



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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'Pegger's take on Edmonton – can we bring home the cash?



In a turn of the tables, Assiniboia Downs is “invading” Northlands Park for their grand finale weekend. Stakes horses Britannia Road, Honorable Lady, Rock’n USA and Monsoon Rain will be competing in Edmonton in three different stakes for a total of \$150,000 in stakes money.

After a very successful 2009 live racing season from a wagering perspective, it will be a true test of success if the horses competing at Assiniboia Downs can also be successful elsewhere.

“If they can be competitive beyond our borders,” said operations director Darren Dunn, “it will be a testament to the skill of our trainers.”

1) \$50,000 Duchess of York – Saturday:

Britannia Road will start things off on Saturday afternoon in the \$50,000 Duchess of York Stakes.

Finishing second to the Alberta invader, Tanika, in the last year's Matron, Britannia Road finished a distant fourth this year. But that was on a sloppy track of which the 6-year-old mare is not a fan.

Tanika is six of seven in the money this year including her defense of the Matron at ASD and three seconds in three Northlands Park stakes, the City of Edmonton Distaff, the Vancouver Sun Handicap and the Wild Rose Handicap.

Britannia Road will be seeking revenge but will have her work cut out for her on Saturday.

2) \$50,000 City of Freedom Stakes – Sunday:



Honorable Lady will take up the challenge on Sunday afternoon in the \$50,000 City of Freedom Stakes. The winner of the Graduation Stakes and second in three others including the Debutante, the Osiris Stakes and the Winnipeg Futurity all at Assiniboia Downs, Honorable Lady will stretch out to a mile for the first time this year.

Trained by Clayton Gray, this \$3,000 Kentucky purchase for owner Wendy Anderson, has never finished worse than second in five starts and has made more than \$48,000 this year. A win in Sunday's \$50,000 City of Freedom Stakes would cap off a very successful juvenile season.

Sired by Petionville, out of an Unbridled mare, Honorable Lady is bred to run a distance. "I think she will be even better going a route," said Gray, "so we came out here to see how good she really is."

The local competition will include Shifty Time, trained by Greg Tracy. This Alberta-bred filly has won two stakes this year including the \$60,000 Alberta Sales Stakes for fillies and the \$50,000 Sturgeon River Stakes.

3) The Gold Harvest Plate Handicap – Monday:



The battle of Manitoba versus Alberta will conclude on Monday – Thanksgiving Day, when the past two Gold Cup winners Rock’n USA and Monsoon Rain challenge Alberta’s best older horses in the \$50,000 Gold Harvest Plate Handicap.

The surprise winner of this year’s \$75,000 Gold Cup here at ASD, Rock’n USA, trained by Tanya Lindsay, proved he could carry his dominating speed over a distance.

A well documented rags to riches story here in “the Peg,” Rock’n USA first came to ASD last year after being purchased by Tanya Lindsay. Finding no one to sell him to, she kept him for herself.

A five-race win streak, champion sprint title and a Gold Cup victory later, “The Rock” is now a horse everyone is watching.

Monsoon Rain has had a tough year. The 2008 Horse of the Year, won the Free Press Stakes in a well publicized match up between “The Rock” and Monsoon “The Machine” Rain. He also scored in the Wheat City Stakes. However, he could not carry his 2008 success into the latter part of the season. Now the underdog, could the old Monsoon come back and surprise everyone?

Against the Tide and Cool Venture will both be putting a three-race win streak on the line to take on our champ. Against the Tide, trained by Ernie Keller, has worked his way up in class including an easy win in optional allowance race in his last out.

Cool Venture has won back to back stakes in his win streak including the Speed to Spare Stakes and the Alberta Breeders Handicap. Cool Venture is trained by Cody Anderson.

Photo 1: ASD horses fill the entry box at Northlands Park in Edmonton – Rob Bye Photo
Photo 2: Honorable Lady winning the 2009 Graduation Stakes – Gerry Hart Photo
Photo 3: Rock’n USA upsets in the 2009 Gold Cup – Gerry Hart Photo