track are available on our website? Click [here](#) to read them now.



[Visit our website](#)