



MEDIA RELEASE

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Gardipy fighting to keep top spot



Trainer battle will be a photo finish: Gardipy – 38 wins, Saylor – 36 wins, Anderson – 35 wins, Brown – 34 wins

In 2006 he was third, in 2007 he was second and last year he slipped to fourth. Is this perennial runner-up status that's keeping Tom Gardipy Jr. humble about the possibility of capturing his first-ever trainer title at Assiniboia Downs? Probably.

"It doesn't matter as much to me as it does to those around me," said Gardipy. "My staff really wants me to win."

Tom Gardipy Jr. a three-time leading trainer in Saskatchewan, currently sits atop a very tight trainer-of-the-year race with nine-time leading trainer Ardell Saylor nipping at his heels. Gardipy, with 38 wins, only has to look down the shred row to see the horses of his closest rival, Saylor, only two wins back.

Carl Anderson, yet another trainer looking to shed that bridesmaid image, currently has 35 wins. Season-long front-runner Jared Brown has 34 wins.

"I have about 11 horses left to run this year," Gardipy said when asked about his chances. "Carl has a lot of stock and so does Ardell."

With six racing days left in the 2009 season, a lot can happen in horse racing, Gardipy, a member of the Cree First Nation in Beardys, Saskatchewan, will be the first aboriginal to capture the trainer title since Walter Adams did it in 1984.

Larren Delorme has jockey title locked up but who will be second?

Larren Delorme, 24, will be the youngest jockey since Brian Bochinski in 1988 to capture a leading jockey title. Brian Bochinski was only 20-years-old when he captured his first of three jockey titles.



Delorme captures top jock honours at 24 years old (Rob Bye photo)

Delorme put away three-time leading riders Alan Cuthbertson and Rohan Singh as well as Hall of Fame Jockey Gary Baze to capture his first title, all who are very much his senior.

With the race for leading rider already decided – Delorme leads with 78 wins – the question in the jockey colony will be: “Who is going to be second?”

Tyrone Nelson currently sits second with 43 wins and Alan Cuthbertson, who took an early exit from “the Peg” to ride at Hastings Park in Vancouver, has 42. Rohan Singh and Mark Anderson could overtake either with 38 wins and 35 wins respectively. Rocco Bowen has 33 wins and Vicky Baze has 32.

Can Vicky Baze, who has only been riding for five weeks, land in the top three? If she continues on the pace she has currently set she just might. Since getting a chance to ride at ASD, she has averaged about six wins per weekend.

Will Tanika repeat in \$75,000 Matron?

On Friday evening, Edmonton invader Tanika will try to defend her Matron Stakes title from 2008. However, she will be required her to compete against the talented Charlie Smith duo of Morsel and Enchanting.

The easy winner of last year’s Matron, Tanika, trained by Barry Brown, comes into the Matron off an impressive second-place finish in the City of Edmonton Distaff at Northlands Park. Tanika hasn’t finished worse than fourth since winning last year’s Matron.

Three-time leading rider Alan Cuthbertson is flying back to Assiniboia Downs to ride in the stakes races this weekend and Tanika is his mount in the Matron which carries a hefty \$75,000 purse.



Morsel, the local hope for \$75,000 Matron (Gerry Hart photo)

Morsel, winner of this year's Jack Hardy Memorial, is the closest thing to a local hope to beat the defending champ (she's been shipping in from Canterbury Park in Minneapolis for her last four starts).

Morsel, trained by Charlie Smith, a Texas criminal lawyer in the off-season, has finished first or second in four starts at ASD this season.

Charlie Smith's other charge Enchanting, finished third in the Jack Hardy Memorial.

Can Monsoon Rain rebound?

Owner Larry Carter and trainer Chad Torevell hope the old Monsoon Rain reappears in Saturday's \$75,000 Gold Cup.

After a disastrous fourth-place finish in the R. J. Speers Memorial, Monsoon Rain was shipped to Edmonton where things only got worse. The 2008 Horse of the Year finished a disappointing tenth in a \$40,000 allowance race on Canadian Derby Day.

Will the old Monsoon show up on Saturday?

The connections of Grow Up, winner of the Speers, hope not. Owner Robert Mitchell and trainer Bert Blake are hoping that Grow Up will continue a three-race win streak in the biggest race of the year for older horses.

Grow Up has won four of five this year and a win in the \$75,000 Gold Cup would certainly be a nice cherry on top.

Also in the race are youngsters Theglow and Celtic Thane. Both 3-year-olds gave valiant performances in the Manitoba Lotteries Derby and will be taking on older horses for the first time.

Theglow, trained by Chad Torevell, represented Manitoba in the \$300,000 Canadian Derby, but finished a well-beaten eighth.

Celtic Thane was a fast-closing third in the Manitoba Lotteries Derby and just missed completing in the Canadian Derby due to insufficient earnings. Can the former \$7,500 claimer get the best of the big boys? With a second-place finish in a 3-year-old allowance race (he was placed first after a disqualification) and a bullet workout since then, trainer Clayton Gray wants to see just how good this horse can be.

Can the lady get her jewels?

The \$50,000 Winnipeg Futurity will again feature the battle between fillies Honorable Lady and Ruby's Big Band on Saturday evening.



Honorable Lady looks to upset Ruby's Big Band in Winnipeg Futurity (Gerry Hart photo)

Stakes but has finished second to Ruby's Big Band in both the Debutante Stakes and the Osiris Stakes. Can she get the best of Ruby this time?

Charlie Smith's Ruby's Big Band will try to continue her two-race win streak at Assiniboia Downs with a win in the biggest race for 2-year-olds of the year.

The local hopes will rest squarely on the shoulders of Honorable Lady. Trained by seven-time leading trainer Clayton Gray, Honorable Lady won the Graduation