

PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS

RACING NOTES

By Kevin Decker
THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026

REVIEW & PREVIEW

This corner of Pennsylvania is a place where vacations are launched at this time of the year. For Legends Can't Die, he did the opposite, returning this past Tuesday after being off since winning Independence Day 2024. The seven-year-old gelded son of Valient Master returned to run as if he never missed a day to capture Presque Isle Downs' third race for local trainer Kevin Rice and jockey Gaddiel Martinez.

Legends Can't Die faced stakes rivals earlier in his career, including competing on Sunshine Millions Day at Gulfstream Park in Florida in 2023.

"He had a tendon strain before I got him. He ended up reaggravating it after his last race, so we had to give him some time off. He was just about ready to go late last year but decided against it as he just did not seem quite right. We sent him to the farm, and he came back strong this spring," said Rice.

His win came not against lesser company after the hiatus, but the same salty allowance/claiming level he faced in his last start. It was quite a comeback for a very talented equine member of the Presque Isle Downs backstretch.

WEEK IN REVIEW

Jockey Antonio Gallardo came into the Memorial Day card with a three-win advantage over his closest rival. By the time the last race of the week was run, Gallardo was in a tie for first.

Gallardo won the opener Monday aboard Tiger Eye Pearl, who vaulted to an open length win for conditioner Juan Arriagada and it appeared he would add substantially to his lead, but Gaddiel Martinez, who was second in the rider standings, won three races that day for three different trainers. Martinez's win with Legends Can't Die tied Gallardo atop the standings.

On Wednesday, jockey Israel Rodriguez won four races, two of which came aboard charges for trainer Paul McEntee. That settled him one win behind both Gallardo and Martinez, with Edwin Gonzalez tied with Rodriguez.

In the trainer's race, there is a three-way tie for first at week's end with Scooter Davis, Brandon Kulp, and Rice with five victories each. Ron Potts and Arriagada behind that trio with four wins apiece.

PREVIEW

Racing returns next Monday through Wednesday with a first race post time of 12:30PM. Eight races are slated each day. Monday's feature is a \$33,000 allowance at one mile and 70 yards with nine entries. Morning line favorite Ms Brightside ships in from Tampa Bay Downs try to win at first asking over the Presque Isle surface for trainer Aldana Speith.



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