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ASSINIBOIA DOWNS



The Inside Track | Issue #122 | March 8, 2024



DINING



BET NOW



140 VLTS

ASD Hours

- Open daily from 10 a.m. to 1 a.m.
- VLT machines are sanitized between use

2024 Live Race Dates

- Monday, May 20 to Tuesday, September 17 - click [here](#) for schedule

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Do the Downs!

Upcoming Handicapping Tournaments

Player's Choice Tournaments:

- Saturday, March 16
- Saturday, April 13
- Saturday, May 11



Tournament Winners:

- Player's Choice - Saturday, January 20 - Winner: Ron Phelps
- Player's Choice - Saturday, February 17 - Winner: Trevor Phelps

Club West Gaming Lounge



140 VLTs are available daily in our spacious Club West Gaming Lounge from 10 a.m. through 1 a.m. Enjoy complimentary coffee or tea. We also have fantastic deals on [daily drink specials](#), [happy hour specials](#), [daily lunch](#) and [nightly food features](#). Please note that our VLTs are sanitized between play.

Free daily draws take place for your chance to win cash!

- **Break Open Bonanza!** Draws to win \$10 plus 20 break-open tickets! Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m.
- **Lucky Spins!** Draws for \$20 in FREE VLT Spins Friday, Saturday & Sunday from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

There's Always a Deal at ASD!

\$11.95 Daily Lunch Specials

Enjoy breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks from our Club West Dining Room menu or try our ever changing \$11.95 lunch special.

- Club West Dining Room & Lounge [menu](#)
- Daily Happy Hour [specials](#)



Daily Drink Features All Day Long

- Monday - Margarita \$6 (lime, peach or strawberry)
- Tuesday - Corona \$5
- Wednesday - Wine \$4.50 (6 oz. glass of house white or house red)
- Thursday - Beer \$4.75 (house pint of beer)
- Friday - Trifecta Tea \$6 (Absolut peach vodka, lemonade, sweet tea)
- Saturday - RazDerby Lemonade \$6 (Absolut raspberry vodka, lemonade)
- Sunday - Caesar \$6



Daily Evening Chef's Specials

Monday - BBQ Ribs \$19.95: Smoky char-broiled ribs with our signature BBQ sauce. Served with french fries and coleslaw.



Tuesday - Tacos \$9.95: Two flour tortillas stuffed with taco beef, chicken or fish, lettuce, green onions, cheese and diced tomato. Served with a drizzle of avocado cilantro lime sauce and taco chips.



Wednesday - Two Topping Pizza \$14.95: Thin crust pizza with mozzarella and tomato sauce. Choose from pepperoni, bacon, ham, spicy beef, chicken, tomato, mushroom, peppers, black olives or onions.



Thursday - Chipotle Mozza Burger \$14.95: Our signature sirloin patty and crispy bacon smothered in melted mozzarella. Topped with fresh sliced tomato, fried onion rings, chipotle mayo and sweet bold barbeque sauce.



Friday - Steak & Suds \$24.95: 8 oz. Sirloin steak charbroiled and seasoned with our smoky dry rub. Served with fresh vegetables and a choice of mashed potatoes or french fries. **Plus a complimentary pint of ASD Lucky Lager.**



Saturday - Prime & Wine \$29.95: Certified Angus Prime Rib (8 oz. cut.) Served with fresh vegetables and a choice of mashed potatoes or french fries, horseradish, and Yorkshire pudding au jus. **Plus a complimentary 6 oz. glass of house wine.**



Sunday - Fish & Chips \$14.95: Two pieces of beer battered cod with tartar sauce and lemon. Served with french fries and coleslaw.



Reservations are not required. The above specials are available from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Everyone who purchases one of the above specials will receive a coupon to play our free "Pick to Win" game in the VLT lounge for a chance to spin our lucky cash wheel where you can win up to \$100 cash!

At The Post with G.S. Thompson

Horses, Frozen Fingers Brigade, Return to Backstretch
Devon Gittens, Steven Gaskin, Wendy Anderson first to arrive before snowstorm



Devon Gittens on the way to the ASD Equicizer on a snowy Thursday morning. (George Williams)

Top Assiniboia Downs trainers Devon Gittens, Wendy Anderson and Steven Gaskin were among the first to arrive in the backstretch, and while they might be freezing their fingers due to the latest snowstorm, the horses are loving it.

Gittens has 22 horses at the track right now while Anderson and Gaskin have 15 apiece bedded down in their barns waiting for the training track to open on March 16. In the meantime, all the horses are going to the Equicizer for daily jogs, adding to the bottom some of them already have in them in preparation for galloping next week.

The 39-year-old Gittens is entering his sixth year as a trainer at the Downs and looking to build upon his best year ever in 2023, in which he compiled a record of 25-34-23 from 164 starts for purse earnings of \$363,920. Gittens has really made his mark at the Downs as a developer of young horses and Manitoba-bred champions, and he took it to yet another level in 2023 with the perfect Canyouhearmerunninn (Reload-Joaquina by Holy Bull), who went 4-for-4 and won the Graduation Stakes, Osiris and Winnipeg Futurity for owners Pink Cloud Racing and Ron Wiley.



Grooms Marco Difonte and Skyla Blanchard are back in action at ASD. (George Williams)

First Year Groom of the Year (2022) winner Skyla Blanchard and Marco Difonte were in the barn tending to the horses, and Gittens will have more excellent hands arriving soon. You can't win races without top grooms, and all the best trainers know it. You could also ask the horses what they think 😊

Gittens travelled to Woodbine after the meet here last year and it didn't take long for his talent to get noticed by top owners. They could have stolen him away from us but they haven't yet and we're certainly glad to have him here. Gittens will have 30 or more horses in training at the Downs again this year, including purchases from Ontario and Florida.

And if past success is an indicator of the future, he'll once again be the one to beat in the Manitoba-bred 2-year-old races and beyond.



Trainer Steven Gaskin offers a treat to one of his new charges. (George Williams)

Gaskin, always one of the first trainers to arrive in the spring, also shored up his stable with some new purchases from Florida and Ontario, and he's got a few beauties in the barn that could be any kind, but he's not telling, at least not yet. The Gold Cup-winning trainer is going to let his horses do the talking, and there's definitely a chance of that.

Trainer Wendy Anderson will have more horses coming, and we spotted her top hand and former Groom of the Year Jaydean Lamothe smiling at the Equicizer Thursday morning. Anderson had another stellar year in 2023 at the Downs highlighted by triple stakes winner Magic Tiger, who won the Bocage Overnight Stakes, the R. J. Speers and the Gold Cup for Wind Dancer Stable and Bill Meikle. Anderson compiled a record of 36-32-25 from 173 starts in 2023 and her horses earned \$443,652.

It pays to have top grooms.



Former Groom of the Year Jaydean Lamothe at the ASD Equicizer on Thursday morning. (George Williams)

LGCA Hiring for Horse Racing

The Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Authority of Manitoba (LGCA) regulates the province's liquor, gaming, cannabis, and horse racing industries. We license liquor sales, service and manufacturing, gaming employees, products, and operations; retail cannabis stores; and horse racing. We strive to serve the public interest by regulating these industries in a respectful, impartial, and balanced manner.

The LGCA is seeking highly motivated individuals to work within the Social Occasions and Horse Racing Department, which is part of the Operations Unit. The Race Administration Official / Race Administration Official-In-Training positions provide reasonable assurance that all horse racing activities licensed or authorized by the Liquor Gaming and Cannabis Authority (LGCA) are conducted safely, honestly, with integrity and in the public interest, and are operated in accordance with legislated requirements.

<https://lgcamb.ca/job-postings/>

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Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Authority of Manitoba

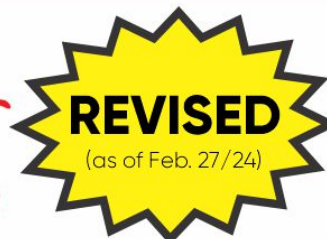
Human Resources

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Winnipeg MB R3G 0Z6

Fax: 204-927-5384

Email: resumes@LGCamb.ca



ASSINIBOIA DOWNS • WINNIPEG, MANITOBA • CANADA



CONDITION BOOK #1

Monday, May 20 - Wednesday, June 19, 2024

Download a copy of Condition Book #1 [here](#) or click on the image above.

2024 SHIPPING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

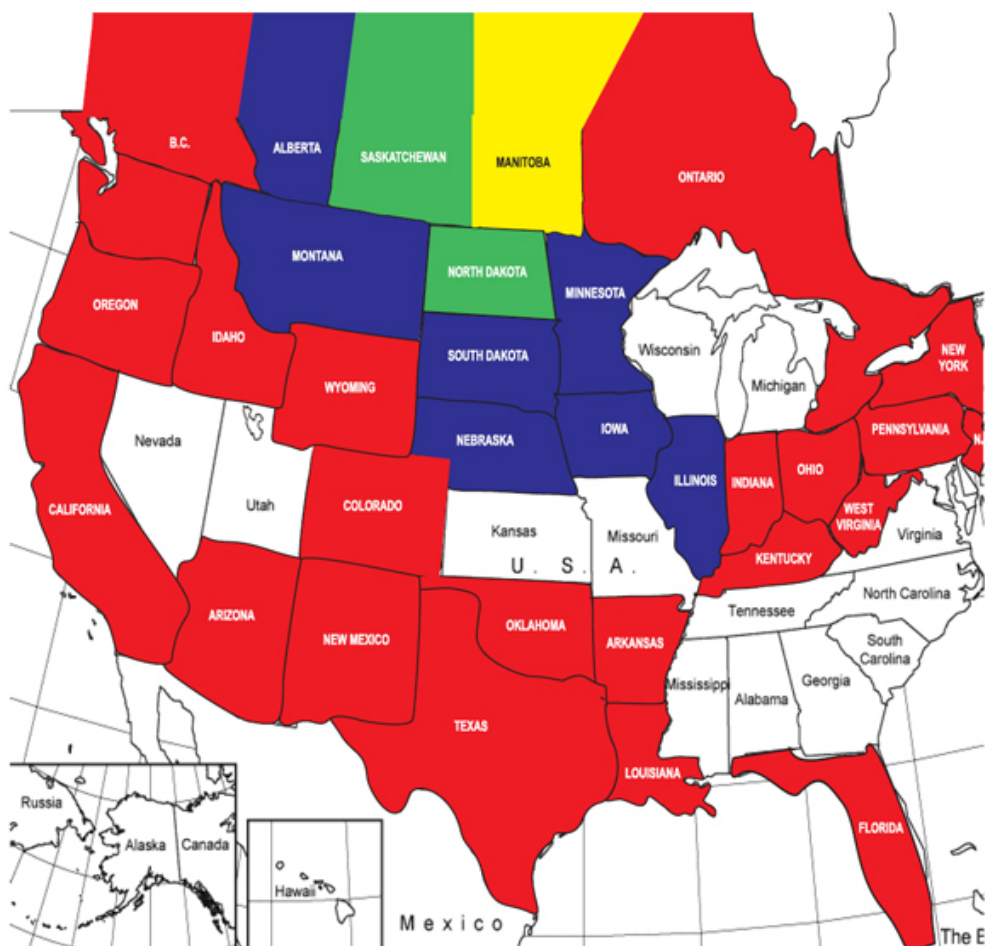
A one time credit per horse is automatically put in the horse owner's account by the racing bookkeeper after the horse has completed one start.

Zone 1 - \$250 per horse

Zone 2 - \$350 per horse

Zone 3 - \$500 per horse

Zone 4 \$1,000 per horse



Bad Weather Buddies

Original painting by Tim Cox



"I believe that true friends talk without intention, give without reason, care without expectation, love without condition, and will be there through thick and thin."~ Nishan Panwar. "Bad Weather Buddies" painted by Tim Cox. See more original paintings from Tim Cox [here](#).

Road to the Kentucky Derby

- Tampa Bay Derby - Mar. 9 - 50 points
- Jeff Ruby Steaks (TP) - Mar. 23 - 100 points
- Louisiana Derby (FG) - Mar. 23 - 100 points
- UAE Derby (Mey) - Mar. 30 - 100 points
- Florida Derby (GP) - Mar. 30 - 100 points
- Arkansas Derby (OP) - Mar. 30 - 100 points
- Wood Memorial (Bel) - Apr. 6 - 100 points
- Blue Grass (Kee) - Apr. 6 - 100 points
- Santa Anita Derby - Apr. 6 - 100 points
- Lexington (Kee) - Apr. 13 - 20 points



2024 Kentucky Derby points standings - [here](#)

Easter Brunch - Sunday, March 31

We are excited to announce our Easter Brunch on Sunday, March 31 in the Terrace Dining Room from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Join us for a delicious brunch with your family and friends.

Our menu includes a variety of dishes such as:

- Sliced Certified Angus Prime Rib in Mushroom Sauce

- Carved Ham with Grilled Pineapple
- Scrambled Eggs with Green Onion
- Eggs Benedict
- Omelette Station
- Bacon
- Sausage
- Hashbrowns
- French Toast
- Caesar Salad
- Broccoli Salad
- Golden Beet Salad
- Wild Rice Salad
- Cheddar Cheese, Kolbassa & Pickles
- Smoked Sockeye Salmon Pizza
- Rolls, Flatbreads and Butter
- Croissants
- Sliced Fruit & Berries
- Cakes & Pastries

Tickets are priced at \$39.95 (adults), \$22.95 (12 & under), and \$9.95 (5 & under). **To purchase tickets, please call Samantha at 204-885-3330.**

This event sells out every year so order your tickets today!



Looking for a Special Photo of Your Big Horse or...?

Track Photographer Jason Halstead may have just what you're looking for



Hey! That's my horse! A five-horse battle for the lead in the third race on August 22, 2023. (Jason Halstead / Assiniboia Photo)

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 😊

Wager on Top Tracks



Watch and wager on world class racing from the comfort of your private carrel in our race book located on the 2nd level of the grandstand. The race book is open daily at 10 a.m.

Can't make it to the track? Visit one of our partner locations listed below or wager at HPIbet.com. Click [here](#) for a list of tracks to wager on during the month of March.

HPI Wagering Bonus

Wager a minimum of \$100 on Tampa Bay Saturday, March 9 and get 4% cash back! Minimum wagered \$100. Maximum cash back \$50. All wagers must be place on your [HPIbet](https://HPIbet.com) account. Opt-in at HPIbet.com. (\$2.10 payouts not included).



Carryover Watch

- Tampa Bay (March 8) - Jackpot Pick 6 - \$29,275
- Gulfstream Park (March 8) - Jackpot Pick 6 - \$38,842
- Parx Racing (March 11) - Jackpot Pick 5 - \$90,288

See all carryovers [here](#).

Bella The (Dog) Bettor

Rumor has it that Bella had \$20 WPS on the #5



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Sound Effects Factory • Racecourse, Hors...



barkmyworld 1w

Rumor has it that Bella has a \$20 Win-Place-Show on 5

Credit: mustangmaddy / T.i.k.T.o.k

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📌 SAVE for later

👉 SHARE with someone who loves dogs

Is this your dog? [Click here](#) to watch Bella cheer on her horse.

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](#)



Player Rewards & Cash Bonus Programs!

REWARDS FOR ALL WAGERING



ONE CARD DOES IT ALL!

- Earn points for all your wagering when you swipe your card or wager on HPIbet.com
- Wager on your account on betting terminals
- Earn cash bonuses on wagering (see below)
- Convert your points to CASH
- Buy programs & DRF on HPIbet.com

CASH BONUSES FOR WAGERING

PLATINUM BONUS LEVEL	GOLD BONUS LEVEL	SILVER BONUS LEVEL	BRONZE BONUS LEVEL
Bet \$5,000 or more in the week* and receive a cash back bonus of 4%	Bet \$4,000 or more in the week* and receive a cash back bonus of 3%	Bet \$3,000 or more in the week* and receive a cash back bonus of 2%	Bet \$2,000 or more in the week* and receive a cash back bonus of 1%



Wagers must be placed using your HPIbet Rewards Card. The week (*) is designated as Monday through Sunday. Any bonus money earned during this period will be deposited to your HPI account on Wednesday by 5 p.m. Betting bonus cash is in addition to regular HPIbet rewards points earned. Assiniboia Downs reserves the right to alter or amend this promotion at any time. Bonus calculations are available on payouts of \$2.20 and above. Maximum weekly bonus deposit \$1,000.

"I Won Bigg" Wagering Group

Saturday at 10:30 a.m. (2nd floor plaza)

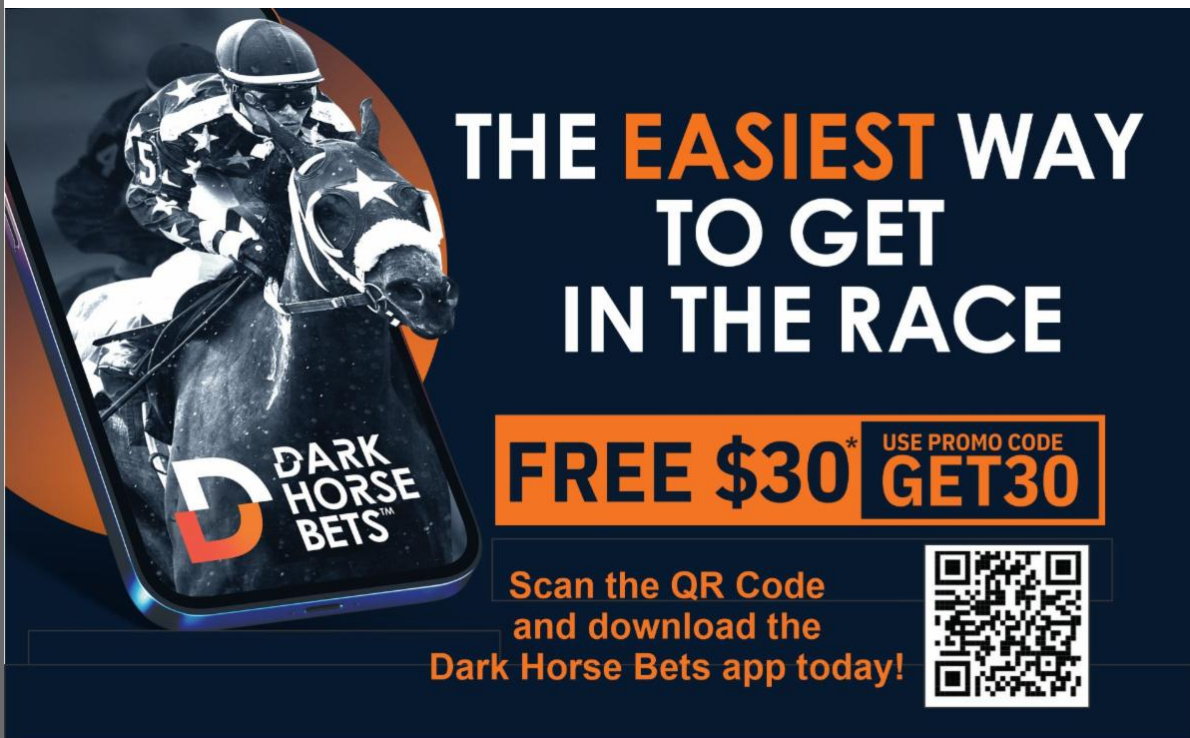
Join the "I Won Bigg" wagering group this Saturday at 10:30 a.m. The wagering group is open to everyone. This week they will be playing Tampa and Santa Anita. \$20 per share. If you would like more information please email [Larry](#).

A Snapshot in Time
by Track Historian Bob Gates



Well, it's been a long winter, but the thoroughbreds have started to move in, and life is returning to the backside. Is there a better time to remember some heart-horses of the past? Let's kick-start this with an original fave of mine.

Here is Spanish Key at Maxwell King Stables located at 2295 Henderson Highway. This is a post racing shot (having lost her girlish figure) with a foal in tow. Max Freed's Alhambra mare was a multiple stakes-placed speedball who would routinely open a five- or six-length lead and try to get home before her competition could catch her. (Maxwell King Stable photo)



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DARK HORSE BETS

Oscar-Worthy Achievements in Horse Movies

As the Oscars approach, a look back at some of the best horse movies ever made



War Horse, Seabiscuit and The Horse Whisperer are among the best horse movies ever made.

The 96th Academy Awards are this Sunday, and horse racing aficionados can revel in the implicit recognition the sport of kings annually receives when journalists and film buffs adopt racing's handicapping lingo to forecast the night's winners. Actual awards for horse movies have been harder to come by, despite some exceptional performances. *America's Best Racing* takes a look back at some of the best horse movies ever made [here](#).

No More Time, Domestic Product Vie in Tampa Bay Derby
Trainer Todd Pletcher aims for a seventh Tampa Bay Derby (G3) with Heartened



No More Time wins the Sam F. Davis at Tampa Bay Downs. (SV Photography)

No More Time, the front-running winner of the Sam F. Davis Stakes (G3) on Feb. 10 at Tampa Bay Downs, seeks a second Kentucky Derby prep victory at that track this Saturday, when he battles Domestic Product and eight other 3-year-old rivals in the \$400,000 Tampa Bay Derby (G3). With 50 Kentucky Derby qualifying points going to the winner, a win in this race virtually assures a horse of qualifying for the Derby. More from the *Blood Horse* [here](#).

\$4.5 Million in Prizes at National Horseplayers Championship
\$800,000 grand prize and Eclipse Award as Horseplayer of the Year to be awarded

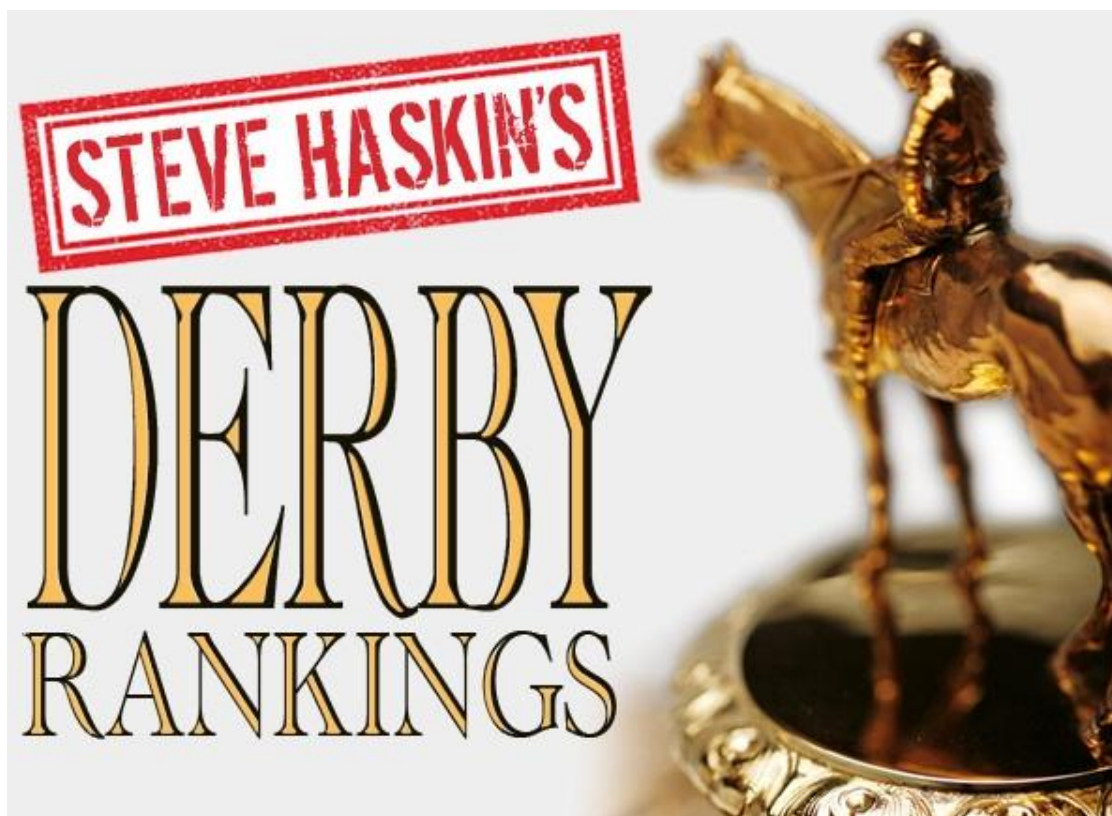


The 25th Annual NTRA National Horseplayers Championship begins on March 15. Are you in?

The 25th National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA) National Horseplayers Championship (NHC) presented by Caesars Entertainment, Horseshoe Las Vegas, and Racetrack Television Network (RTN) kicks off Friday, March 15, running through Sunday, March 17, at the Horseshoe Las Vegas. The field of an estimated 750 entries will yield one ultimate winner, who will go home with \$800,000 and an Eclipse Award as the Horseplayer of the Year. More from the *Paulick Report* [here](#).

Kentucky Derby Rankings by Steve Haskin

The Road to the Derby, March 4, 2024 – Week 7



"What was supposed to be a revealing weekend of Kentucky Derby preps went down the proverbial drain with a rash of scratches, most of them favourites and contenders in the Fountain of Youth Stakes, and a continuation of this year's slopfest, all of which just added to the confusion in finding a legitimate Derby favourite." ~ Steve Haskin. Read more at [Secretariat.com here](#).

Best of Bob

by ASD Historian Bob Gates

Bob says this week's piece about thoroughbreds and their quest to find their "forever home" was produced "through a cold-capsule induced delirium." Find out whether that's good news or bad news [here](#) (from July 18, 2017).



Upcoming events at ASD

- Break Open Bonanza - Draws for Break-Open tickets - Monday to Friday - [more info](#)
- Lucky Spins - Draws for \$20 in free VLT Spins - Friday to Sunday - [more info](#)
- Frost - Featuring Steve Aoki - Saturday, March 9 - [more info](#)
- Player's Choice Handicapping Tournament - Saturday, March 16 - [more info](#)
- Good Friday, Friday, March 29 - VLTs open regular hours 10 a.m. to 1 a.m.
- Easter Sunday, Sunday, March 31 - VLTs open regular hours 10 a.m. to 1 a.m.
- Easter Brunch - Sunday, March 31 - [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.



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