



# MEDIA RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

**May 31, 2009**

## ***Gary Baze back to winning form***

Jockey Gary Baze's win in the third with Rowdy But Ready marked the early return of the Hall of Fame rider.

Having injured his knee the second weekend of racing, Baze was thought to be out until June 3. Leading all riders with five wins before being injured, Baze has some catching up to do.

He has six wins to catch currently leading rider and three-time defending champ Alan Cuthbertson. Baze currently sits fourth in the standings behind Cuthbertson, David Lopez and Darren Delorme.



## ***Injia captures Saturday night's feature easily***

Breaking her maiden in her last out, Injia, trained by Tanya Lindsay, wasted no time getting a second win under her belt. While stepping up in class, Injia impressed the crowd with her convincing win in the Saturday night feature.

On the outside of a three horse lead dual with Manitoba-bred horse of the year, Queen Tina and Simple Intentions, apprentice jockey Chavion Chow began to pull away in mid turn. The 4-year-old Zavata filly then commanded the lead in the stretch to win by two lengths.

Bearslittlewhisper looks to be dangerous as the races start to stretch out with her fast closing second place finish. Trained by Chad Torevell, Bearslittlewhisper could see them all at the back of the pack down the backstretch. Turning for home, jockey Tim Gardiner and the 5-year-old grey mare by Alphabet Soup weaved their way through traffic and just nosed out Easters Lily for second.

Easters Lily, one of four Manitoba-breds in the field, sat in behind the early leaders and made a big move to grab second in mid-stretch, but could not hold off Bearslittlewhisper at the wire. Trained by Wayne Elias, this filly could give Queen Tina a run for her money later this year.

## ***The Golden Boy looks tough!***

A group of nine talented local 3-year-olds will try to be the first to put their foot on the Manitoba Derby trail with a win in the Golden Boy Stakes this Wednesday night including last year's Winnipeg Futurity winner Prayforthesoldiers.

Prayforthesoldiers, trained by Aaron Sayler, looks to improve on his first out where he finished fifth to Secret Officer and Polish Game who both came to Assiniboia Downs from other tracks with a huge fitness edge.

Secret Officer, trained by Don Schnell, looked impressive winning his first start at Assiniboia Downs going wire to wire. However, Secret Officer could have some competition on the front end this time around, in the form of Back In A Flash and Star Power also both winners in their last out.

If the winner comes from off the pace, it could be Prayforthesoldiers, Polish Game, or Cooler Online.

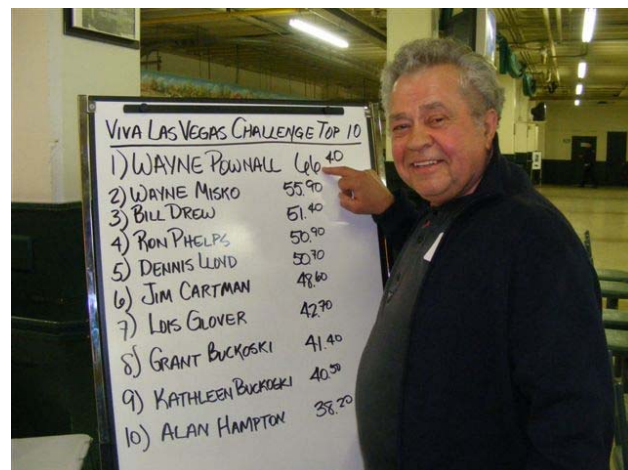
Prayforthesoldiers could improve off his first outing. Polish Game, trained by Mel Davis, stumbled at the start and rallied well to finish second to Secret Officer. Could a good start make the difference? Cooler Online, trained by Jared Brown, finished a game third behind both Secret Officer and Polish Game in his first out of the year. Falling victim to the same fitness edge as Prayforthesoldiers, could one race give Cooler Online a shot at the trophy?



## ***First trip to Vegas goes to Pownall***

Wayne Pownall, who remembers walking horses the last year of Polo Park, becomes the first person to represent Assiniboia Downs in the \$1 Million Horseplayer World Series.

Held in February at the Orleans Casino in Las Vegas, Pownall will be one of five people on the Assiniboia Downs team.



Competing against 42 other contestants, Wayne, a retired crane operator, grew his imaginary bankroll to \$66.40 giving him the most money after 8 races. Wayne Misko was second with \$55.90 and Bill Drew third with \$51.40.

With his win in the Viva Las Vegas Horseplayer Challenge, Pownall receives a trip for two to Las Vegas for next February's contest including airfare and accommodations, \$300 in spending money, and a seat in the Horseplayer World Series.

Assiniboia Downs will send a total of five people to the Horseplayer World Series. The next Viva Las Vegas Horseplayer Challenge is Saturday, June 27.