



# MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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## ***Overwhelming favourites in restricted stakes did not disappoint***

It was a romp in the park for the winners of two stakes races on the weekend. Percolating, a 3-year-old bay gelding from the prodigious Manitoba sire, Circulating, ran away and hid in Friday's \$30,000 Frank Arnason Sire Stakes paying the lowest price of any horse in some time, \$2.10 to win, place and show.

Then on Saturday, Independence Day in the U.S., 3-year-old chestnut gelding Copper Badges, last year's easy winner of the North Dakota Futurity (for 2-year-old horses), doubled up with another impressive score in the \$15,000 North Dakota Derby. He paid \$2.20 and \$2.10. (There was no show wagering.)

Competition was sparse: Both fields contained only five entrants.

Percolating, trained by Chad Torevell, sat just off the flank of early leader Rye'n Coke Press and loomed large turning for home then ran away and hid, winning by more than seven lengths.

"He was just toying with rest of the horses," said jockey Rohan Singh, "the trick was to make the horse relax, but there was no way they were going to run me down."

Torevell and Singh teamed up early in the year to capture the Golden Boy Stakes with Theglow, now the local favourite heading down the Manitoba Derby trail. Each has now won three stakes races this year. Chad Torevell won the Free Press Stakes with 2008 Horse of the Year Monsoon Rain. Singh captured the Chantilly with Lady Countdown.



Brett Arnason, son of the late Frank Arnason, presented the family trophy to the Arnason clan for the second year in a row for Percolating's win. In 2008 Arnason Farms won with Custody Battle.

Bay Drummer, trained by Emile Corbel, watched the whole race happen from the back of the pack and rallied for second down the lane. Shock the Country, trained by Lorna Gray moved along side Percolating in the turn but was no match for the winner and held on for third.



In the North Dakota Derby, Copper Badges, trained by Blair Miller gave struggling trainer Blair Miller his second win of the year from 21 starts. Badges just loped by early leader Augie Gee going into the final turn.

Rider Alan Cuthbertson's biggest job was just keeping the horse from falling asleep on the lead down the stretch.

Copper Badges has been running against open company including the powerful Theglow in the Golden Boy Stakes earlier this year.

"We have Copper Badges nominated for the Harry Jeffrey next week," said Miller, "but we'll leave Theglow alone. He's a monster."

The next stakes race for Copper Badges will be the J. W. Sifton Memorial for Manitoba-bred 3-year-olds at the end of the year.

## ***Quarter Horses are coming!***

The fastest horses in the world will take to the local track starting the first weekend in August.

The agreement with the local Quarter Horse Racing organization was just finalized and will include two weekends of racing with a total of six races at Assiniboia Downs.

Quarter horse racing at ASD will be Friday, July 31, Saturday, August 1, Friday August 14 and Saturday, August 15.



