

For Immediate Release

August 16, 2009

The girls are kickin' it!

In a male dominated sport such as horse racing, female jockeys are few and far between. Assiniboia Downs is lucky to have two amongst the good old boys club of 19. However it is the success of those two ladies, Vicky Baze and apprentice Alyssa Harder, which is worth mentioning.

Baze and Harder teamed up for three; count them, three first and second place finishes over the weekend. The first of the all girl Quinellas came on Friday evening. Baze booted home the winner of race two, Darleen, trained by Don Schnell, and Harder chased her in second with Meow Wow, trained by Grace Gulewich.



Alyssa Harder and Vicky Baze walk to the paddock for the seventh race on Saturday evening - Photo by Allan Gray

On Saturday, the girls did it again twice. In race two Harder nursed Clayton Gray's Simply Elusive to the wire in front of Baze's Cooler Online, trained by Jared Brown. The feat was repeated in race five with 2-year-olds Arizona Storm, trained by Don Schnell (Baze) and Badinkadink (Harder), trained by Clayton Gray.

Could the girls be conspiring a take over from their private quarters in the ASD jockey's room? Baze could not be a better leader for Harder in this female coup de tat. Vicky Baze, formerly Vicky Aragon and wife of fellow jockey Gary Baze, is one of the best female riders in North America. Baze has more than 1,700 wins to her credit and has earned more than \$11 million in purses.

Vicky Baze, since first sitting astride a thoroughbred at Assiniboia Downs on July 31, has quickly amassed 12 wins and now sits twelfth in the jockey's standing. Not bad for a couple weeks work.

Alyssa Harder, since winning her first-ever race earlier this year aboard Sun Streaked, is currently second in the apprentice standing, only three back from another first-year apprentice Chavion Chow. Chow leads with 13 wins.

Canadian Derby Watch: Theglow is in, Celtic Thane may not be so lucky.

With news of two more horses deciding to run in the \$300,000 Canadian Derby, it looks like locally based Celtic Thane will have to try the big boys another day. Celtic Thane, a former \$7500 claimer, finished a fast closing third to invaders Smuggler's Hold and Tease The Tiger in the recent \$75,000 Manitoba Lotteries Derby.

After Edmonton promoters of the Canadian Derby dangled the carrot in front of trainer Clayton Gray and owner Allan Dryburgh the derby dreams started. However, that dream might have to wait. Being last of 19 on the preference list due to winnings, Celtic Thane needs seven horses to be scared away. There are only six and possibly only five so far.

Theglow, winner of the Golden Boy Stakes and fourth in the Manitoba Lotteries Derby, is in. Sitting fifteenth on that same preference list with several defections of horses before him, Theglow and connections Mandy McDonald and Arnason Farm, will have a chance to prove just how good the big chestnut colt by Five Star Day really is.

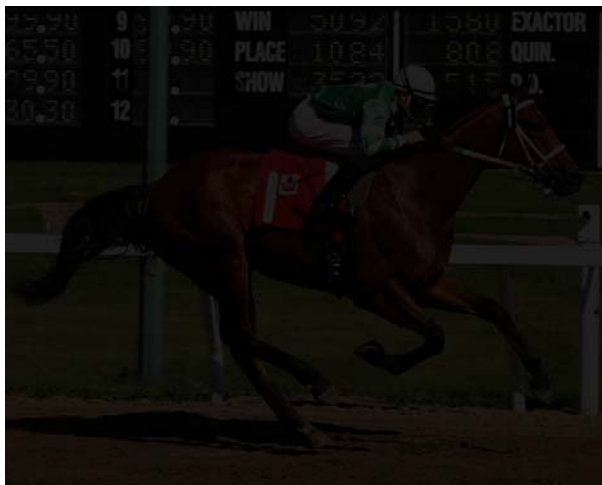
Trainer Chad Torevell has said the Theglow will leave for Edmonton on Monday. Trainer Clayton Gray will have to wait and see if Celtic Thane gets lucky and will ship either Wednesday evening after entries have closed or early Thursday morning.

The \$300,000 Canadian Derby from Northlands Park will be Saturday, August 22. Winnipeg race fans can watch and wager on the biggest race in Western Canada at Assiniboia Downs that afternoon.



Theglow will be heading to Edmonton Monday for the Canadian Derby - Photo by Rob Bye

Manitoba-breds on parade



Brinello will go for his third straight Agassiz Stakes - Photo by Gerry Hart

Manitoba breeders will be showcasing the best horses Manitoba has to offer in three stakes race on Friday evening.

The Agassiz Stake for older horses will likely feature a rematch between the ever-present Brinello, two-time winner of this race, and the up and coming Spying Eyes.

Brinello, trained by Carl Anderson for owner and breeder Dr. Ross McKague, has dominated this race winning by double digits for two years straight.

Spying Eyes, trained by Clayton Gray for Martilet Stables, finished second to Brinello is the last prep race to the Agassiz a couple

of weeks ago. The 4-year-old son of Battle Cat, bred by Cam Ziprick, will have to run the race of his life to get the best of Brinello on Friday.

The 2007 Manitoba-bred horse-of-the-year Eight By Ten finished third in the same race. Eight By Ten is owned and bred by Dr. Betty Hughes and trained by Lise Pruitt.

The Distaff is for Manitoba-bred older fillies and mares. Easter's Lily, the easy winner of the last prep race for this weekend will most likely be the favourite.

Queen Tina, 2008 Manitoba-bred horse-of-the-year, is back in trainer Harry Kube's barn. Can a return to the last year's trainer bring back her championship form? Owner and breeder Starfield Stable is hoping it might.

Adventcia, winner of last year's Buffalo Stakes for 2-year-olds, has been struggling of late and looks to improve. Adventcia is trained by Carl Anderson for owner and breeder Dr. Ross McKague.

For the first time this year, Manitoba-bred 2-year-olds will be going for the big money in the CTHS Sales Stakes. Mt. Charles, trained by Chad Torevell for owners A-Z Stable and Charles Fouillard, will be the favourite. The Going Commando 2-year-old won his last out easily and faced some of the tougher open company this year.

Mt. Charles was bred by Cam Ziprick and owner Charles Fouillard.