

PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS

RACING NOTES

By Kevin Decker
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026

JUNE 8 WEEK IN REVIEW

The first dead heat for win in the 2026 Presque Isle Downs racing season occurred Monday in the last race as Atwork and Reteko crossed the line in tandem. Both geldings were coming into the race off wins in their seasonal debuts in Erie.

On Tuesday, jockey Israel Rodriguez had his best day of the meet, winning aboard three horses: Gus's Gal in the first race, King Mendelssohn in the fifth, and Naked Eye in the sixth.

Jockey Antonio Gallardo scored a three-bagger on Wednesday card to help him maintain his status as leading rider at the meet. He rode Uppity Up in the third race to the winner's circle along with Driftwood in the fifth race, and Anhinga in the sixth race.

Overall, Gallardo has 18 wins to Rodriguez's 16. Gaddiel Martinez is third with 15. Edwin Rodriguez was serving time for a riding infringement in another jurisdiction and continued to hold fourth at 9 wins.

Among training wins following Scooter Davis's 11, there is a three-way tie for second between Randy Russell, Juan Arriagada, and Kevin Rice with 7 wins.

TOM RIDGE STAKES

Monday's featured event is Presque Isle Downs first stakes race of 2026, the 20th edition of the \$100,000 Tom Ridge Stakes for three-year-olds and is carded as Race seven on the eight race program. A full field of twelve entered with one also eligible. The morning line favorite is Oscar's Hope. Trained by Kinnin LaRose, who took over veteran conditioner Tom Amoss's operation in April, brings in the son of Twirling Candy. He has two stakes victories in the Jean Lafitte at Delta Downs in Louisiana last November and the Ozark Stakes at Oaklawn Park in Arkansas in February. This will be Oscar Hope's first try over Tapeta.

The morning line's second choice is Chasing Freedom. The gelded son of Constitution was third in the only stakes try, the Paradise Creek in May at Aqueduct. His lone win came over turf at Fair Grounds in Louisiana to break m his maiden for trainer Rob Atras.

The field for the \$100,000 Tom Ridge Stakes: (1) Squad Goals (G. Martinez jockey / A. Rice trainer) 8-1 Morning line odds; (2) On Reserve (Ruiz / Trombetta) 4-1; (3) Grunge (Gallardo / LaRose) 8-5; (5) Top Manipulator (Cruz / Keefe) SCR; (6) Live Stream (R. Maragh / Arriagada) 10-1; (7) Carnival Rock (Diaz, Jr. / Calderon) 20-1; (8) Double Talker (Moran / Ward) 6-1; (9) Small Town (Sheehy / McCarthy) 3-1 (10) Mr. Hooligan (Barbosa / K. Rice) 20-1 (11) Zun Day (I. Rodriguez / Cox) 6-1; (12) Chasing Freedom (E. Gonzalez / Atras) 5-2 (13) King Of Sheba (Loveberry / Rivelli) 10-1.

Monday's post time along with the Tuesday and Wednesday cards next week is 3:30PM.



GAMBLING PROBLEM? CALL 1-800-GAMBLER.