



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Stars shine in key races leading to big-money stakes

Monsoon Rain showed why he was named 2008 Horse-of-the-Year. He made easy work of a classy field of older horses in Tuesday's fourth race.

Trained by Chad Torevell, Monsoon Rain led from wire to wire. Pressured by No Reply down the backstretch, Monsoon Rain pulled away midway through the final turn and widened to his lead throughout the stretch, winning easily.



The Max, who last saw Assiniboia Downs in the 2006 Gold Cup where he finished second, finished behind Monsoon Rain. Having run in Woodbine and the storied Fair Grounds Race Course in New Orleans for the last two years, The Max was making his first start since February.

Sitting behind the leaders down the backstretch, The Max, trained by Bert Blake, edged up along the rail turning for home but was no match for the winner this time.

In the following race, Secret Officer and jockey Mike Iammarino hoodwinked a field of Derby hopefuls with slow fractions, strolling down the backstretch in 25.2 and 50.1 and won easily.

Secret Officer came into the race off a heated battle with probably the best 3-year-old on the grounds, Theglow, in the Golden Boy Stakes where he finished second. This time Secret Officer was unpressured throughout the backstretch and was able to save all his energy for the turn for home. Secret Officer, trained by Don Schnell, opened up seven lengths at the wire.



Wednesday night, Chantilly Stakes winner Lady Countdown made the trip back from Canterbury Park in Minneapolis with stablemate Morsel. Both trained by high-percentage trainer Charlie Smith, they finished one, two in the sixth.

Lady Countdown led from start to finish despite pressure from l'mamaroongirl throughout the backstretch. Midway through the final

turn, Lady Countdown, reasserted her dominance and pulled away comfortably.

"This mare continues to impress me," said Smith. "We thought Morsel would get the best of her tonight, but she just doesn't like to get beat."

The babies are back!

The first two-year-old races take place Friday and Saturday. Ladies go first on Friday with a field of five and the boys run on Saturday also with five.



Trainer Chad Torevell will be busy with two horses in each race. Noted for having a large stable filled with young horses, Torevell's charges appear to be solid contenders.

Trainer Clayton Gray has one horse in each of the races. Other barns represented are Emile Corbel, Lorna Gray, Caesar DeMarni and Gary Elison.

Rare painted horse is back on the track

Ellusive Spell, the black and white painted horse with blue eyes—the only race horse like it in Canada--makes his second start in the fourth race on Saturday evening and trainer Emile Corbel is hopeful he will finish better than fifth, as he did in his first lifetime start two weeks ago.

"He looks like he might want to run long," said Corbel, "so I'm looking forward to running him a mile." This race is only $\frac{3}{4}$ miles, 6 furlongs, though.

Ellusive Spell, who will be on display at Canada Day festivities next Wednesday, is 10 to 1 on the morning line.



Canada Day and Track Invasion next week!



Afternoon racing returns to Assiniboia Downs on Canada Day. Post time is 1:00 P.M. Festivities will include the \$30,000 Canada Day Stakes, family fun events such as free pony rides, a petting farm and giant inflatables, and Track Invasion.

After the last race, everyone will be invited to step out onto the track and even pretend they are horses “loading” into the starting gate. Jockeys will

also be on hand to autograph a commemorative group photo.

Part of the fun will be the second annual all-jockey foot race. Tyrone Nelson will defend his title against a full field ready to knock him off his throne.

Miss Missile could miss Canada Day racing.

Trainer Charlie Smith says “the Missile” is fifty-fifty for next Wednesday’s Canada Day Stakes because she developed a small abscess in her foot after her third place finish in the LaVerendrye Stakes. It’s day-to-day for the champion filly right now, Smith said.

“We have her scheduled to work on Saturday. How she comes back to the barn will determine if we ship her up for Wednesday.”

Her many fans will hope she recovers soon.