



MEDIA RELEASE

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Will the 2008 Manitoba stars shine in '09?

The best Manitoba-bred 3-year-olds will be stepping into the deep-end taking on older horses in open company Friday at Assiniboia Downs. How will they fare? Their 2009 season will depend on it and Friday's feature will give the two Manitoba stars a taste of the competition they will have to face most of the year.

Considered the best two 3-year-old Manitoba-bred geldings of 2008, Spying Eyes and Eight By Ten shone in their category. Spying Eyes beat Eight by Ten in the J. W. Sifton Memorial but in the Agassiz Stakes against older horses, Eight by Ten finished second and Spying Eyes finished fourth.



Eight By Ten, owned and bred by Dr. Betty Hughes and trained by Lise Pruitt, was the 2007 Manitoba-bred horse of the year, having won the CTHS Sales Stakes and the Buffalo. He spent most of his 3-year-old year running in open company with mediocre success. But against Manitoba-breds he had two seconds: in the Agassiz and the Sifton.

Spying Eyes, owned by Marlilet Stables, bred by Cam Ziprick and trained by Clayton Gray, won four races including two wins against open company and two stakes wins--in the Gold Strike Mile and the Sifton--and a third in the Frank Arnason Sire Stakes, all restricted stakes.

With only one stakes race for older horses in the restricted ranks against other Manitoba-breds, the Agassiz Stakes, both Spying Eyes and Eight By Ten will have to keep their heads above water in the deep end this year.

Other horses to watch:

Preservata, trained by Clint Willson, won two races last year before being shipped to Hastings Park in Vancouver where he had two seconds and another win in the high-end claiming ranks.

Gold Lad is a classy older horse that came to Assiniboia Downs last year from Portland Meadows and quickly proved to be a tough competitor in the high-end claiming ranks. Trained by Tom Gardipy, Jr, Gold Lad even took on last year's champion sprinter, Rock'n USA and finished a respectable third.

Will the 2008 Manitoba stars shine in '09? It remains to be seen.

Miss Missile taking aim at ASD again!



Champion 3-year-old filly Miss Missile is back! The winner of four straight stakes races at Assiniboia Downs in 2008 including the Chantilly, Canada Day, Oaks and Jack Hardy will take on a familiar rival, Polynesian Kitty, in the Saturday feature and prep race for the LaVerendrye Stakes on June 10.

Polynesian Kitty is a champion in her own right. She was crowned champion older mare in 2008 and champion 3-year-old filly in 2007. Winner of last years LaVerendrye, Polynesian Kitty won three races at Assiniboia Downs in 2008 including the Winnipeg Sun Stakes.

Miss Missile is undefeated at Assiniboia Downs including campaigns at 2- and 3-years-old. Owner-trainer Charlie Smith loves running at Assiniboia Downs and his filly got the best of Polynesian Kitty in last year's Canada Day stakes.

Which filly will be victorious--the defending champ or the up-and-coming star? That question will be answered Saturday night.

Carl Anderson gets win 1000!

Alacazar nudged her head in front of At First Glance in the seventh race to give trainer Carl Anderson his 1000th career win Wednesday night. Anderson started working with horses when he was only 13 after following a friend across what is now the Perimeter Highway during Easter break in 1958, the year the track opened. He has trained mainly in Manitoba and Saskatchewan but also did a stint in Alberta.

Alacazar, ridden by Mark Anderson, battled throughout the stretch and won to win by a neck.



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