



# MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

**July 30, 2009**

A full field of ten will go to post in the 61<sup>st</sup> renewal of Manitoba's most prestigious horse race held at Assiniboia Downs, the Manitoba Lotteries Derby.

Post positions were announced at the annual Manitoba Lotteries Derby Press Conference in the Terrace Dining Room. A capacity crowd was on hand to witness the event.

The Manitoba Lotteries Derby will be run Monday, August 3 in what should be a fun-packed afternoon of celebrating the richest day in Manitoba horseracing.



Photo by Rob Bye - Special Events Executive Chelsea Obsniuk assists with the Manitoba Lotteries Derby Draw

More than \$200,000 in purses will be awarded throughout the afternoon with three stakes races. Besides the Manitoba Lotteries Derby for 3-year-olds, the matinee card will also feature the Graduation Stakes for 2-year-olds and the Assiniboia Oaks for 3-year-old fillies.

The Derby Sweepstakes and Annual Derby Hat Contest give fans of all ages a chance to get involved.

Family fun events are also planned with free pony rides, petting farm, face painting and much more. Horses for the first race go to post at 1pm.

Here is the Derby field:

**1) Hilton's Cherokee – likely odds 3-1, Jockey: Alan Cuthbertson**

Hilton's Cherokee was the winner of this year's Harry Jeffrey Memorial Stakes, the last major prep race for this year's Derby.

Hilton's Cherokee is the son of Champion Sprinter Cherokee Run and Dynamite Miss by Seeking the Gold. Hilton's Cherokee is owned by Phil Kives's K5 Stable and trained by Emile Corbel. The dark bay colt is bred in Kentucky by J. Mack Robinson.

In just his third start, Hilton's Cherokee was the impressive winner of the Harry Jeffrey Memorial in early July. In his very first career start at Keeneland, Hilton's Cherokee finished seventh behind Southdale, a horse that went on to finish second in this year's Queen's Plate Trial.

The combination of Kives and Corbel has teamed up before to win the Manitoba Derby in 1996 with Northernprospector. Hilton's Cherokee could be the third winner to carry the bright orange colours of K5 Stables into the winner's circle as he also previously won the 1991 Derby with Plenty Chilly, trained by the late Don Gray.

Cherokee Run won the 1994 Breeders' Cup Sprint and is the sire of Champion War Pass winner of the 2007 Breeders' Cup Juvenile. His dam, Dynamite Miss, is the winner of more than \$125,000 with wins at Calder Racecourse and Gulfstream Park.

## **2) Celtic Thane – likely odds 50-1, Jockey: Carlos Marquez**

Celtic Thane is the 3-year-old son of Tenpins and Ragout by Lost Code. Celtic Thane was bred by Bill Robinson and the McMillin Brothers of Kentucky. The dark grey gelding will be wearing the referee-like silks of Martilet Stables.

Trained by Clayton Gray, Celtic Thane is the winner of back-to-back races at Assiniboia Downs earlier this year. In his last start he finished second to fellow Derby hopeful Wooden Ya Know It going a mile for the very first time.

Martilet Stables proprietor Allan Dryburgh is a former CFL referee and is sending his first-ever horse to the Derby. Trainer Clayton Gray has had several horses run in the Manitoba Derby, including 1975 winner Merry's Jay, the first registered Manitoba-bred to ever win the provinces biggest race.

Celtic Thane's sire Tenpins is the winner of more than \$1 million including five graded stakes at Arlington Park, Keeneland, Monmouth Park, Pimlico, and Prairie Meadows. His dam Ragout is an unraced daughter of Lost Code, the winner of multiple derbies in 1987 and a horse who finished within a length of Kentucky Derby winner Alysheba and Belmont Stakes winner Bet Twice in the Haskell Invitational that same year.

## **3) Tease the Tiger - likely odds 6-1, Jockey: Jake Barton**

Tease the Tiger returns to Assiniboia Downs after finishing third in the 2008 Winnipeg Futurity. Owned by Norm Castiglione, Tease the Tiger is an Ontario bred 3-year-old by Cat's At Home out of Numberonetreasure by Bold Ruckus.

Arriving from the West, Tease the Tiger was the winner of two races as a 2-year-old and finished third in the Ky Alta Handicap at Northlands Park in Edmonton leading up the Derby.

Castiglione and trainer Monica Russell invaded Assiniboia Downs in 2008 with It's Launch Time to win the Golden Boy Stakes.

Cat's at Home won or placed in eight graded stakes in his career and amassed more than \$700,000 in earnings. Wins in the Winchester Handicap at Aqueduct and the Philip Iselin Handicap at Monmouth Park highlight his stellar career as a race horse.

**4) Wooden Ya Know It – likely odds 6-1, Jockey: David Lopez**

Wooden Ya Know It comes into the Derby off an impressive win on July 24. The 3-year-old son of Woodman out of G. D. Calen by Dynaformer is owned by Jerry Gourneau and trained by his brother David Gourneau. Wooden Ya Know It was bred in Louisiana by Paul Pruett.

Wooden Ya Know It broke his maiden on a sloppy track on June 27 and has not finished worse than second in his last four starts including winning his last start by more than eight lengths.

Wooden Ya Know It is part of the last crop of foals by European Champion Woodman. Woodman is the sire more than 100 stakes. He is also the sire of 1991 Preakness and Belmont Stakes winner Hansel. His dam, G.D. Calen was the winner of more than \$100,000 and is sired by Dynaformer the sire of 2006 Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro.

**5) Smuggler's Hold – likely odds 5-2, Jockey: Adolfo Morales**

Smuggler's Hold is a 3-year-old son of Stroll out of Storm Dancer by Always A Classic. Wearing the silks of owner Bryan Porter, Smuggler's Hold is bred by James S. Karp from Kentucky and trained by Tim Padilla.

Smuggler's Hold invades Assiniboia Downs from Canterbury Park in Minneapolis where he has captured two of his three career wins.

His sire Stroll now stands in Italy and was the winner of Belmont Park's Jamaica Handicap and Hall of Fame Handicap as well as the Woodford Reserve Turf Classic at Churchill Downs. Stroll is also the sire of Canadian Champion Van Lear Rose. Storm Dancer was the winner of more \$60,000 including a third place finish in the Egret Stakes at the Meadowlands Race Course in New Jersey.

This the first trip north for the derby for Porter and Padilla.

**6) Storm Ranger – likely odds 40-1, Jockey: Larren Delorme**

Storm Ranger is another entrant out of the Emile Corbel barn. He is owned by the partnership of Raymond Bouchard, Phil Allard and Grant Sissons. He is a 3-year-old colt by Forestry out of Blissful Kiss by Kissin Kris. Storm Ranger is bred in Kentucky by Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC.

Storm Ranger is still looking for his first win; however, he finished third behind Hilton's Cherokee in the Harry Jeffrey Memorial.

Forestry was the winner of the grade one 1999 King Bishop Handicap at Saratoga as well as the grade two Dwyer Stakes at Belmont Park. He also finished fourth in the 1999 Breeders' Cup Sprint behind Champion Sprinter Artax. Blissful Kiss is the winner of more that \$325,000 and two stakes races at Calder.

**7) Secret Officer – likely odds 10-1, Jockey: Mike Iammarino**

Bred in Kentucky by Sequel 2001, Secret Officer is the son of Officer and Pinpoint Control by Cryptoclearance. Secret Officer's trainer Don Schnell is also part owner along with Kiki Courtelis.

Secret Officer is the winner of two races here at Assiniboia Downs and a second to fellow Derby contender Theglow in the 2009 Golden Boy Stakes and a fourth in the Harry Jeffrey Memorial behind Hilton's Cherokee.

This is the first derby for trainer Don Schnell and partner Kiki Courtelis.

His sire, Officer, is the winner of the 2001 Champagne Stakes at Belmont Park and the Del Mar Futurity at Del Mar Racecourse. Pinpoint Control is an unraced daughter of Cryptoclearance, a horse who ran third in both the 1987 Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes behind Alysheba.

### **8) Theglow – likely odds 7-2, Jockey: Rohan Singh**

Winner of this year's Golden Boy Stakes, Theglow is the son of Five Star Day and Just For The Money by Mystery Storm. Theglow is owned by Arnason Farm, Mandy McDonald and Keith Hughes, trained by Chad Torevell. He was bred by Dave E Hager II of Kentucky.

Theglow was the impressive winner of the first major step on this year's Derby trail the \$30,000 Golden Boy Stakes. He is coming into the Derby with two straight wins, the Golden Boy and an equally impressive win in an allowance race going around two turns.

This the first Derby horse for the connections of Arnason Farms, McDonald and Hughes. However, the Arnason Farms previously posted a second place finish in the event behind Lord Shogun with Silver Greek in 2002.

His sire Five Star Day is the winner of more than \$575,000 in winnings including three graded stakes wins, the Underwood Stakes from Hollywood Park, the Phoenix Breeder's Cup Stakes from Keeneland and the Vanderbilt Handicap from Saratoga. He also finished second to Forestry in Saratoga's 1999 King Bishop Handicap.

### **9) Muffin Star – likely odds 10-1, Jockey: Vicky Baze**

The filly taking on the boys is Muffin Star. Conditioned by first-year trainer Rob Atras, Muffin Star is the 3-year-old daughter of Five Star Day and Boxing Day by Out of Place. Bred in Kentucky by Grade I Bloodstock and Halcyon Farm, the grey filly is owned by Andy McNaught's AJ Stables.

Muffin Star will be putting a two race win streak here at Assiniboia Downs on the line for Derby Day and is three for four in the money this year. This will be the first Derby for McNaught and Atras. If Muffin Star were to win she will be the first filly to capture the Manitoba Lotteries Derby since Fanfreluche in 1970

The sire, Five Star Day, is the winner of more than \$575,000 and three graded stakes races from Hollywood Park, Saratoga, and Keeneland. This is one of two horses in this year's Manitoba Lotteries Derby sired by Five Star Day.

### **10) Trick or Bluff – likely odds 50-1, Jockey: Tim Gardiner**

Trick or Bluff is the 3-year-old son of Lil's Lad out and Lil's Lass by Phone Trick. Bred in Pennsylvania by Xanthus Farms, Trick of Bluff is owned and trained by Assiniboia Downs trainer Guy Kling.

Trick of Bluff was the easy winner of his last start at Assiniboia Downs and has finished first or second in his four starts this year.

Lil's Lad is a Texas based stallion who finished second in the 1997 Champagne Stakes at Belmont Park. He then went on to win the 1998 Fountain of Youth Stakes at Gulfstream Park. He is the son of the 1992 Arkansas Derby and Preakness winner Pine Bluff.

Guy Kling's last trip to the Manitoba Lotteries Derby was in 2007 with Flying Chevy.