



MEDIA RELEASE

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Perservata rallies to cap off perfect Canada Day!



The start of the \$30,000 Canada Day Stakes

They said the horse couldn't be rated. But Perservata was perfection as she and rider Tyrone Nelson rallied to capture the \$30,000 Canada Days Stakes in the final stride.

Trainer Clint Willson could not have asked for a better timed rally from his team as they barreled down the stretch on the outside. The 4-year-old Broken Vow filly relaxed behind horses throughout the backstretch and began to make her move midway through the final turn and rallied down the stretch to just get her nose in front at the wire.

A horse that has been characterized as not easy to rate now has won two stakes coming from off the pace. "She learning fast, and she's learning right," said

Willson, "I always worried about her front running style. I don't have to worry about it any more."

A \$2000 purchase for Willson, Perservata was about to be given away by previous owners because of a bone chip in her ankle. Willson, who didn't want the horse for free, had the necessary surgeries done and now has a multiple stakes winner!

The next step available at Assiniboia Downs is the Winnipeg Sun Stakes the first part of August. However, Willson will be taking a look at all of his options to see where to go next with his star.

Talkin Money Honey, trained by Ardell Saylor and ridden by current leading jockey Larren Delorme, sat second behind early leader Cherokee Beauty throughout most of the race. She gave up the place position only in the final turn when Britannia Road and Polynesian Kitty were beginning to make their move.

Stuck behind the tiring Cherokee Beauty, Delorme was waiting for a hole to appear at the top of the stretch and recaptured the second spot after a heated battle with At First Glance, Britannia Road and the winner.

At First Glance sat behind the first flight of horses down the backstretch and was able to angle out turning for home and joined the four-horse battle and just missed second by a nose. At First Glance is trained by Emile Corbel.

More than \$500,000 in two days!

Wagering on the Canadian holiday and the day before gave Assiniboia Downs a combined handle of \$531,803 which has management smiling.



Evening racing during the week is paying dividends as more and more tracks throughout North America are carrying ASD races for their players. The more than \$320,000 wagered on Canada Day was the best Wednesday racing total this year.

The much-debated replacement of Sunday afternoon racing with Wednesday evening racing is proving to be a good decision and the Wednesday afternoon holiday was icing on the cake.

Perfect summer weather enjoyed by the holiday crowd of more than 4,000 just added to the handle generated by simulcast partners that included California for the first time.

Jockeys, rare horse, draw many admirers



Hundreds of fans stayed after the races to gather autographs and have pictures taken with the celebrities of the sport, the jockeys. The second annual Track Invasion offered fans their yearly chance to set foot on the racetrack and pretend to be horses in the starting gate.

Current leading rider Larren Delorme and three-time leading rider Alan Cuthbertson were part of the jockey colony on hand to autograph commemorative photos as part of a meet-and-greet session with their fans.

After kids staged several races from the starting gate, it was the jockeys' turn. Apprentice Corey Jordan prevailed.

The real star of Track Invasion, however, was Ellusive Spell, the "painted" thoroughbred. Hundreds surrounded the paddock to snap pictures, ogle the colt's unique beauty and some even got an opportunity to rub his head. The 3-year-old good-naturedly took it in stride, basking in all the attention. Ellusive Spell is the only thoroughbred in Canada with a rare Frame Overo gene that gives him a black and white coat and piercing blue eyes.



Percolating could be brewing a stakes win

Claimed by Chad Torevell for new owners A-Z Stable two starts ago, it now looks like the 3-year-old Manitoba-bred Percolating could become a stakes winner in the \$30,000 Frank Arnason Sire Stakes Friday night.

The Frank Arnason Sire Stakes is a restricted race for horses sired by Manitoba stallions. Percolating is from the last crop of horses sired by Circulating who dominated Manitoba breeding until his death three years ago.

Percolating has one win and one second this year after competing against Theglow, the current local favourite for the Manitoba Derby.