

PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS

RACING NOTES

By Kevin Decker

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Presque Isle Downs Review and Preview 8/20/26

Preparing For Masters Night

It is just under a month until Presque Isle Downs signature race night, the \$300,000 guaranteed Masters (GII) Stakes for fillies and mares three-year-olds and up. with four supporting stakes races. The process of trying to get the stakes horses to consider coming here has already started according to Stakes Coordinator John DaSilva.

"We have sent out literally hundreds of texts to trainers letting them know in advance of the races that night and the conditions for each. Generally, a trainer tries to map out a course for their stakes horse. When they start making their plans, I want them to think about us. We are not a national track, so we need to make sure we are on their radar for their plans," DaSilva said.

Currently just under fifty horses have let him know that Masters night is potentially on their dance card. "The trainers have until September 2 to nominate, so there is plenty of time, since many of them still have races planned between now and Masters night," added DaSilva.

DaSilva uses text messaging and phone calls to try to recruit for the races. "I'll send a text with a copy of the schedule and a message about the races to each. I will follow up with calls to try to close the deal,"

"If you just sit and wait, they will bypass you," said DaSilva.

Besides the featured Masters, there are four other races: the \$150,000 guaranteed Presque Isle Mile for three-year-olds and upward at one mile and a sixteenth; the \$100,000 guaranteed Fitz Dixon, Jr. Memorial Juvenile Stakes for two-year-olds at six-and-a-half furlongs; the \$100,000 guaranteed Presque Isle Debutante Stakes for two-year-old fillies at six-and-a-half furlongs; and the \$75,000 guaranteed Power By Far Stakes for registered Pennsylvania Bred three-year-olds and upward at six-and-a-half furlongs.

Masters night is Friday, September 18. Post time is 5:00PM. Ten races are scheduled that night.

Jockey and Trainer Standings

Trainer Randy Russell had quite the week. He rattled off seven wins over a two-day period to vault to the top of the trainer standings with 30 wins. Kevin Rice is second with 27 victories, Scooter Davis has won 26 times, while Juan Arriagada and Ron Potts have 24 and 23 wins respectively.

For Jockeys, Gaddiel Martinez finished the week with 59 wins, ten ahead of Antonio Gallardo. Israel Rodriguez has 43 victories.



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